The time has never been better to invest in young people living in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA); that is the essential message of this report. The findings of this study, based directly on the voices of thousands of young people across the Arab world, offer fresh insights into their perspectives, ideas, hopes, and fears. These young people are generally optimistic, with aspirations and dreams. They are also one of the healthiest and best-educated generations the region has ever known — offering a strong foundation on which to build.

This report, the third in a continuing series, clearly details the complex challenges facing young people across the Arab world. Among these great challenges is employment — or the lack of it. The MENA region faces one of the highest rates of youth unemployment and underemployment in the world. Creating the required number of new jobs over the next two decades will be monumentally difficult. Even more young people have been forced into unemployment, low-quality jobs, and living “on the margins” as a result of the weakened global economic climate. The global economic crisis hits the MENA region at a time when the youth share of the total population is at a high point, with nearly one-third of MENA residents between the ages of 15 and 29.

Silatech believes in young people — in their potential and their contributions. We see young people as problem solvers in their communities, not as problems to solve. We do not approach young people as “beneficiaries,” but as active, engaged participants and actors. We commissioned this ongoing study because we believe the foundation of our work should be based on the authentic voices of young people themselves, their ideas, and the challenges they identify. We at Silatech have combined this information with extensive demographic and macro and microeconomic data in each country, as it serves as the basis for our investments, policies, and efforts.

This landmark report offers a fresh approach to understanding how young people across the Arab world are being affected by, and are responding to, the global economic downturn. Even more, this report offers a realistic view of how young people see their future, their prospects, and the paths they so earnestly wish to pursue.

At the time of its publication, this report will also mark more than two years since the initiation of Silatech’s country initiatives and the deployment of Silatech expertise and sciences that have helped tens of thousands of young people thus far throughout the MENA region. At Silatech, we are committed to working with our partners in the region and around the world to shift mindsets, provide access, and help promulgate policies that are in the best interests of the young people of the Arab world and those of future generations.

We offer our sincere thanks to Gallup for its excellent work and leadership in preparing this report and to the other members of the Silatech Knowledge Consortium for their ongoing support and encouragement.

Rick Little
Silatech, Chief Executive Officer
The Silatech Index represents Gallup's first comprehensive poll of young people in the League of Arab States to focus on: (1) their mindset and that of society on the subject of job creation; (2) their access to the many things they need to find a job and integrate into their respective nations' economies; and (3) the policies they see as obstacles to their success.

At Gallup, we have a global team of economists and scientists working to find ways to catalyze job creation by focusing on what people bring to economies in the form of talent and human potential. We strongly believe that 80 years of Gallup sciences investigating the role of human behavior in making corporations and governments more effective will be a crucial factor in getting to the heart of job creation.

Right now, the most important endeavor we face is creating jobs among young people in the Arab world. The Silatech Index will provide significant insight and guide Silatech and global leaders on how to best approach this daunting challenge. The Index is published twice per year and serves as a reliable compass based on the voices of young people throughout the Arab world.

We appreciate having the opportunity to collaborate with Silatech and members of the Silatech Knowledge Consortium on this very important effort to “crack the code” on jobs and young people in these regions.

We'd like to thank Silatech founder Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned for helping to forge this important partnership. And we congratulate the Silatech team for its excellent efforts thus far in launching their regional and country-level operations.

We are committed to working with you through the Index and the contributions of our Center for Muslim Studies and Social & Economic Analysis Division teams to meet this serious global challenge, one region at a time.

Jim Clifton
Chairman and CEO
Gallup, Inc.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gallup, the Gallup World Poll team, and the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies would like to thank those whose wisdom, insight, and courage fostered the Silatech project, the many constituents who guided and directed this work, and all those who contributed to the creation and production of this report.

A principal supporter of the work in the areas of youth engagement and employment and a key thought leader for this project is Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, the Consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani. The interest, excitement, and engagement in this topic are firmly rooted in Her Highness' foundational work in bringing these issues to the forefront.

We would like to recognize Ahmed Younis, senior analyst at the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies and Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications at Silatech, for his guidance and leadership on the Silatech-Gallup partnership.

Special thanks go to the Silatech Knowledge Consortium and Silatech Board, who commissioned the Silatech Index project. These entities began this project with the forethought to measure key elements that affect youth and unemployment across the League of Arab States. This report is the third of an ongoing series that takes the pulse of the region and will guide and direct policy decisions for years to come.

The study is commissioned by the Silatech Knowledge Consortium and the Silatech Board of Trustees:

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• **The World Bank**

We would like to thank Dr. Pawan Patil for authoring this report’s section on the theory of Mindset, Access, and Policy and Elaine Little for generously donating many of the photos used in the report. Special recognition also goes to the core team of Gallup analysts for this report, including Dalia Mogahed, Magali Rheault, Mohamed Younis, Sofia Kluch, Eric Olesen, and Ken Kluch. In addition, Steve Crabtree, Lydia Saad, Julie Ray, Lymari Morales, Elizabeth Mendes, Bob Torongo, Nicole Naurath, and Kyley Nemeckay provided substantial analytical insights to the final report.

We would also like to thank Gallup’s entire team of senior scientists for their invaluable advice and guidance on this report. We are indebted to Dr. Gale Muller, Dr. Robert Tortora, Richard Burkholder, Dr. Rajesh Srinivasan, Dr. Anita Pugliese, Christine Delmeiren and Jihad Fakhreddine. We would like to thank Ben Klima, Bryant Ott, Susan Sorenson, and Jessica Stutzman for their outstanding work with the editing of the report and their insightful comments to improve the final draft.

We also wish to acknowledge Molly Hardin and Samantha Allemang for their tremendous efforts with the layout and design of the report.
The Arab world is unique in having a relatively high proportion of young people expressing the desire to start a business.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the third edition of The Silatech Index: Voices of Young Arabs report series. The study is a multi-year research initiative undertaken by Gallup in partnership with Silatech to shed light on young Arabs’ attitudes toward employment and entrepreneurship in their countries. This research endeavor is designed to provide a quantitative-based approach to inform policies and initiatives of job creation across the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).

This new report presents the 2010 Silatech Index scores for 19 Arab League countries and the Somaliland region of Somalia. Index scores for many countries have changed, moving either up or down, since previous editions, underscoring the dynamic nature of the Silatech Index dimensions. Such movement further points to the importance of tracking young Arabs’ perceptions over time to measure progress on the ground.

Like previous editions, this report provides an analysis of the factors that are most predictive of higher Silatech Index scores in each country. In addition, individual country reports provide a deep look at young people’s perceptions of employment and entrepreneurship, thoughts on emigration, community satisfaction, and wellbeing, including attitudinal differences between young men and women.

Drawing from its wealth of data, this report also presents insights on five critical topics that are relevant not only to individual countries but also the entire MENA region and beyond. In the Entrepreneurship and Employment chapter, the analysis presents a profile of aspiring entrepreneurs, their perceived obstacles to business entry and outcomes, and examines the relationship between entrepreneurial intentions and civic participation. The Perspectives on Migration chapter studies young people’s desire to leave their countries permanently. It provides a detailed analysis of migratory aspirations and motivations by countries’ income groups. In the Young Arab Women chapter, Gallup findings offer key insights to better understand educational and wellbeing gaps between young women and young men. The analysis underscores the salience of considering socioeconomics, not only at the personal but also the national level, to ascertain many aspects of gender issues in the Arab world. The chapter Perspectives on a Green Economy and the Environment gives an important overview of young Arabs’ self-reported knowledge of climate change and its causes. The chapter presents findings about young people’s attitudes toward the impact of their work or job on the environment. Finally, the chapter Job Creation in Conflict-Influenced Areas focuses on perspectives of young people in Iraq and the Palestinian Territories. It provides an analysis of young Iraqis’ and Palestinians’ basic needs and their views on employment and economic conditions. The chapter also presents a detailed analysis of their aspirations and hopes to turn perceived obstacles into opportunities to help build productive and stable societies.

The Silatech Concept

The Silatech Indexes are based on the three fundamental pillars of Mindset, Access, and Policy. The Mindset Index measures young people’s views of the job climate, obstacles to employment, and their societies’ attitudes toward the status of youth. The Access Index gauges young people’s attitudes toward their countries’ current economic and business environment. The Policy Index measures young people’s attitudes toward market competitiveness as well as their perceptions of human capital utilization.

Silatech Index Rankings

Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait are all on par as the leaders on the Mindset Index, performing best among high-income countries. However, Kuwait shows more positive momentum across the three waves of data collection.
Tunisia does best in the middle-income category, outperforming other countries on the Policy and Access dimensions. On the Mindset dimension, Tunisia is on par with Algeria for the top spot. Of note, this is the first time index scores for Libya are available.

In the low-income group, the Somaliland region is the top performer across all three Silatech dimensions. Index scores for Djibouti, which took the top spot in the last report, could not be calculated as some survey items were unavailable.

### MINDSET INDEX SCORES

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\(^\text{^}\) Index score from 2009

### ACCESS INDEX SCORES

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### POLICY INDEX SCORES

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<td>Tunisia 72</td>
<td>Somaliland (region) 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar 83(^\text{^})</td>
<td>Libya 54</td>
<td>Mauritania 61</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait 78</td>
<td>Syria 51</td>
<td>Djibouti 60(^\text{^})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Algeria 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahrain 51</td>
<td>Lebanon 37</td>
<td>Sudan 56</td>
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<td>Iraq 31</td>
<td>Yemen 48</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Egypt *</td>
<td>Palestinian Territories 45</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jordan *</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Morocco *</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^\text{*}\) No index score calculated due to the unavailability of survey items.

\(^\text{^}\) Index score from 2009
Key Findings

In addition to the Silatech Index scores, the report takes a deep look at five critical topics to help inform policies and initiatives across the MENA region. The following are the top findings from the Entrepreneurship and Employment, Perspectives on Migration, Young Arab Women, Perspectives on a Green Economy, and Job Creation in Conflict-Influenced Areas chapters.

Entrepreneurship and Employment

The Arab world is unique in having a relatively high proportion of young people expressing the desire to start a business. While only 4% of young people in North America or Europe say they plan to launch a business in the next year, 15% of young Arabs have this ambition. Aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to report being employed (44%) than young people from the region who have no intention to create a business (26%). Further, budding entrepreneurs (60%) are far more likely than those who do not have entrepreneurial ambitions (48%) to say they are satisfied with the freedom they have to choose what to do with their lives.

Entrepreneurial inclinations vary greatly across income categories. They are especially prevalent in middle-income countries where 57% of young people say they plan to start a business in the next year. In low-income countries, 32% express such business-creation intentions, while in high-income countries 12% say the same.

Overall, young Arabs prefer to work for the government rather than in the private sector. Even those who plan to start a business are more likely to say they would prefer to have a government job than a job in the private sector, 45% vs. 33%, respectively.

Young people across the region have more optimistic views on business-outcome factors than on business-entry variables. For example, majorities of aspiring entrepreneurs (59%) say they can trust their assets will be safe at all times in their respective countries. A slight majority of aspiring entrepreneurs (52%) also say they can trust the government to allow their businesses to make a lot of money. But attitudes toward business
entry paint a less optimistic picture. While about two-thirds of aspiring entrepreneurs believe they can readily find qualified employees locally, they are less likely to believe it is easy to secure a business loan (28%) and that filing the necessary paperwork is easy enough for anyone (27%).

Gallup’s findings underscore the relationship that exists between budding entrepreneurs and civic participation. Aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to say they have volunteered their time to an organization or helped a stranger in the past month than young people who do not plan to start a business. Young aspiring entrepreneurs are also more than twice as likely to say they have voiced their opinion to an official in the past month.

Perspectives on Migration
Across Arab League countries surveyed, a weighted average of 30% of young people say they would like to migrate permanently to another country if they had the opportunity. Four in 10 young people who would like to move away permanently name a country in the Arab League as their desired destination and just as many mention a country in the European Union. Overall, Saudi Arabia, the United States, France, and the United Arab Emirates are the top desired emigration destinations.

Young potential emigrants are most likely to come from poor countries. While 30% of young people living in middle-income countries express a desire to emigrate, 40% in the low-income group express similar desires. In contrast, 6% in high-income countries wish to move permanently.
The availability of good jobs and good economic prospects is crucial for countries looking to stem the potential exodus of young people. When asked to name the most important change that would need to occur for them to decide to stay in their countries, young Arabs — particularly young men — are most likely to say getting a job or a better one would be the most important factor. Improvements in the economy are second.

Further reinforcing the difference that a good job can make in retaining potential emigrants, employed young people who feel they have already landed their ideal job are far less likely to say they would like to move to another country permanently (28%) compared with those who say their job is not ideal (51%).

Beyond improvements in the economy and the job climate, attitudes toward entrepreneurship are also associated with the desire to emigrate. Young people’s preference for a career in the private sector over one in government — traditionally preferred and perceived as the more secure career path of the two — is strongly related to aspirations to permanently leave one’s country.

Perceptions of business entry and outcomes matter. Across the Arab League, the likelihood for young people to say they would like to emigrate decreases as the proportion who say the government makes business paperwork and permits easy enough increases. Similarly, those who say business start-up loans are easy for everyone to obtain (26%) are less likely to express the desire to emigrate than those who say such loans are not easy to secure (34%). Furthermore, young people who say business owners can trust their assets will be safe at all times and will be allowed to make a lot of money are less likely to express the desire to leave their countries permanently.

Young Arab Women
Socioeconomics is likely a more powerful factor than gender when trying to predict opportunities available to young people. Although the wellbeing of young Arabs differs greatly across countries’ income categories, it does not vary by gender within a given income group.

**Figure 5. Economic Status, Not Gender, Predicts Wellbeing Among Young Arabs**

Among those young people who say they live comfortably on their present household income, there is no gap in educational attainment. In contrast, those young people who say they find it very difficult to live on their present household income have the largest gap in educational attainment.
Higher economic levels are associated with gender equality or greater female educational attainment. This suggests that rather than looking to culture or religion to explain gender-based educational disparity in the Arab world, socioeconomic disadvantage may be a more productive factor to explore.

**Figure 6. Gender Gap in Education Increases as Economic Status Decreases**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Post Secondary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living comfortably</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting by</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding it difficult</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding it very difficult</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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</table>

The empowerment of young women entails not only access to education, but also to the public square through community engagement. Gallup’s research suggests that like education, civic participation in the region is more associated with economic status than gender.

Of all young Arabs who say they wish to leave their countries permanently if given the opportunity, 60% are men and 40% are women. Regardless of gender, those who desire to emigrate share three key features: 1) they have thought about starting their own business, 2) they express a preference for private-sector jobs over government-sector ones, and 3) they are aware of job placement services. To explain their desires to leave their countries permanently, young men appear to seek specific employment opportunities. By contrast, better economic conditions are not the only reasons young women wish to emigrate.

Overall, potential emigrating young women are relatively positive about their countries, but they are mixed about their local communities. Unlike young men who wish to emigrate, young women’s approval of their own countries’ leadership is the same for those desiring to emigrate and those desiring to stay.

However, compared with those who would rather stay in their countries, potential emigrating young women are less likely to recommend their local areas to others and to express satisfaction with their communities. When rating the educational system and the availability of healthcare, they are less likely to be satisfied than young women who want to stay put.

As a result, providing incentives for young women to stay means more than improving the job climate. Instead, it is the development of livable communities that will likely convince young women to stay in their home countries.

**Perspectives on a Green Economy and the Environment**

Many may assume that in a region with a demographic youth bulge and its associated employment challenges, not many young people would care whether their work impacts the environment in a harmful way. Almost half of young Arabs (46%) say that when considering a job or career, the impact such a job will have on the environment is a “very important” factor they take into consideration.

At the same time, it is worth contrasting the relatively high level of importance young Arabs place on the environmental impact of one’s career and their awareness of climate-change issues. When asked
how much they know about climate change or global warming, 41% of young Arabs say they have never heard of it. Thirty-eight percent say they “know something” about it, while 12% say they know “a great deal” about the topic.

When asked about the cause of climate change, almost half of all young people in the Arab world (49%) cite human activity. In addition to the consequences of climate change, seasonal environmental disasters also threaten some communities throughout the region. About one-third of young Arabs, regardless of whether they place a great deal of importance on the environmental impact of one’s job or not, say there have been severe environmental problems in their communities in the past 12 months.

![Figure 7. Plurality of Young Arabs Cite Human Causes as Reason for Climate Change](image)

However, 16% of young Arabs say they may need to move in the next five years to flee severe environmental conditions. These findings suggest that several million individuals believe they are in danger of becoming environmental refugees in the near future.

Young Arabs who consider the environmental impact of their job as “very important” are more likely than those who do not to express satisfaction with local efforts to preserve the environment.

Young people living in high-income (59%) and low-income countries (61%) are more likely than those living in middle-income countries (42%) to say the impact their work has on the environment is “very important” to them. These findings suggest that young people in countries representing a considerable portion of the region’s population, and potentially the largest carbon footprint, are least likely to place importance on the environmental impact of their jobs.

### Job Creation in Conflict-Influenced Areas

Overall, Gallup’s findings suggest a strong relationship in conflict-influenced areas between youth development and the status of women on one side and economic growth on the other.

Young Palestinians and Iraqis paint a challenging environment for the development of young people: about one-third in each area say children have the opportunity to learn and grow and perceptions that children are treated with respect and dignity are uncommon.

![Figure 8. Children Have the Opportunity to Learn](image)
Reinforcing the already negative views about children’s development are widespread attitudes that human capital is underutilized. When asked whether their countries’ leadership maximizes on the potential of young people, 57% of young Palestinians and 66% of young Iraqis don’t think it is the case. In addition to perceptions of the low status of children, views about the status of women in these two conflict-influenced areas are only marginally better.

Perceptions about the existence of a meritocratic environment are relatively widespread. About two-thirds of young people in each area agree hard work pays off. But attitudes about the freedoms they have suggest a disconnect between their readiness to participate in their societies and their sense of personal freedom, especially in Iraq. In the Palestinian Territories, 51% express satisfaction with their freedom to choose what they do with their life and 34% of young Iraqis say the same.

Self-assessments — an important aspect of young people’s wellbeing — show some contrast. When asked to evaluate their life satisfaction using a ladder scale with steps numbered from 0 (worst possible life) to 10 (best possible life), young Palestinians rate their present life lower than young Iraqis. All other young people assess their present life higher than young Palestinians but lower than the way young Iraqis rate theirs. Young Palestinians and other young Arabs rate their future lives in the same light, but the former evaluate their future more favorably than young Iraqis do.

However, overall assessments of life satisfaction in the Palestinian Territories mask dramatic differences across Territories. Young people in Gaza rate their present life far lower than those in the West Bank. These findings suggest that young Gazans view their present situation in a much dimmer light than young Iraqis do. Despite dire perceptions of their present circumstances, young Gazans expect their future to be as bright as young Iraqis do. But it is young people in the West Bank who predict their future lives to stand high (6.60), even higher than expectations of all other young Arabs (6.42).
The Research

Between February and April 2010, Gallup polled more than 17,643 nationals across 19 countries that are members of the League of Arab States and the Somaliland region of Somalia. Of those polled, more than 10,018 are country nationals aged 15 to 29. Gallup conducted two previous waves of data collection in 2009, covering more than 36,000 nationals (including more than 19,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 29).

In this report, scores for the Silatech Index are based on the February-April 2010 wave of data collection. All other survey data reported, unless noted, are based on averages across the three waves of data collection.

How the Three Silatech Index Pillars Are Created

The following question items are used to calculate scores for each of the three dimensions:

Mindset

- Thinking about the job situation in the city or area where you live today, would you say that it is now a good time or a bad time to find a job?
- Do you think that taking part in regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or getting a better job?
- Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your freedom to choose what you do with your life?
- Do most children in this country have the opportunity to learn and grow every day, or not?
- Can people in this country get ahead by working hard, or not?
- In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the educational system or the schools?
- Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for entrepreneurs forming new businesses?

Access

- In your country, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? How about the judicial system and courts?
- Right now, do you think economic conditions in your country, as a whole, are getting better or getting worse?
- Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs?
- In general, is it easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business in your country, or not?
- In general, does the government make paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business, or not?

Policy

- Would you say that the leadership in your country maximize on the potential of youth?
- Do you think the government of your country is doing enough to fight corruption, or not?
- If someone wants to start a business in your country, can they feel confident that they will easily find hardworking and qualified employees when they need them?
- If someone wants to start a business in your country, can they trust the government to allow their business to make a lot of money?
- If someone wants to start a business in your country, can they trust their assets and property to be safe at all times?
Young people who say they would like to move permanently to another country come from every educational background.
TECHNICAL NOTE

Between February and April 2010, Gallup polled more than 17,643 nationals across 19 countries that are members of the League of Arab States and the Somaliland region of Somalia. Of those polled, more than 10,018 are country nationals aged 15 to 29. Gallup conducted two previous waves of data collection in 2009, covering more than 36,000 nationals (including more than 19,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 29). In this report, scores for the Silatech Index are based on the February-April 2010 wave of data collection. All other survey data reported, unless noted, are based on averages across the three waves of data collection.

One of the poll questions specifically asks about how children are treated ("Do you believe that children in [country name] are treated with respect and dignity, or not?"). In the analysis, the term “children” is used only in reference to that question and does not refer to “young people.” Additionally, all respondents are citizens of their countries of residence. Such a focus on nationals provides an important analytical tool to make reliable comparisons across countries.

The Gallup findings cover the vast majority of countries in the League of Arab States (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen). Because of ongoing conflict in Somalia (another Arab League member), Gallup could field the questionnaire only in the northwest region of the country, known as Somaliland. In 1991, the region declared its independence after civil order collapsed in Somalia, but the international community does not recognize Somaliland as a sovereign nation. For ease of use, this report uses the term “Somaliland” to identify the region of Somalia where the fieldwork could take place. However, such a reference is not an indication of any position taken by Gallup or Silatech on the political status of Somaliland. Poll findings for Oman are not available as Gallup could not field the questionnaire in the country in preparation for this report.

To compare Silatech Index scores across countries, Gallup grouped countries into categories according to 2010 estimates of GDP per capita (in U.S. dollars) provided by the International Monetary Fund. Countries fall under one of three income categories: high income (GDP per capita of at least $23,000), middle income (GDP per capita ranges from $2,600 to less than $23,000), and low income (GDP per capita of less than $2,600).

The Thriving, Struggling, and Suffering Indexes measure respondents’ perceptions of where they stand, now and in the future. Building on the earlier work by Hadley Cantril and the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale, Gallup measures life satisfaction by asking respondents to place the status of their lives on a “ladder” scale with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where 0 indicates the worst possible life and 10 the best possible life. Individuals who rate their current lives a “7” or higher and their future an “8” or higher are “Thriving.” Individuals are “Suffering” if they report their current and future lives as a “4” and lower. All other individuals are “Struggling.”
Mindset aims to improve society’s recognition of and support for young people’s contributions to economic and social capital and better inform youth about the realities of working life.
ABOUT THE SILATECH INDEX
Often hidden from view but in plain sight are millions of young people who are arguably the world’s most abundant and untapped asset.

More than 100 million young people between the ages of 15 and 29 now represent 30% of the Arab world’s total population. With two-thirds of the MENA region’s population under the age of 24, the region faces an unprecedented “youth bulge.” This demographic cohort is the largest ever in the region’s history to enter the labor market.

These young women and men are more educated, healthier, and better connected to the global community than previous generations. Yet they face significant challenges, especially in obtaining access to employment and enterprise opportunities in an economic environment weakened by the global financial crisis. Unfortunately, given the current projections and pace of existing support interventions, there will not be enough jobs available for these young women and men.

Young people want access to better opportunities and particularly to jobs. And they want to use their skills to become productive workers, entrepreneurs, parents, and active citizens. Ultimately, the way young people navigate these years will largely determine the future of the region.

To respond to the scale and urgency of this challenge, Silatech was established in 2008 with a mission to connect young people aged 18 to 30 years old with employment and enterprise opportunities. Silatech is committed to mobilizing interest, investment, knowledge, resources, and action to drive large-scale comprehensive employment and enterprise development programs.

To facilitate these objectives and garner consensus and support from key regional and international partners operating in this space, Silatech also supported the creation of a youth employment and enterprise Knowledge Consortium.

Working in three crucial domains established by Silatech — Mindset, Access, and Policy (MAP) — the Knowledge Consortium pools the human resources and intellectual capital of a broad network of experts and practitioners to serve as a focal point of scholarship, research, and evaluation. The Consortium also uses its network to push forth best practices to build knowledge in order to help understand the employment challenges and opportunities that young people in the Arab world face. Vitally, the Consortium also supports the application of this knowledge through initiatives that have the ability to keep pace with the impending need evidenced by the region’s youth bulge.
Theory of Change

Silatech developed its “theory of change” or program framework based on the premise that no single organization by itself can address the daunting youth employment challenge and that it is only in partnership with others that a new trajectory of hope, opportunity, and support for young people across the Arab world is possible. **Partnership** is at the core of the theory of change. Silatech works through strategic partnerships with public, private, and civil society organizations with international, regional, and/or local mandates to improve the odds for young people on a large scale.

In Silatech’s framework for change, young people’s perceptions toward the job market, pathways and obstacles to entry, as well as societal values toward youth, as captured by a **Mindset** pillar, inform and guide **Policy** dialogue and reform to further improve young people’s **Access** to entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Increased youth access to more and better employment and enterprise development opportunities, in turn, promotes a greater environment of fairness at work as individuals have not just jobs, but good, quality jobs. Such an enabling environment feeds back into **Mindset**, improving attitudes toward labor entry and human capital development, which further improves **Policy** and **Access**, creating a self-perpetuating, virtuous cycle of improvement.

Interventions in **Mindset**, **Access**, and **Policy** are crucial to Silatech’s theory of change. But what drives the required changes to each? Enabling **thought leadership**, **innovative technology**, and **investment initiatives** supported by Silatech and its partners is vital to achieving Silatech’s vision and mission and driving catalytic interventions that can affect many young people relative to **Mindset**, **Access**, and **Policy**.

**Mindset, Access, and Policy — Three Interrelated Drivers for Change**

Enabling policies in the public and private domains can fundamentally change the course of society. The opposite is true as well — disabling policies can bring economic growth and prosperity to a halt.

Usually — although not always — leaders develop enabling policies from a base of knowledge of what works and from what citizens of a given society think
of the policies. Understanding the mindset of opinion leaders and young populations and busting myths are fundamental to Silatech’s work.

Young people constantly face obstacles in the form of government and market failures in their efforts to access decent work opportunities. It is well-documented that young people in the MENA region are generally inadequately prepared for work as a result of educational systems that are not demand-driven and are unresponsive to the needs of the labor market. Young entrepreneurs are wrongly viewed as “too risky” to access financial products and services from banks and other financial institutions.

**Mindset** aims to improve society’s recognition of and support for young people’s contributions to economic and social capital and better inform youth about the realities of working life. Research shows that many factors help or hinder young people’s pathways to employment and social inclusion. Silatech believes it is important to build on traditional values to improve attitudes toward various types of work, gender norms, and family and community support that accelerate young people’s meaningful engagement in society and the economy.

Young entrepreneurs are wrongly viewed as ‘too risky’ to access financial products and services from banks and other financial institutions.
Access seeks to improve young people’s access to demand-driven and market-oriented skills training and job placement services and to improve micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises’ (MSMEs) access to capital, business development services, and markets.

For young people to succeed in finding gainful employment, they need access to skills training, job counseling, and placement services linked to market requirements. Research shows, however, that given the regional youth bulge, there will not be enough jobs to employ those young people entering the labor market even if they have the types of skills employers desire.

This fact drives the need for Silatech’s second Access focus on addressing the needs of young, entrepreneurial MSMEs — both new and existing — to access financial products and services, business development services, and links to corporate supply chains and national, regional, and global markets. The provision of such support serves to enable their growth and expansion such that they become the engine of local economic growth and job creation.

Policy seeks to promote adoption of enabling policies to stimulate increased employment and economic opportunities for young people and social inclusion. Leaders must shape government policies to improve the competitiveness of the labor market, the strength of the business environment, and the overall employment and economic opportunities for young people.

Principles Guiding Silatech’s Work

Silatech applies a set of guiding principles to inform funding decisions, program design, partnership mobilization, and all aspects of its operations. In carrying out its mission, Silatech focuses on identifying and/or designing and co-developing initiatives that are:

1. **Comprehensive**
   Initiatives address employment and enterprise development challenges through a multi-faceted strategy that deals with both the supply and demand side of the labor market and the linkage between the two.

2. **Customized and Locally Driven**
   Silatech designs and implements solutions based on the unique needs, opportunities, and priorities defined by local stakeholders.

3. **Inclusive**
   Initiatives reach young people in both the formal and informal economies — with a particular focus on the underserved — and foster partnerships among the public, private, and civil society sectors.

4. **Large in Scale**
   Silatech supports and promotes initiatives that have large-scale national and/or regional impact and that are replicable.

5. **Sustainable**
   Initiatives leverage financial and technical resources to ensure sustainable impact and growth.

6. **Rigorously Measured**
   Initiatives target and measure for high-impact results and cost effectiveness.

These principles emerge from historical analysis: an understanding of future projections and trends, lessons learned from good practice efforts regionally and globally and failures from past efforts, and extensive consultations with thought leaders and practitioners alike. But they also provide a solid foundation to experiment, test hunches, and take risks — all of which
Silatech believes are needed in order to serve as an important catalyst of support to large-scale employment and enterprise development schemes for the region.

These principles, taken together with Silatech’s overarching framework, define the strategic areas of focus where Silatech believes it can best contribute to improving the employment and economic prospects for young people in the Arab world. Every Silatech activity and all country-level initiatives directly tie to these three strategic goals of Mindset, Policy, and Access.

A Consortium That Supports Knowledge and Its Application

As a Knowledge Consortium, Silatech and individual partners focus on directly contributing to youth employment in the Arab world through conducting original research, analyzing information and trends, evaluating program impact, and providing thought leadership at the country and region level.

Further, the Consortium aims to explore the relative effectiveness of different approaches to supporting young people, with particular emphasis on research aimed at fostering the growth and replication of successful initiatives. Overall, the Consortium supports Silatech’s mission to connect young people to enterprise and employment opportunities by developing comprehensive strategies and suggesting modalities of implementation.

The Consortium also serves as host to a range of opportunities for scholars and practitioners to cross-fertilize ideas and experiences. This includes facilitating workshops and conferences, as well as communities of practice, to share information and exchange expertise relative to youth employment in the Arab world. The Consortium shares research results through public information channels — electronic, print, and face-to-face discussion — thus helping to further public dialogue about the issue of youth employment. Thought leadership and dissemination of best practices are essential enablers of Silatech’s approach to scaling up best practices to and through partners.
Access seeks to improve young people’s access to demand-driven and market-oriented skills training and job placement services and to improve micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises’ (MSMEs) access to capital, business development services, and markets.
CHAPTER 1

SILATECH INDEX SCORES
Young people across the region generally have more optimistic views on business-outcome factors than on business-entry variables.
Qatar and the United Arab Emirates remain top performers among high-income countries on all three of the Silatech Indexes. Kuwait also does consistently well and shows positive momentum.

Tunisia does best among the middle-income countries, outperforming other countries in its group on both Policy and Access and performing on par with Algeria for the top spot on Mindset. Among low-income countries, Djibouti, based on its 2009 scores, and Somaliland remain the top performers across all three Indexes.

A detailed discussion by Index showcases individual countries’ strengths and weaknesses, including change over time.

### Mindset

Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait are all on par as the leaders of the Mindset Index, performing best among high-income countries.

Among middle-income countries, Algeria and Tunisia do the best, with Algeria having improved from the last wave of data collection while Tunisia fell. Morocco, Iraq, and Jordan also lost ground, while the other countries’ scores were flat.

Among the low-income countries, Djibouti, Somaliland, Sudan, and Mauritania lead. Both Somaliland and Mauritania improved from the last wave of data collection. While Yemen, the Palestinian Territories, and Comoros are the weakest on this Index, the Palestinian Territories have shown improvement.

### Access

On the Access Index, the advantage of high-income countries is particularly evident. The UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait easily outperform all other countries. Both Kuwait and the UAE improved since the last wave of data collection, as did Saudi Arabia.

Among the middle- and low-income countries, there exists a wide gap in performance (27 points and 33 points, respectively). Tunisia continues to lead the middle-income group despite losing ground since the last wave of data collection. All other countries’ scores in this group remained steady or fell, save for Algeria’s, which improved slightly.

### MINDSET INDEX SCORES

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^ Index score from 2009
Djibouti and Somaliland easily outperform the rest of the low-income countries on the Access Index. Sudan remains relatively strong as well. Comoros improved since the last wave, leaving Yemen as the worst overall.

**ACCESS INDEX SCORES**

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<td>Jordan 35</td>
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<td>Syria 34</td>
<td>Palestinian Territories 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Comoros 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

^ Index score from 2009

Among the high-income countries, Kuwait again gained ground while the UAE remained flat, thus reducing the gap between them. Bahrain lost significant ground and is now well behind the other high-income countries.

Among the middle-income countries, Libya, Syria, and Algeria fall in the middle range between top-performer Tunisia and the two overall worst performers — Lebanon and Iraq. Syria has, in general, lost ground while Algeria has gained.

Among the low-income countries, Comoros, Sudan, Yemen, and the Palestinian Territories all lag Somaliland, Djibouti, and Mauritania, but still outperform middle-income countries Lebanon and Iraq. Comoros has improved since the last wave of data collection, while Sudan’s score deteriorated. Yemen and the Palestinian Territories fell slightly.

**POLICY INDEX SCORES**

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<th>High-income</th>
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<th>Low-income</th>
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<td>Somaliland (region) 69</td>
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<td>Libya 54</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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</tbody>
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^ Index score from 2009

* No index score calculated due unavailable items.

Policy

The UAE and Kuwait are the high-income leaders of the Policy Index. Tunisia leads among middle-income countries, despite having lost ground since the last wave of data collection. Somaliland gained enough to become the clear leader among low-income countries. Mauritania also improved to a strong position. It is important to note that Policy Index scores for several countries could not be calculated, as some survey items were not available.
Within the MENA region, aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to be employed either full or part time.
CHAPTER 2

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT
Throughout the MENA region, governments, NGOs, and private sector organizations are increasingly turning to entrepreneurial development programs for young people in an effort to boost economies and combat rampant unemployment. Accordingly, numerous local and regional programs and projects are currently in place to enable entrepreneurs to take their ideas and businesses to the marketplace.

These concepts are not new to the region. Similar efforts to incentivize, fund, or encourage entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation have existed in the region for decades. While many governments and international organizations have advocated or enforced economic reforms aimed at job creation, most were ad hoc and country specific. Today, a number of organizations (including Silatech) aim to tackle the issue at the regional level.

For other challenges in the MENA region, the research is often more developed than on-the-ground efforts. However, much more has been done in the region in the area of entrepreneurship, enterprise, and job creation than has been researched or documented. In response to the well-known challenge of the demographic youth bulge and concerns of cascading years of higher unemployment rates to come, governments and organizations across the region are implementing various projects and programs to stimulate economic growth and create jobs.

Fifteen percent of young Arabs say they wish to start their own business in the next 12 months.

In addition to promoting entrepreneurship and enterprise in general, governments and organizations are taking notice of a new type of entrepreneurship — social entrepreneurship — that seems to be gaining traction throughout the region. Social entrepreneurship is defined as the use of business methods to achieve a positive and sustained social impact. A recent study highlighting 78 recognized social entrepreneurs throughout the region underscored that most of them had a personal experience with a social challenge their enterprises are working to address. This entrepreneur-civic engagement connection, explored later in this section, promises to be an important area for ongoing research as we continue to gather new empirical data from across the region.

Additionally, it is imperative to understand the perspectives of young Arabs in general and aspiring young Arab entrepreneurs in particular on the challenges they face, to remove bureaucratic obstacles that stand in their way. The opinions of aspiring entrepreneurs through the region are valuable in informing policy-makers’ decisions on whether to focus on easing business-entry obstacles, such as access to financing, or to direct efforts toward providing assurances of certain business-outcome issues such as profitability and assets protection.

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1 Organizations such as Ashoka, Bab Rizq Jameel, and Injaz are some examples of regional efforts at recognizing, enabling, and celebrating young entrepreneurs within the region.

2 Social Entrepreneurship in the Middle East, Toward Sustainable Development for the Next Generation Abdou, Fahmy, Greenwald, & Nelson.
Throughout this section and report, *aspiring entrepreneur* is used to describe young people who say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. The terms *aspiring entrepreneur* and *entrepreneurial young people* are used interchangeably.

The first part of this section explores entrepreneurs’ regional perceptions of local economic conditions, and employment preferences among young people throughout the region. It then delves into the statistical relationship between expressing an entrepreneurial inclination and civic engagement. The second part of this section more closely examines the entrepreneurial group in detail, particularly the differences between aspiring entrepreneurs of opportunity (those who report being in a secure financial situation) versus aspiring entrepreneurs of necessity (those who report having financial challenges).

**Perceptions on Entrepreneurship**

Across the region, 67% of young Arabs aged 15 to 29 hold a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs. Among aspiring entrepreneurs, 70% say the same.

Sixty-three percent of young Arabs say their local communities are good places to live for entrepreneurs starting new businesses. Aspiring entrepreneurs are significantly more likely than those who do not plan to start a business to describe their city or local area as a good place to live for entrepreneurs (74% vs. 61%, respectively).

Twelve percent of aspiring entrepreneurs live in the high-income group of countries, 57% are in the middle-income countries, and 32% are from the low-income group of countries.

**Aspiring Entrepreneurs More Likely to Be Employed**

Within the MENA region, aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to be employed, either full or part time. Among non-entrepreneurial young Arabs, 21% say they work full time versus 34% of aspiring entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurial young people are also twice as likely as those who do not plan to start a business to have a part-time job (10% vs. 5%).

Nearly one in five aspiring entrepreneurs across the region describe themselves as self-employed, compared with 6% of those who have no plans to start a business. When self-employed young Arabs are asked whether they would prefer to work for an employer or themselves, two-thirds say they would prefer to remain self-employed.

A majority of employed young Arabs (59%) say they are satisfied with their current job. This percentage is identical for aspiring entrepreneurs and those with no desire to start a business in the next year.

**Among aspiring young Arab entrepreneurs, 18% say they volunteered their time to an organization within the past 12 months.**

However, aspiring entrepreneurs are twice as likely as non-entrepreneurial young Arabs to say they have been actively seeking employment within the past month. They are also more likely (35%) than those with no plans to start a business (25%) to be satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs. Overall, 69% of young Arabs say they are dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.
Among young working Arabs, most say their organizations are either hiring (33%) or not changing the size of the workforce (44%). Nearly 1 in 10 say their employer is currently reducing the size of its workforce.

One prevalent challenge countries in the region face is the perception that government jobs provide a more stable and reliable alternative to unpredictable or risky private-sector employment. When asked whether they would prefer to work for the government or a business, 52% of young people say they prefer government employment. Non-entrepreneurial young Arabs are more likely (53%) to maintain that preference than aspiring entrepreneurs (45%), although fewer than one-quarter (23%) of all young people say they would prefer to work for a business. Many Arab countries have moved to privatize government-run or heavily subsidized businesses in response to the long-term unsustainability of this phenomenon.

The preference for government work varies greatly across the region. When compared with other countries studied in the region, Kuwait has the highest percentage of young people (90%) who prefer government work. Only 3% of young Kuwaitis would choose to work in a business while 6% say they have no preference for one over the other.

In Egypt, a country that has actively pursued a policy of privatization for more than a decade, 62% of young people say they would prefer a government job over working in a business. While one in five young Egyptians say they would prefer to work in a business, 16% say they have no preference. In countries such as Egypt, government employment usually means a more stable career path that offers workers a refuge from layoffs in tough economic times, as well as a more reliable pension/retirement plan.

Only in the Somaliland region do a majority of young people (74%) say they would prefer working for a business rather than the government. Comoros (44%), Lebanon (43%), and Sudan (41%) had some of the highest percentages of young people preferring to work in business over government.

Entrepreneurship and Employment

Among young Arabs, 81% say that participating in regular job training can increase one’s chances of employment.

In high-income Gulf countries, nationals often perceive government jobs as presenting fewer barriers to employment in what are often expatriate-majority societies. These government jobs may also provide healthcare and other benefits not always offered by private-sector employers in those countries.
Aspiring Entrepreneurs and Civic Engagement

An important finding in the previous Silatech Index\(^3\) report was that young entrepreneurs in the region were more likely to be civically engaged than other young people. Whether it is volunteering time to an organization or helping a stranger in need, budding entrepreneurs seem to be more active in civic society. Other research\(^4\) has shown that many of the most effective social entrepreneurs in the region succeeded in a business idea that was somehow related to a personal passion or challenge they overcame in their own lives.

However, the latest findings underscore that young entrepreneurs are also more civically inclined and socially optimistic. For example, they are twice as likely to say they have voiced their opinion to an official in the past month. They are also three times as likely as those who don’t plan to start a business to disapprove of their city or local leadership.

Aspiring young entrepreneurs are also more optimistic about the direction of their local communities. Significantly more aspiring young entrepreneurs (55%) than non-entrepreneurial young people (48%) say their city is becoming a better place to live. Finally, young aspiring entrepreneurs (60%) are far more likely than non-entrepreneurial young Arabs to be satisfied with the freedom they have to choose what to do with their lives.

Regional Challenges in Business Entry Versus Business Outcome

Starting a business is no small undertaking. Licensing, capital, local security, and confidence in the rule of law are just a few of the challenges aspiring entrepreneurs must grapple with to successfully launch their business. For policy-makers, removing these obstacles within the local and national business space is often a constant priority as the easing of such barriers can translate into job creation, and ultimately, tax revenue.

One approach is for policy-makers to focus on business-entry challenges, including access to capital and financing, licensing processes and availability, and qualified labor. Another avenue is to address business outcome concerns — namely, elements needed in the marketplace and society at large to enable businesses to sustain long-term success and growth. These include fostering government policies that allow businesses to be profitable, ensuring that business owners can trust their assets and property will be safe within the country, and ensuring the rule of law will be applied in case of a business dispute.

Among aspiring entrepreneurs, 59% say they can trust their business assets to be safe at all times in their countries.

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3 The Silatech Index Report: Voices of Young Arabs, January 2010.
4 Social Entrepreneurship in the Middle East, Toward Sustainable Development for the Next Generation, Abdou, Fahmy, Greenwald, & Nelson.
Young people across the region, whether planning to start a business in the near future or not, generally have more optimistic views on business-outcome factors than on business-entry variables in their countries. A majority of aspiring young entrepreneurs (59%) say that they can trust their assets and property will be safe at all times within the country. Further, 52% of entrepreneurial young people say they can trust the government to allow their business to make a lot of money.

When examining business-entry concerns, the picture is less optimistic. Although a majority of entrepreneurial young people say they can readily find qualified employees locally, most identify loan access and difficulty of paperwork in processing licenses and permits as barriers to their success.

Access to loans and the perception that licenses and permits involve an arduous process continue to challenge aspiring young entrepreneurs. This does not mean that efforts aimed at business-outcome variables are not crucial to the success of aspiring young entrepreneurs across the region. However, policy-makers should explore local security concerns and opinions on domestic financial policies on a country-by-country basis.

Opportunity-Driven Versus Necessity-Driven Aspiring Entrepreneurs

The Arab world is unique in having a relatively high proportion of young people express the desire to start a business. While only 4% of young people in North America or Europe say they plan to launch a business in the next 12 months, young Arabs are nearly four times (15%) as likely to express this aspiration. Some have argued that it is desperation, not innovation, that drives this desire among young Arabs.
To better understand this socioeconomic dynamic, the following analysis will separate all those expressing a desire to start a business within the next year as “opportunity-driven” or “necessity-driven”.

Opportunity-driven entrepreneurs are those who say they plan to start a business in the next year and who describe their current financial situation as comfortable. Necessity-driven entrepreneurs are those who plan to start a business in the next year and who say they are getting by on their present income or finding it difficult, or very difficult, to do so.

These terms are not intended to cast a normative judgment on either group or their added value to economic development or job creation. Further, these categories do not mean to imply that a necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneur is any less equipped or likely to spot a good business opportunity than one who is opportunity-driven.

Necessity-driven entrepreneurs are motivated by a perceived lack of alternatives to earn a living. Thus, a dearth of quality jobs is a push factor for this group. On the other hand, young entrepreneurs in the opportunity-driven group are relatively more comfortable financially.

Examining the findings through these categories enables policy-makers to select and develop more relevant and precise interventions at the local and national level. As necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs face financial challenges, they may benefit to a greater degree from microfinance programs if their business ideas or ventures require relatively smaller amounts of capital. For such aspiring entrepreneurs, small loans may have a meaningful effect on their success while opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs may need larger sums of capital to get their ventures off the ground. Furthermore, the type of skills training and business mentorship needed for opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs may differ substantively from that needed by necessity-driven ones.

Job Services and Employment

About one in three (29%) necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs say they are aware of services that help people find jobs, versus half (50%) of opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs. Among those who are aware of such services, only about one-quarter of all young Arabs say they have personally used them in the past, including 27% of opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs and 42% of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs.

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5 The authors of this report would like to acknowledge the group of Gallup scientists who first developed this entrepreneurship concept of distinguishing between “opportunity” and “necessity driven” entrepreneurs: Rajesh Srinivasan, Jesus Rios, Sangeeta Badal, Bob Tortora, and Neli Esipova.
Necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs are also more likely than their opportunity-driven counterparts to say they are currently (actively) looking for work. While 11% of opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs say they are seeking employment, more than three times as many (36%) of their necessity-driven counterparts say the same.

Necessity- and opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs have similar views on government versus private-sector employment. A higher percentage of aspiring entrepreneurs (33%) say they would prefer to work for a business versus non-entrepreneurial young Arabs (22%). There is no significant difference between opportunity-driven versus necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs on preference of private- or public-sector employment. Further, opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (51%) are far more likely than their necessity-driven counterparts (31%) and non-entrepreneurs (26%) to express satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in their area.

**Social and Economic Assessments**

Necessity-driven and opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs differ in their perceptions on several social and economic issues. For example, opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs are much more likely (60%) than necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (44%) to say leadership in their countries maximize the potential of youth.

Opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs are also more positive about local efforts to fight poverty. While a majority of opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (55%) say they are satisfied with efforts to deal with the poor, 37% of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs agree.

However, while more than half (56%) of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs say they have confidence in the financial institutions in their countries, opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs are less likely (46%) to feel the same.
A majority of all young Arabs (65%) say that corruption is widespread within businesses. Necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (73%) are more likely than opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (61%) to say the same.

Necessity-driven and opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs differ widely in their general assessment of economic conditions in their countries. Opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (66%) are much more likely than their necessity-driven counterparts (42%) to say that economic conditions are “getting better” in their countries.

**Reasons to Start a Business**

The majority of aspiring young entrepreneurs (68%) cite “making more money” as their primary motivation to want to start a business. In contrast, 5% say they want to market or sell a new product, 6% want to help the community, and 8% say they have a good idea to implement.

At first glance, the data do not highlight much variation in the motivations of opportunity-driven and necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs.

Five times as many opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs versus necessity-driven ones cite marketing or selling a new product as their main reason to start a business (15% vs. 3%). Yet a statistically similar percentage in the opportunity-driven (6%) and necessity-driven (8%) groups cite having a good idea as their primary reason.

This underscores that necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs are not categorically less innovative than their opportunity-driven counterparts. The higher percentages of opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs who say they want to market or sell a new product may be due to their relatively easier access to capital. Thus, opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs may find it easier in some cases to take their idea from a concept to an actual product or service, while necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs may be more likely to stop at the idea stage due to limited resources or lack of capital.
If unsuccessfully looking for work for more than six months, 64% of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs say they would take a job beneath their credentials, skills, or training.

Finally, 6% of aspiring necessity-driven entrepreneurs say helping the community is their main reason for wanting to start a business, which is comparable to the 9% of aspiring opportunity-driven entrepreneurs who say the same.

While attitudes may not vary much on reasons to start a business, more variation is noticeable when considering what aspiring entrepreneurs are willing to do in times of difficulty. For example, a higher percentage of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs (64%) than their opportunity-driven counterparts (57%) say they are willing to take a job beneath their academic credentials or skills. In addition, the former group is also slightly more likely to be willing to retrain for a new career under such circumstances than the latter (70% vs. 60%).

Some differences also appear in each group’s willingness to relocate for employment. Nearly half (49%) of opportunity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs say they would be willing to relocate to another city within their country after unsuccessfully seeking work for more than six months. By contrast, more than two-thirds (68%) of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs share this view. The same pattern is observed in their desire to emigrate if faced with at least six months of unemployment. Fifty-nine percent of necessity-driven aspiring entrepreneurs say they would relocate to another country compared with 43% of their opportunity-driven counterparts who say the same.
Young potential emigrants are most likely to wish to relocate either within the region or to the European Union.
CHAPTER 3

PERSPECTIVES ON MIGRATION
Young women willing to emigrate are concerned with community factors that go beyond jobs and entrepreneurship.
PERSPECTIVES ON MIGRATION

Migration has a long and important history in the MENA region. The next evolution in migration in coming years could prove crucial in helping the region address increased global pressures on labor and job mobility.

Roughly 4 million1 jobs need to be created in the region each year to contend with a growing labor force and high unemployment. While migration cannot solve the region’s job creation needs, some analysts believe its relationship to development could potentially yield benefits to Arab labor-exporting and labor-receiving states that set the stage for future growth.

Overall, a population-weighted average of 30% of young adults in the Arab League countries surveyed would like to migrate permanently to another country if they had the opportunity. This percentage reflects aspiration rather than intent, but further analysis of who these potential emigrants are, where they might come from, and why they desire to emigrate provides insight and enables leaders in labor-exporting and labor-receiving countries to take a proactive rather than reactive approach to migration policies.

This section provides an overall portrait of potential emigrants aged 15 to 29 in the Arab League countries surveyed. It begins with a comprehensive profile of the region’s prospective emigrants in terms of their educational attainment, employment status, and gender. Next, it digs deeper into where these potential emigrants might come from, the major regions and countries they desire to emigrate to, and what predicts their likelihood to want to leave or stay. It then examines these same aspects by high-income, middle-income, and low-income country groups, and concludes with a look at temporary migration desires.

Migration issues within the MENA region are complex. The desire to emigrate is not the same in every country. As a result, the common characteristics and tendencies identified within the region provide important nuances to better understand potential migration patterns and motivations. Later in this report, migration findings are discussed at the country level to provide a more detailed level of analysis.

Portrait of Young Potential Emigrants

Potential emigrants are more likely to be young men; more than one in three (37%) say they would like to resettle permanently in another country if they could. Young women, who make up an increasing share of emigrants globally and within the region, would also like to leave. Nearly one-quarter of young women (24%) would like to migrate permanently. The increase in the volume of female emigrants requires that gender be considered in international migration policies and procedures.

Thirty percent of young adults in the Arab League countries surveyed would like to migrate permanently.

Young potential emigrants are more likely to be employed or still in school. They are more likely to hold part-time jobs (39%) rather than full-time positions (32%), and even students (30%) are more likely than those who are not in the workforce (26%) to say they would like to migrate permanently.

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Although some studies suggest that the region suffers more from “brain drain” than other regions, young people who say they would like to move permanently to another country come from every educational background. Three in ten young people in each educational group — those with elementary education or less, secondary education or higher, or four-year degrees — say they would like to emigrate.

Young potential emigrants in the region are business-oriented. Many have considered starting a business or say they plan to start one within the next 12 months. Throughout the region, jobs in the public sector are still the most desired, but those who wish to emigrate are more likely to prefer to work for a business than the government.

The countries that stand to lose the largest percentage of young people — if they act on their desires to leave — are in Africa. More than 4 in 10 young people in Mauritania (42%), Tunisia (44%), the Somaliland region (52%), and Comoros (58%) say they would like to permanently resettle in another country if given the chance. Gulf countries, such as Bahrain (4%), the United Arab Emirates (2%), and Kuwait (2%), typically on the receiving end of emigrants, are the least likely to lose more than a small percentage of their young citizens to emigration.

Migration estimates in the region show that emigrants tend to move within MENA or to neighboring regions. After Gulf countries and other Arab countries, Europe is the next largest destination. In this regard, the desire to emigrate appears to mirror actual migration patterns. Young potential emigrants are most likely to want to relocate either within the region or to the European Union.

Four in ten young people who would like to move away permanently name a country in the Arab League as their desired destination, and just as many mention a country in the European Union. Eighteen percent would like to move to the United States and Canada.
Fifteen percent of those who would like to move permanently name Saudi Arabia as their desired destination, followed by the United States (14%), France (11%), the United Arab Emirates (10%), the United Kingdom (6%), and Italy (5%). Less than 5% mention other countries.

Young men and women would like to emigrate to the same regions and countries. Young women (13%) are slightly more likely than young men (8%) to want to move to the United Arab Emirates.

Interestingly, young men who believe women in their country are not treated with respect are more likely to want to move outside of the region to the European Union and the United States and Canada than those who think women are treated with respect. Young women who believe women in their country are not treated with respect are more likely to want to move to the United States and Canada than those who believe young women are treated with respect.

Why They Would Like to Leave

An analysis of the characteristics and behaviors associated with migration desires shows that an interest on the part of young Arabs to start a business is highly related to the desire to emigrate. Furthermore, young people’s preference for a career in the private sector over one in government is also strongly related.

Young women (13%) are slightly more likely than young men (8%) to want to move to the United Arab Emirates.

Among those who say they are planning to start a business in the next 12 months, young people who are currently living comfortably on their present income are less likely to express the desire to migrate permanently than aspiring entrepreneurs who say they are not living comfortably. It may be that this second group of aspiring entrepreneurs is willing or able to take on greater risk, in general, because of their relative financial disadvantage.

As the size of the labor force in the region continues to expand, competition for quality jobs will only get tougher. Sustainable job creation and growth in the region will largely depend on whether a country is
able to cultivate a climate conducive to both groups of entrepreneurs, particularly those desiring to launch small- to medium-sized enterprises.

Countries may be able to create this atmosphere to nurture and retain some of their entrepreneurial talent if they can effectively remove some of the perceived roadblocks to starting a business. The likelihood for young people in the Arab League to say they would like to permanently leave their respective countries decreases as the percentage saying the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone increases.

Similarly, those who say business start-up loans are easy for everyone to obtain (26%) are less likely to say they would like to emigrate than those who say such loans are not easy to acquire (34%). Furthermore, young people who say business owners can trust that their assets will be safe at all times or will be allowed to make a lot of money are less likely to say they wish to move away permanently.

Economic Factors

Young people’s assessments of national economic conditions appear to have a bearing on whether they would like to leave or stay. Not surprisingly, as their perceptions of national economic conditions go from good to fair to poor, the likelihood that they would like to emigrate increases.

Non-Economic Factors

Aspects other than economic ones can factor into young people’s desires to migrate permanently. In general, the more satisfied young people are with the quality of their local educational system or schools and their communities as places to live, the less likely they are to say they wish to emigrate. Alternatively, young people who are dissatisfied with their communities as places to live, and who wouldn’t recommend their city to others as a “good” place to live, are more likely to say they would like to leave permanently if given the chance.

Factors That Would Make Them Stay

The availability of good jobs and good economic prospects are key for countries looking to stem the potential exodus of young people. When those who wish to emigrate are pressed to name the most important change that would need to occur to change their minds, young Arabs — particularly young men — are most likely to say getting a job or a better one would be the most important factor. Improvements in the economy are the second most frequent response.
Further reinforcing the difference that a good job can make in retaining young potential emigrants, employed young people who feel they have already landed their ideal job are far less likely to say they would like to move to another country permanently. A majority (51%) of those who say their job is not ideal say they would like to emigrate, versus 28% of those who say their job is ideal.

Absent a good job or any job for that matter, many young people are willing to take dramatic steps to find one. Young people were asked, hypothetically, what they would be willing to do if they were unemployed and couldn’t find work after six months of actively seeking employment. Those willing to take a job beneath their academic credentials or skills, start their own businesses, retrain in a different career field, relocate to another country or within the country, or perform home-based work were more likely to say they would like to resettle in another country.

As with the pattern in the broader population, young men in each group are more likely than young women to say they would like to emigrate. Within the middle-income group, 37% of young men say they would like to move to another country permanently if they had the chance, while 22% of young women in this group say the same. The gender split in the low-income group is similar: 49% of young men would like to relocate permanently versus 33% of young women. However, in the low-income group, half of young men wish to emigrate (49%) and half want to stay (50%).
In both the middle- and low-income groups, thoughts about starting a business (in the middle group) and plans to start a business in the next 12 months (in the low group) are highly related to the desire to emigrate. Those who answer in the affirmative are more likely to say they would like to leave their countries permanently.

**Half (51%) of those who say their job is not ideal say they would like to emigrate, versus 28% of those who say their job is ideal.**

However, while satisfaction with the local educational system and the opportunity to learn something interesting correlate with the desire to emigrate in the middle-income group, these do not correlate with desire in the low-income group. But as with the overall population of young people in the region, education level makes little difference in who wishes to emigrate or stay in either group.

Overall, young potential emigrants in the Arab League are just as likely to wish to relocate within the region as they are to desire to resettle in the European Union. The picture at the GDP level is much different: Nearly half of young potential emigrants (49%) in the middle-income group of countries wish to permanently move to the European Union, while 33% wish to relocate within the region, and 16% would like to permanently move to the United States and Canada.

Fifteen percent of young Arabs in the middle-income group of countries who would like to emigrate are most likely to want to relocate to France, followed by Saudi Arabia (11%), the United States (10%), the United Arab Emirates (9%), the United Kingdom and Italy (7%), Spain (6%), and Canada (5%).

The European Union appears to draw a disproportionate percentage of the least-educated potential emigrants in the middle-income group. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of those with an elementary education or less would like to permanently relocate to the European Union, compared with 23% who would like to permanently resettle in the region and 11% who would like to emigrate to the United States and Canada.

In the middle-income group, Arab League countries are most attractive to those most educated, among whom 57% say they would like to relocate to a country within the region. The United States and Canada are most likely to attract those with secondary-level educations.

Young potential emigrants hailing from countries in the low-income group are more likely to desire to emigrate within the Arab League (53%) than they are any other region. In contrast with the middle-income group, they are more attracted to the United States and Canada (24%) as a possible destination than the European Union (12%).

For potential emigrants in the low-income group, Saudi Arabia (26%) and the United States (22%) are the top two desired destination countries. Twelve percent of this group says they would like to permanently move to the United Arab Emirates, 6% say Egypt, and another 5% say the United Kingdom.
In the low-income group, the Arab League is the most likely to attract potential emigrants from each education level, while the United States and Canada as well as Arab League countries are most likely to attract the most educated.

Seventy-four percent of those who would like to migrate permanently would also migrate temporarily if given the chance.

Temporary Migration

Thirty-four percent of young Arabs say they would like to migrate temporarily to another country if they had the chance — similar to the 30% who would like to move permanently. Seventy-four percent of those who would like to migrate permanently would also migrate temporarily, and the two groups share similar characteristics.
Similar to young people who would like to move permanently, those who want to move temporarily are most likely to be men. Potential temporary migrants are less likely to be employed part time than full time and are more likely to have a secondary education or below. Few in the most educated group desire to migrate temporarily.

Young potential temporary migrants in the Arab League are most likely to want to relocate within the region as well as to the European Union — similar to their emigrant counterparts in the region. The most educated are more likely to desire to move within the region for temporary work, while the least educated are more likely to want to move to the European Union.

For the most part, when examined by country income group, the desired regions of destination for aspiring temporary migrants are the same as those for aspiring emigrants. However, more young people in the low-income group desire to move within the Arab League temporarily than permanently, and less desire to move temporarily to the United States and Canada.

Sustaining and bringing to scale sound economic growth and development in the region will require changes in migration policies and more collaboration between labor-exporting and labor-receiving states.

Countries, particularly labor-receiving ones, should more effectively craft bilateral agreements that manage labor migration in a manner that benefits the economies and long-term growth of both countries.

With the large overlap among those who would like to migrate temporarily and permanently — in terms of number, desired destination, and characteristics — migration policies and strategies should perhaps encourage young people to return with new knowledge and experience to potentially minimize the permanent loss of social and labor capital. Thus, the skills and benefits they reap from working and studying abroad can more widely be shared by markets and businesses in their countries of origin.
The countries that stand to lose the largest percentage of their young adult population, if they act on their desires to leave, are in Africa.
The greatest female disadvantaged gender gap in education is in countries with the lowest level of male education.
Overall, socioeconomics is likely a more powerful factor than is gender in predicting one’s reality. When looking across the region, gender gaps are virtually absent at the top and much more pronounced at the socioeconomic bottom. Ultimately, this may mean that women’s empowerment goes hand-in-hand with men’s education and poverty reduction.

Many identify women’s inequality as one of the Arab world’s greatest obstacles to development. Everything from the UN Arab Human Development Report to President Barack Obama’s June 2009 Cairo speech point to women’s empowerment as a key priority for advancement in the Arab world. Gallup’s research uncovers an important layer of complexity to this general notion: The analysis shows that economics is likely a more powerful factor than is gender in predicting the opportunities available to young people in the Arab world.

This section first explores wellbeing and educational variances between young men and women across the region and their connection to socioeconomic factors. It then explores attitudes among young Arab men and women about civic engagement and participation. Finally, this section contrasts attitudes among young men and women about their willingness to emigrate and their reasons for doing so.

**Gender, Wellbeing, and Education Across Economic Status**

One of the clearest illustrations of the importance of economic status versus gender in shaping societal realities in the Arab world is the “thriving,” “struggling,” and “suffering” indexes, which are based on the Cantril self-anchoring ladder scale. The analysis shows that GDP, not gender, is a key factor associated with young Arabs’ outlook on life.

Gallup created a measure of life satisfaction based on respondents’ assessment of their current life and their projection of how they expect their life to be after five years. This measure segments a population into three categories indicating increased levels of wellbeing: suffering, struggling, and thriving. The wellbeing of young Arabs differs greatly between high- and medium-to low-income countries, but does not vary by gender within an economic group.

The wellbeing of young Arabs differs greatly between high- and medium-to low-income countries, but does not vary by gender within an economic group.
While some may see wellbeing as a “soft” measure of psychological perceptions rather than structural gender parity, few would have the same view of educational attainment. Unlike wellbeing, this measure of equal opportunity differs not only between economic groups, but also between young men and women within a country’s income category. However, like wellbeing, GDP is a powerful factor associated with what those differences look like. The largest disadvantage among women is in low-income countries, where 70% of women aged 15 to 29 have completed elementary education, in comparison to 49% of men. In the same income group, 43% of young men, in comparison to 24% of young women, have completed a secondary-level education, while similar percentages of men and women (8% and 6%, respectively) have a postsecondary education.

In sharp contrast, high-income countries show a male disadvantage in the lower educational levels and a slight female advantage in postsecondary school attainment. In high-income countries, while 16% of young women completed no more than their elementary school education, this is true of 29% of young men. In contrast, 10% of young women in wealthy Arab nations reached a Post-secondary level of education and 4% of young men have done the same, again illustrating the link between educational attainment among women and socioeconomics.

This economic-education association is even more clear when examining the percentage of young people who are students in each of the economic groups. Consistent with the general trends discussed earlier, the greatest female disadvantage is among lower-income countries, where 26% of young women are students versus 33% of men. Surprisingly, in high-income countries, the gender
gap is not only in favor of young women, but is more than double the gap in the low-income countries in favor of young men. Again, in middle-income countries, there is no gender gap in student enrollment.

Some might argue that structural differences between countries such as security, infrastructure, and government policies are greater factors than socioeconomics in explaining differences between income groups. However, when considering young people’s economic standings, rather than their countries’ income category, a similar trend to gender gap differences across income groups emerges. This suggests that economics is a powerful factor in gender equality.

Among those who say they live comfortably on their present household income, there is no gender gap in educational attainment. Among those who find it very difficult to live on their present household income, there are the largest gender gap in educational attainment. Among those young people who say they live comfortably on their present household income, 31% of women and 33% of men have completed no more than an elementary-level education. Among those young people who find it very difficult to get by on their present income, 70% of women versus 54% of men have not gone beyond elementary schooling.

Several key points emerge when comparing educational attainment of young men and women across income groups:

- A larger gender gap is associated with lower male education. The greatest female disadvantaged gender gap in education is in countries with the lowest level of male education; namely, in low-
income countries. This suggests that promoting universal education may be a powerful way to enable improved female educational outcomes.

- The large gender gap among lower education levels, along with the disappearance of this gap among higher education levels within the same income group, suggests that gender inequality is associated with socioeconomic disadvantage within a country, not just between countries of different income levels.

- The findings show that higher economic levels are associated with gender equality or greater female educational attainment. This suggests that rather than looking to culture or religion to explain gender-based educational disparity in the Arab world, socioeconomic disadvantage may be a more productive factor to explore.

**Gender, Economics, and Civic and Social Access**

The empowerment of young women entails not only access to education, but to the public square through community engagement. Gallup’s research suggests that, like education, civic participation in the Arab world is more associated with economic status than gender.

For example, young women in high- and middle-income countries are as likely as young men to say they have voiced an opinion to a public official. In contrast, their counterparts in low-income countries are less likely than young men in their communities to say they have done the same. Interestingly, young residents of high- and low-income countries are more likely than those in middle-income countries to say they have voiced their views to an official. While these findings may inform future research, a full examination of the economic-political landscape of the Arab world is beyond the scope of this report.

Data on another cornerstone of civic engagement — volunteering one’s time to an organization — again highlights the connection between gender parity and economics. Young men and women in high-income countries are equally likely to have volunteered their time to an organization, whereas young men are more likely than women to have done the same among low- and middle-income nations.

Another unexpected trend emerges when examining patterns of charitable giving across income categories. Young women and men are equally likely to report
donating money in middle- and low-income countries, but both genders are significantly more likely to make the same claim among the wealthiest group of countries. Gallup finds that majorities of young people in high-income countries say women should have the right to keep all their earnings and their husbands must cover the household expenses. Young Bahrainis (76%) and young Qatars (73%) are the most likely Arab populations surveyed to hold this opinion, with strong majorities of both men and women agreeing. This may help explain the female advantage in charitable giving in the high-income countries, in addition to having greater resources and access.

Survey results also show that patterns of gender parity and economics not only apply to social status, but to personal status as well. Women between the ages of 15 and 29 in high-income countries are as likely as men to be single, whereas women in middle- and low-income nations are less likely than men of the same age to say the same. This implies that young women in less economically advantaged nations are marrying earlier than young men. This could indicate that certain challenges such as early marriage are more related to socioeconomic than to values or religion, which all poor and rich nations in the region share.

These economic and educational advantages among young women in high-income countries may raise their expectations, while leading their young male counterparts to see them as well off. This may help explain why in high-income nations, young women are less likely than young men to say women are treated with respect, while in middle- and low-income countries both genders are equally likely to hold this view.
Access to education and civic participation appear to vary more by economic standing than gender. However, other important regional variables, such as reasons for wishing to emigrate, show important gender differences.

**Gender and Emigration**

Overall, young women who wish to leave desire to do so for reasons of overall quality of life improvements, including health, education, a better environment, as well as economic opportunity. Several differences emerge when comparing the desire to emigrate among young men and women. First, young women are less likely than young men to express the desire to leave their countries permanently. The majority of young Arab women, nearly three-quarters, want to continue living in their home country. Young women do not see temporary migration for work as an attractive option; they are less likely than young men to be willing to go abroad for temporary work. Of all young Arabs wishing to migrate permanently, 60% are men and 40% are women.

Moreover, young men and women desiring to leave their home countries permanently seem to be doing so for different reasons. Young women wishing to emigrate are concerned with community factors that go beyond jobs and entrepreneurship. A driving force to emigrate for young Arab men is seeking job opportunities or better ones. In comparison, young women’s reasons for emigration reflect a desire for better community conditions, not just better jobs.

Regardless of gender, those who want to leave their country permanently share three key features: They have thought about having their own business, they express a preference for private-sector jobs over government jobs, and they are aware of job placement services. In addition, young women who express satisfaction with the beauty of their cities are more likely to wish to emigrate than young men who express such satisfaction.
Young men who say their communities are getting better and those who say they know someone outside of a family member whom they trust to be a business partner are more likely to wish to migrate permanently. Although there is a clear entrepreneurial tone underlying the narrative of young people who would like to permanently leave their countries given the opportunity to do so, the findings reveal distinct motivations for women. These appear to be seeking a better quality of life, not just economic opportunity.

Among other things, young men primarily desire to emigrate for jobs or better ones. Young men wishing to emigrate are less satisfied with the availability of good job opportunities compared with young men who desire to stay in their home country. Young women wishing to emigrate and those wishing to stay offer no difference in their opinions about the availability of good job opportunities.

Unlike young men, women are not running away from bad jobs. Young men wishing to emigrate are far less likely to be satisfied with their work (44%) compared with young men who wish to stay (72%). Women desiring to emigrate or stay are equal in job satisfaction.

Young Arab women desiring to emigrate, on the other hand, may not be running toward something as much as they are running away from something else. Although the majority of young women report that they like what they do each day, young women desiring to migrate permanently are less likely to say this compared with young women desiring to stay. Among potential emigrating young women, perceptions that women in their countries are treated with respect are less widespread than among those who want to stay put.
In addition, potential emigrating young women are concerned about the local economy. They are less likely to describe the local economy as “good,” they are more likely to say that now is a bad time to look for a job, and they are more likely to say that the local economy is getting worse. They also are more likely to report the national economy is getting worse.

Young Arab women interested in emigrating may be attracted to a better life, not just a better job. The attraction could be based on several criteria but may be gained through awareness. Young Arab women who would like to emigrate are more likely than those interested in staying to have access to the Internet. Potential emigrating women show more awareness of environmental problems and have stronger opinions about the dangers of climate change than those interested in staying. Potential female
emigrants are more likely to approve of other countries’ leadership than are young women who do not express the desire to emigrate.

**Figure 14. Leadership Approval**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Potential migrating women</th>
<th>Non-migrating women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young women who say they would like to emigrate were also asked about their preferred destination. The top four destination countries for these young Arab women include two Arab countries and two Western nations: Saudi Arabia (14%), the United Arab Emirates and the United States (13% each), and France (12%).

**Emigrating Women and Jobs**

Although the motivations underlying their desire to emigrate underscore non-economic issues, job opportunities are still a compelling factor in young women’s desires to permanently leave their home countries. Potential emigrating young women are willing to do a variety of jobs if out of work for an extended period of time, even more than women who do not wish to emigrate. Young women who express a desire to emigrate are also more likely to be budding entrepreneurs. Further, when young women who say they would like to emigrate were asked what would make them stay, more than one-third indicate jobs as a key factor.

**Figure 15. Reasons to Make Them Stay (among those who express the desire to emigrate)**

Young men need to see the employment picture improve for them to consider staying in their home countries, while young women are divided — nearly one-third are looking for improved job scenarios, one-third are focused on improvements in the economy, and the remainder provide a variety of additional reasons. These results suggest that in addition to improving the job climate and economic opportunities, focusing on other factors such as community services and delivery may change young Arab women’s desires to emigrate.
Forty-one percent of young Arabs say they have never heard of climate change or global warming.
CHAPTER 5

PERSPECTIVES ON A GREEN ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
People in middle-income countries are most likely (42%) to say that the environmental impact of their job or work is ‘not very important.’
With the continued development and expansion of economies throughout the region, there is a growing awareness of and focus on environmental impact and preservation. Even high-income countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, where fossil fuels are the economic backbone, are investing in alternative energy sources. Recent interest in developing green cities, such as Masdar in the United Arab Emirates, is an example of this type of investment.

Young Arabs, like their counterparts in other areas of the world, are often leading the way to increased environmental awareness on the part of their society. Interest has also increased within the intellectual community in the region. The United Nations’ 2009 Arab Human Development Report heavily stressed environmental security as an essential component of human security.

The report defines human security as “the liberation of human beings from those intense, extensive, prolonged, and comprehensive threats to which their lives and freedom are vulnerable.” The authors go on to connect environmental degradation with security in two primary ways: potential conflict over scarce resources and communities being exposed to environmental pollution or inhabitants becoming environmental refugees as they flee the consequences of climate change.

To contrast this theoretical framework with realities on the ground, this section explores young Arabs’ perspectives on their societies’ and careers’ environmental impact. It first explores young Arabs’ general awareness of climate change and its causes. It then presents perspectives on the nexus between environmental degradation and human/social impact. Finally, the section contrasts opinions on environmental impact with young people’s satisfaction with basic resources in their communities.

### Awareness of the Issue and Its Importance

Some may assume that in a region with a demographic youth bulge and its associated employment challenges, few young people would care whether their work has a harmful impact on the environment.

A plurality of young Arabs say the impact their jobs or careers would have on the environment is very important to them.

However, a plurality (46%) of young Arabs say that when considering a job or career, the impact it will have on the environment is a very important factor they take into consideration. Conversely, 38% of young Arab men and women say the environmental impact of a job or career is not very important to them.

But to more deeply address the issue, we must examine to what degree environmental hot topics, such as climate change, are on the minds of young Arabs.

### Climate Change and Its Causes

When asked how much they know about climate change or global warming, 41% of young Arabs say they have never heard of it. Thirty-eight percent said they “know something” about it and 12% say they know “a great deal” about the topic. It is important to contrast the relatively high importance young Arabs place on the environmental impact of one’s career versus the much lower awareness of climate change or global warming.

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1 Masdar City, a project based in the UAE, which aims to build the first zero-carbon emission city.
3 Id. at Page 23.
lower percentage of those who say they know a great deal about climate change. While public awareness surrounding environmental pollution or degradation — what it is and what causes it — is relatively common across the region, the terms “climate change” and “global warming” are not as familiar in discourse and literature when compared with other parts of the world.

An often contentious issue within the climate change debate is to what degree, if at all, human development and activities are to blame. While some argue that it is a crucial factor, others are skeptical that changing human behavior would have any effect on climate patterns.

**Figure 1. Plurality of Young Arabs Cite Human Causes as Reason for Climate Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause of climate change</th>
<th>23%</th>
<th>26%</th>
<th>49%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural causes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human causes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly half of all young Arabs (49%) cite human activity as the cause of climate change. While roughly one-quarter (26%) blame natural causes, 23% of young people in the region say climate change is caused by human activities as well as natural causes.

**Environmental Impact on Communities**

The greater MENA region has had its share of conflicts resulting from a scarcity of natural resources. The conflict in Darfur is one such instance of how community competition for resources, arable land, and water, for example, can end in violent conflict and social unrest.

Similar to conflicts emerging due to a scarcity of local resources, climate change and environmental disasters can also indirectly undermine social cohesion. When communities flee their damaged localities and relocate to neighboring cities and communities, they begin to put a strain on resources, jobs, housing, and other basic necessities; thus, environmental concerns become social and political ones.

But how threatened do young people across the region feel by global warming or other environmental disasters? When asked how serious of a threat global warming is to them and their families, about one-third (30%) of young Arabs say it represents a “very serious” threat. Thirty-six percent say the threat is “somewhat serious” while 21% say it is “not very serious.”

**Most young Arabs say global warming is either a “serious” or “somewhat serious” threat to them or their families.**
In addition to climate change, seasonal environmental disasters also threaten some communities throughout the region. About one-third of young Arabs say that in the past 12 months there have been severe environmental problems in their city or area. This response is statistically similar when comparing young Arabs who place a great deal of importance on the environmental impact of their jobs with those who do not.

But there is a noticeable difference between these two groups with respect to the possibility of having to move in the next five years because of severe environmental problems. Young Arabs who place a great deal of importance on the environmental impact of their work are slightly more likely to believe they would have to move. Sixteen percent of young Arabs say they may need to move in the next five years to flee such conditions. These findings suggest that several million individuals believe they may be in danger of becoming environmental refugees in the near future.

The issues of environmental pollution and degradation (such as desertification and other phenomena) and their connection to conflict and social strain in the region have been studied for years. However, young Arabs’ perceptions and attitudes will, in all likelihood, fundamentally affect the policies that the region and its countries enact to cope with environmental issues.

Ripe Targets for Environmental Awareness

As policy-makers and thought leaders aim to enable their communities to be more aware of effective management of resources and environmental degradation, finding the right audience may prove a formidable challenge.

Overall, young Arabs who place less importance on the environmental impact of their jobs are those least likely to be satisfied with their access to clean water and local efforts to preserve the environment, and are most likely to come from a middle-income country.

**Figure 2. Those Who Say Environmental Impact of Job Is Important Are More Positive on Entrepreneurs**

![Graph showing favorable and unfavorable views of entrepreneurs based on environmental impact of job importance.]

Young Arabs who place a great deal of importance on the environmental impact of their careers have more favorable views (74%) of entrepreneurs. By contrast, 65% of those who don’t place a great deal of importance on the environmental impact of their careers have positive opinions of entrepreneurs.

Young people who place importance on the environmental impact (66%) of their work are more likely than those who do not (58%) to be satisfied with the quality of water in their communities. Young people who say the environmental impact of their work is not very important are the most likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of the water in their area. The findings reveal similar patterns of dissatisfaction with the quality of the air in local areas.

Whether young people do or do not place a great deal of importance on the environmental impact of their work, the proportion who have enough clean drinking
water does not seem to change. Overall, 81% of young Arabs say they had enough clean drinking water the day before.

Young Arabs who consider the environmental impact of their jobs to be very important are more likely than those who do not to be satisfied with local efforts to preserve the environment.

Most young Arabs say they had access to enough clean drinking water the day before, while 17% say they did not.

One of the most interesting findings is differences in attitudes across income groups and the relative importance placed on the impact of careers on the environment. People in middle-income countries are most likely (42%) to say that the environmental impact of their work is not very important. While one-quarter (26%) of low-income country respondents say the same, only 17% of respondents in the high-income group countries share this view. When it comes to placing importance on environmental impact, both high-income (59%) as well as low-income (61%) country respondents are more likely than young Arabs in middle-income countries (42%) to say that the impact their work has on the environment is “very important” to them.

These findings suggest that young people in countries representing a considerable portion of the region’s population, and potentially having the largest carbon footprint, are the least likely to place importance on the environmental impact of their jobs. The relatively high awareness and importance placed on environmental preservation among respondents from low-income countries may be surprising to some. However, it is important to remember that lower-income countries in the MENA region are also more likely to be affected by desertification and water shortages. These realities often bring home what are simply theoretical discussions to many about the environment and pollution.

Whether young Arabs place importance on the environmental impact of their careers varies depending on perceptions and demographics. Many young Arabs view human activities as a major cause of climate change. Yet attitudes on the importance of environmental impact vary dramatically within MENA. While majorities of Kuwaitis (80%) and residents of the Somaliland Region (78%) say the environmental impact of their work is very important to them, young people in Morocco (64%) and Iraq (60%) are the most likely to say such impact is not very important to them.

Figure 3. Attitudes Toward Importance of Environmental Impact of Jobs Vary Greatly
Treating women with respect is the most predictive variable of higher Mindset Index scores in Iraq and of higher Policy Index scores in the Palestinian Territories.
CHAPTER 6

JOB CREATION IN CONFLICT-INFLUENCED AREAS
The difficulty in seizing the opportunity created by the youth bulge cannot be underestimated. And, in areas where conflict is either intermittent or has just ended, the creation of a climate conducive to harnessing young Arabs’ full potential presents unique challenges. Further, the effects of the global financial and economic crisis exacerbate an already arduous environment for job creation.

Dynamics in conflict-influenced areas underscore the urgency to consider young people as today’s vital partners with other stakeholders in building stable and prosperous societies for the 21st century and beyond. While several areas in the greater region experience instability and armed strife, this section focuses on two conflict-influenced areas: the Palestinian Territories and Iraq. The current situation and the reasons for the conflicts are different in each area. Nevertheless, attitudes of young Palestinians and Iraqis represent important voices to inform successful human development and job creation policies.

Military occupation shapes the environment in which young Palestinians aged 15 to 29 live. At the time of the second intifada in 2000, the youngest Palestinians in this age cohort were just 5 years old and the oldest had not yet celebrated their 20th birthdays. Compounding an already challenging situation is the blockade of the Gaza Strip, whose borders were sealed in mid-2007, the challenges of living in a conflict zone were further exacerbated after Israel’s military operation in Gaza in late 2007 and early 2008. Recent international pressure has, to some extent, eased the blockade. But the list of goods allowed to enter the Gaza Strip remains limited.

In Iraq, the invasion of the country by U.S. and allied forces in 2003 and the ensuing war and military occupation also framed a specific daily context in which young people have lived. The youngest Iraqis in the current 15-29 age cohort were just 8 years old, while the oldest had barely turned 22. The dynamics of war and conflict, including casualties, deprivations, displacement, abuse, interrupted schooling, and potential recruitment into armed groups, shape children’s perspectives in powerful ways during their most formative years.

Beyond their dissatisfaction with the availability of jobs, young Palestinians and Iraqis express similar attitudes toward their societies’ inability to harness young people’s talents, energy, and momentum. They also paint similar emotional health profiles: overall, positive emotions are surprisingly common (considering the conflict factor), while at the same time negative feelings are relatively widespread. However, their attitudes toward economic conditions, emigration, and entrepreneurship paint two unique narratives.

This section first explores the reality young people in these two areas face in terms of basic needs, employment, and economic conditions. It then presents the aspirations and hopes of young people and concludes with analysis of the perceived obstacles to the full utilization of their human capital. In turn, such obstacles can be viewed as opportunities to be exploited on the road to job creation and the building of productive, stable societies.
Situational Analysis

Leaders in these conflict-influenced areas must meet young people’s basic needs before they can successfully tackle job creation and human development issues.

Basic Needs

The findings underscore the financial difficulties young Palestinians and Iraqis face to have their most basic needs met. For the former, this means the challenge to pay for food. For the latter, the struggle is having a roof over their heads.

Thirty-nine percent of young Palestinians say they lacked money to buy food in the past year.

In the Palestinian Territories, 39% of young people say they lacked money to buy food in the past year. Struggling to pay for housing is an issue for 15% of young Palestinians. In Iraq, a different picture of food and shelter emerges. Fourteen percent of young Iraqis say they lacked money to buy food at some time in the past year, while 27% say they struggled to pay for housing. In both areas, there are no differences in basic needs across youth age cohorts.

In Iraq, 27% of young people say they lacked money to pay for housing in the past year.

Health

For the most part, young Iraqis and Palestinians report satisfactory personal health. Strong majorities of young Palestinians (88%) and Iraqis (79%) express satisfaction with their health. But many say they have health problems preventing them from engaging in activities young people usually do. There are no age group or gender differences among young people in either area.

One in five Iraqis between the ages of 15 and 29 say they have health problems that prevent them from doing things that people their age can normally do. As a point of comparison, just 12% of young Palestinians between the ages of 15 and 29 report the same (there is no difference across youth age cohorts). Young Palestinian men (15%) are more likely than young women (8%) to report having such health issues.

Emotional Health

At the same time, young people in the Palestinian Territories and Iraq paint a fairly similar emotional profile. For the most part, positive emotions are relatively widespread.

In both Iraq and the Palestinian Territories, clean drinking water is a crucial link to assessing the degree to which basic needs are met. While the vast majority of young Palestinians and Iraqis say they had enough clean drinking water the day before the survey (78% and 81%, respectively), it still leaves significant proportions whose clean water needs are unmet. As such, the results underscore the severe daily challenges many young people face in both areas.

In both Iraq and the Palestinian Territories, clean drinking water is a crucial link to assessing the degree to which basic needs are met. While the vast majority of young Palestinians and Iraqis say they had enough clean drinking water the day before the survey (78% and 81%, respectively), it still leaves significant proportions whose clean water needs are unmet. As such, the results underscore the severe daily challenges many young people face in both areas.
Negative emotions appear to be relatively common among young people in both populations. Forty percent of young Palestinians and 46% of young Iraqis say they experienced a lot of worry the day before the survey. Stress appears to affect more than one-third of all young Palestinians and 40% of young Iraqis. Depression is felt equally by young Palestinians (27%) and Iraqis (31%).

And while anger is more widespread among young Iraqis (46%), 39% of young Palestinians report experiencing a lot of anger the day before the survey. As a point of comparison, 24% of young Arabs across all countries surveyed say they experienced a lot of anger.

**About 3 in 10 young Iraqis and young Palestinians report feelings of depression**

The only gender differences observed revolve around depression and anger in Iraq, where young men are more likely than young women to report experiencing such negative feelings. Young Iraqi women are also more likely than young men to say they experienced a lot of happiness. No gender differences are observed in the Palestinian Territories relative to these negative emotions.

In the wake of the war in Iraq and a challenging dynamic in the Palestinian Territories, the relatively widespread positive emotions of young people may come as a surprise. Such findings suggest that young people are resilient and their spirits can’t be easily broken. At the same time, the prevalence of many negative emotions, especially depression, underscore the great need to incorporate psychological support and counseling for young people.

**Education**

Another important dimension to consider is young people’s perceptions of their educational system. This is particularly relevant as violent strife may often lead to school closures or even their destruction, forcing students to interrupt their formal education. In 2010, young Palestinians and Iraqis are similarly satisfied with the educational system in their communities (60% and 58%, respectively). There are no differences among youth age cohorts or among those who say they are students in either area. However, it still leaves large proportions of young people who are dissatisfied with local schools.

**Employment and Job Environment**

Overall, attitudes toward the job climate are grim. Less than one in five young Palestinians and just 6% of young Iraqis express satisfaction with the availability of good job opportunities in their communities. Their perceptions of the national jobs picture are only marginally better. About one in four young Palestinians say they are satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in the Territories, while 14% of young Iraqis say the same about their country.

Such findings are hardly surprising considering the relatively low proportions of young people who report being employed. In the Palestinian Territories, one in five young people say they are employed (either full or part time), while one-quarter of young people in Iraq say the same.

Though most young Palestinians and Iraqis are still enrolled in school, there remain large proportions who are outside of the labor force. In the Palestinian Territories, 37% of young people fall in that category, compared with 43% in Iraq.
Among those who are not working nor in school, a large minority say they have been actively looking for employment in the past four weeks. This is particularly true among those between the ages of 23 and 29, who very likely have already completed their formal schooling. But even among the youngest age cohort (those aged 15-22), a relatively large proportion, especially in Iraq, say they have been actively looking for employment in the past four weeks.

Overall, the financial picture looks precarious for this group of young people. In the Palestinian Territories, those who are not working nor in school are far more likely than other young Palestinians to say they find it very difficult to get by on their household income. The same pattern is evident in Iraq, although young Iraqis who are neither working nor in school and those who only work part time are equally likely to report finding it very difficult to live on their current income.

These findings may suggest that, among the youngest age cohort, they may have had to stop their education to seek employment to provide for their families if household breadwinners became casualties of the conflict.

**Economy**

Despite grim perspectives of the job climate and personal experiences with unemployment, young Iraqis are more positive than their counterparts in the Palestinian Territories about economic conditions.

Young Iraqis, especially those in the younger age cohort, are also more upbeat than young Palestinians about the direction of economic conditions in their communities. Thirty-seven percent of Iraqis aged 15-22 say the economy in the city where they live is “getting better.” Among Iraqis aged 23-29, 30% say the same. Comparatively, 23% of Palestinians aged 15-22 consider local economic conditions to be “getting better,” similar to the way Palestinians aged 23-29 view the direction of the economy in their communities (26%).

**Hopes and Desires of Young Palestinians and Iraqis**

Young people’s aspirations represent the great potential of the Palestinian Territories and Iraq to build peaceful and dynamic societies. Despite their experience with conflict and challenging economic conditions, young people have hopes of a better future.
Life Evaluation
Young Palestinians rate their present life lower (4.72) than young Iraqis (5.32) do when asked to evaluate their life satisfaction using a ladder scale with steps numbered from 0 (worst possible life) to 10 (best possible life). This self-anchoring Cantril Scale serves as a measure of wellbeing. The present and future self-evaluations are shown separately to ascertain young people’s anticipation for the future.

As a point of comparison, all other young people across Arab League countries assess their present life higher than young Palestinians do, but lower than young Iraqis rate theirs. Young Palestinians and other young Arabs rate their future lives in the same light, but the former evaluate their future more favorably than young Iraqis.

In the Palestinian Territories, young women (4.92) assess their present life slightly higher than young men (4.36). The same gender pattern does not exist in Iraq, where life evaluation appears more strongly related to employment. Young Iraqis who say they work (either full or part time) assess their present life slightly higher (5.72) than those who don’t work or are not in school (5.12).

Overall assessments of life satisfaction in the Palestinian Territories mask dramatic differences across the area. Young people in Gaza rate their present life far lower than those in the West Bank (with means of 3.93 and 5.16, respectively). These findings suggest that young Gazans view their present situation in a much dimmer light than young Iraqis do. Despite such dire perceptions of their present circumstances, young Gazans expect their future to be as bright as young Iraqis do, with means of 6.01 and 6.08, respectively. But it is young people in the West Bank who predict their future lives to stand high on the scale (6.60), even higher than expectations of all other young Arabs (6.42).

Hope of a better life (or the difference between future and present lives) is greater among young Palestinians (1.69 points) than among young Iraqis (0.76 points), but it is greater still among young Gazans (2.08). While they appear small, these differences are significant and meaningful. This is noteworthy as young Iraqis are more upbeat than young Palestinians about economic developments, and the life evaluation metrics have a strong relationship with personal economics.

The same demographic differences observed in young people’s ratings of their present lives exist when assessing their expectations for the future. In the Palestinian Territories, young women (6.45) rate their future lives higher than young men (6.10). In addition, young Palestinians who aspire to become entrepreneurs
(6.33) assess their future lives higher than those who don’t plan to start a business (5.76). In Iraq, work status is key in determining self-assessment of life satisfaction. Young Iraqis who say they are employed (6.77) rate their future lives higher than those who are not working nor in school (5.98).

Entrepreneurship

The economic structures of the Palestinian Territories and Iraq are vastly different. Very broadly, the former depends heavily on donor assistance while the latter is oil-rich. Further, the border closures in the Palestinian Territories and the security situation in Iraq have had severe consequences on the movement of labor, agriculture, trade, and manufacturing. While a thriving private sector is a pillar of all economies, fostering a climate conducive to entrepreneurship can provide a livelihood for many in conflict-influenced areas.

One-half of young Iraqis and 46% of young Palestinians say their communities are good places for entrepreneurs.

Overall, attitudes toward entrepreneurs are subdued. Half of young people aged 15-29 in Iraq have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, while 60% of young people in the same age group in the Palestinian Territories say the same. Further, just half of young Iraqis and 46% of young Palestinians say their communities are good places for entrepreneurs starting their business.

Fourteen percent of young Palestinians say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, compared with 24% of young Iraqis. In both the Palestinian Territories and Iraq, such entrepreneurship aspirations stem more from financial necessity than economic opportunity: most young people who plan to launch a business say they are just getting by on their current household income.

Negative views of the current climate for business may explain, at least in part, why relatively few young people aspire to become entrepreneurs, especially in the Palestinian Territories. Few consider business entry easy. Among young aspiring entrepreneurs, 20% of Palestinians and 17% of Iraqis say it is easy to obtain a loan to start a business. The paperwork process also appears to be a hurdle: 40% of budding entrepreneurs in the Palestinian Territories and 18% in Iraq say the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough.

In addition, relatively few aspiring entrepreneurs express positive views about being able to do well. In the Palestinian Territories, 40% of young aspiring entrepreneurs trust their assets to be safe at all times and 39% trust the government will allow their businesses to make a lot of money. Among young aspiring entrepreneurs in Iraq, 36% say they trust assets will be safe and 32% say businesses will be allowed to make a lot of money.

In the Palestinian Territories, 39% of young aspiring entrepreneurs trust the government will allow their business to make a lot of money. In Iraq, 32% of young budding entrepreneurs share this view.

Attitudes toward entrepreneurship in these two conflict-influenced areas suggest young people not only perceive the administrative and financial challenges to business entry, but that they also express doubt as to
whether the current climate will allow them to become successful entrepreneurs, even after they overcome the initial hurdles.

Public-Private Sector Preferences
Another explanation as to why relatively few young people aspire to become entrepreneurs is risk avoidance. Young people’s workplace choices indicate a clear preference for guaranteed employment, wages, and benefits. Such perceptions have important implications for public-sector reform and the development of a vibrant private sector. When asked whether they would rather work for the government or a business, majorities of young Palestinians (52%) and Iraqis (57%) choose the former. While most young Palestinian men still prefer government jobs over those in the private sector, they are more likely than young women to express a preference for business jobs (31% vs. 20%, respectively).

About one-quarter of young Palestinians say they would rather work for a business, which doesn’t necessarily mean their own, while just 8% of young Iraqis say the same. But relatively large proportions of young people in both areas (17% in the Palestinian Territories and 20% in Iraq) also don’t express a preference for one sector over another.

Young people’s workplace choices indicate a clear preference for guaranteed employment, wages, and benefits. Such perceptions have important implications for public-sector reforms and the development of a vibrant private sector.

Emigration
At the same time, desires to leave their conflict-influenced area vary dramatically among young Palestinians and Iraqis. In the Palestinian Territories, 32% say they would like to emigrate if given the opportunity. But in Iraq, 18% of young people say the same. As a point of comparison, 30% of young people across all Arab League countries surveyed say they would leave their country permanently if they could.

Young men are far more likely to want to emigrate (Palestinian Territories: 43% of men vs. 19% of women; Iraq: 22% of men vs. 13% of women). Students, aspiring
entrepreneurs, and those already employed are far more likely to express the intention to emigrate. For example, 43% of young aspiring entrepreneurs in the Palestinian Territories and 26% in Iraq say they would leave permanently if given the opportunity. As points of comparison, 30% of young Palestinians and 16% of young Iraqis who don’t plan to launch a business say they would like to move to another country permanently.

Forty-three percent of young Palestinians who plan to start a business want to emigrate. In Iraq, 26% of such aspiring entrepreneurs plan to leave the country permanently.

Although young people’s hopes to emigrate do not necessarily mean they will be realized, the findings suggest their definition of a brighter future, especially for young Palestinians, means building that future away from home.

In light of the challenging economic environment, it comes as no surprise that young Palestinians who want to emigrate overwhelmingly cite improvements in economic conditions and the job climate when asked what needs to occur for those who want to leave to decide to stay.

At the same time, young Palestinians mention the need to improve the current political situation for them to change their mind about leaving. Other changes, such as having better educational opportunities, more safety, and freedoms are cited by about one in five young potential emigrants in the Palestinian Territories. The sample size of young Iraqis who want to emigrate is too small to report similar results.

Taken together, and in light of the potential emigrant’s profile, it appears that the difficult job climate is not the overarching factor in young Palestinians’ and Iraqis’ desires to emigrate. Rather, it is the perception that better opportunities lie elsewhere. Furthermore, the profile of those young people most likely to emigrate presents serious implications for building dynamic societies and developing a much needed private sector in these conflict-influenced areas.

Windows of Opportunity

Against this backdrop of food and money shortages, challenging economic conditions, and a dearth of jobs, young Palestinians and Iraqis speak about aspects of their societies that present even greater hurdles for the future. In addition to the status of vulnerable populations such as children and women, freedoms and efforts, in all likelihood, shape young people’s perceptions and aspirations. But they also point toward windows of opportunity that can be explored to harness their potential.
Status of Children
The findings portray a difficult environment for young people’s development in the two areas. Thirty percent of young Palestinians and 47% of young Iraqis agree children in their area are treated with respect and dignity. Such perceptions are significantly less common compared with the average of 65% across Arab League countries surveyed. In the Palestinian Territories, young women (25%) are less likely than young men (34%) to have such opinions about the status of children in their area.

In addition, relatively smaller percentages of young Palestinians (32%) and Iraqis (34%) agree children in their areas have the opportunity to learn and grow every day, when compared with the average of 60% of young Arabs across the other countries surveyed who say the same thing.

As children personally experience the traumas of armed conflict, their oft disempowered status is made even more acute. As a result, substantial efforts will be required to meet the specific needs of children, including counseling and support.

Status of Women
In addition to perceptions of the low status of children, views about the status of women in these two conflict-influenced areas are only marginally better. Treating women with respect is the most predictive variable of higher Mindset and Policy Index scores in Iraq and higher Policy Index scores in the Palestinian Territories.

A slim majority of young Palestinians (53%) and Iraqis (53%) agree that women are treated with respect and dignity. Young women (49%) in the Palestinian Territories are less likely than young men (58%) to express such views. Nevertheless, such attitudes are significantly lower than the average of 75% across all Arab League countries surveyed.
The gender difference is even more acute in Iraq as young women (45%) are far less likely than young men (60%) to say women in their country are treated with respect and dignity.

While the gender differences are striking, the relatively large proportions of young men who don’t believe women are treated with respect and dignity point to another opportunity for improvement. This variable of women’s respect is also predictive of higher scores on the Access Index.

As such, both children’s and women’s needs, potential, and hopes must be incorporated into comprehensive development frameworks in conflict-influenced areas. Overall, these findings suggest a strong relationship between youth development and the status of women on one side and economic growth on the other.

Role of Leadership

Perceptions of underutilization of human capital are widespread. When asked whether their leadership maximizes on the potential of young people, majorities of young Palestinians (57%) and Iraqis (66%) say that is not the case in their respective areas. In fact, perceptions that the leadership maximizes on the potential of young people is the factor most predictive of higher Mindset Index scores in the Palestinian Territories.

While there are no gender differences in the Palestinian Territories, in Iraq young men (70%) are more likely than young women (61%) to disagree that their country’s leadership is fully harnessing their potential. Such sentiments are shared by all, regardless of whether young Palestinians and Iraqis are students, employed, aspiring entrepreneurs, or not in the workforce or in school.

Just 23% of young Iraqis and 36% of young Palestinians believe their country’s leadership maximizes on youth potential.

Personal Freedoms and Efforts

While perceptions of the existence of a meritocratic environment are relatively widespread, views of personal freedoms paint two different narratives. Majorities of young people in the Palestinian Territories (66%) and Iraq (65%) agree hard work pays off. There are no gender or entrepreneurial differences in either area.

However, employed young people are more likely than those who are not in the workforce nor in school to say people who work hard in Iraq can get ahead.

Figure 9. Country’s Leadership Maximizes on Youth Potential

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<td>Iraqis</td>
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Figure 10. Working Hard Pays Off

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<tr>
<td>Iraqis</td>
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<td>26%</td>
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At the same time, these findings suggest that large proportions of young Palestinians and Iraqis don’t believe the efforts they would make would actually produce an improvement in their lives, or they are too discouraged to see it this way. This is particularly relevant, as the people who are in greatest need of help do not appear willing or able to expend their efforts.

Young people’s views of their own freedoms show more contrast. In the Palestinian Territories, 51% express satisfaction with their freedom to choose what they do with their lives. Those who are most likely to be satisfied with such freedoms in the Palestinian Territories are young men and aspiring entrepreneurs. There are no differences based on employment status.

In contrast, 34% of young Iraqis say they are satisfied with their freedom to choose what they do with their lives. The difference between young Iraqis’ and Palestinians’ perceptions is not more widespread dissatisfaction among the former. Instead, they are far more likely than young Palestinians to say they do not know or refused to answer. Further, this frustration with their perceived lack of personal freedoms is shared by all young Iraqis, as there are no gender, employment status, or entrepreneurial differences.

Taken together, the findings about personal freedoms and hard work suggest a disconnect between young people’s readiness to participate in their societies and their sense of liberty, especially among young Iraqis. While the dynamics of conflict-influenced areas add layers of difficulty to fostering a sense of freedom and liberty, bridging such a disconnect will be critical to harnessing young people’s potential and capital.
The more satisfied young people are with the quality of their local educational system or schools and their communities as places to live, the less likely they are to say they wish to leave.
ALGERIA

Young Algerians are starving for job opportunities. Along with unemployment, dissatisfaction with economic conditions in the country is contributing to widespread frustration among the young and leading many, particularly young men, to express the desire to leave Algeria.

A number of factors likely contribute to the pervasive pessimism among young Algerians, but chief among them is probably the dearth of job opportunities. More than half of young people are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities, with men and women equally likely to say this. And 57% are dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.

When asked if the leadership of their country maximizes the potential of young people, half of young Algerians say no. Another 54% report that they did not learn or do something interesting the day before the survey, while about half are dissatisfied with their freedom to choose what to do with their life.

But young Algerians express a desire to work hard. Eighty percent believe people can get ahead in Algeria by working hard. Additionally, if faced with more than six months of unemployment, majorities of young people say they are willing to take a job beneath their skill level, to retrain for a different career, or to start their own business.

In Algeria, young women (30%) are more likely than young men (23%) to say they are students. And more young women than men report having a secondary education level, 50% vs. 44%, respectively.

The labor market challenges are seeping into how young Algerians rate their lives. Three-quarters of young Algerians are classified as “struggling.” They are also equally likely to be struggling regardless of employment status or educational attainment, highlighting that even those who have a job may feel it doesn’t meet their skill level or income need.
Of the three Silatech Indexes, young Algerians score the highest on Mindset. The Mindset Index score of 69 compares favorably to previous scores recorded in 2009. The scores of 51 on Policy and 44 on Access also reflect an improvement compared with previous scores.

Additionally, scores in all three Silatech Index areas in Algeria show a consistent upward trend across three waves of data collection.

**Mindset**

The variable that relates most to high Mindset scores among young Algerians is the belief that participating in job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or a better job. This relationship suggests a strong desire among young Algerians to do whatever it takes to obtain employment.

Another important variable impacting the Mindset dimension is the belief that children are treated with respect in Algeria.

**Access**

Algeria’s relatively low Access score reflects young Algerians’ concerns about the ease and viability of business development in their country. The strongest predictor of a high Access score is the perception that the government will allow businesses to make a lot of money. Young Algerians who share such views are significantly more likely than those who do not to have business creation intentions, 47% vs. 35%.

Young Algerians’ perceptions that children are treated with dignity and respect are also highly predictive of the country’s Access score.

**Policy**

The most significant predictor of higher Policy scores in Algeria is the view that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business. This relationship reveals that streamlining the process involved in business creation can improve attitudes toward the entrepreneurial environment in Algeria.

Young Algerians’ perception that children in their country are treated with dignity and respect is also a strong factor of a high Policy score. The importance of how children are treated suggests that by engaging and meeting children’s needs Algeria will likely influence perceptions toward job creation and entrepreneurship in a meaningful way.

Even amid high unemployment, young Algerians maintain a strong work ethic; many are willing to make any change necessary to get a job and exhibit an entrepreneurial spirit. Young Algerians’ perceptions toward the job situation and of the business climate in their country shed light on how Algeria can best tap into the large pool of eager young people.
Entrepreneurial aspirations are relatively prevalent among young Algerians, with 22% saying they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. Entrepreneurship aspirations are more widespread among young men (29%). Nevertheless, 15% of young Algerian women express the intention to launch a business.

Those who are currently employed full or part time also express greater interest in starting a business than do those who are not currently in the workforce nor in school. Likely, this is driven, in part, by more young men being employed full or part time than women.

Education level does not appear to contribute to young Algerians’ intentions to become entrepreneurs, with 23% of those with an elementary education or less and 20% of those with a secondary educational level reporting a desire to start a business.

Despite such relatively high interest in entrepreneurship, young Algerians perceive critical barriers to realizing their desires. Approximately one-third of young Algerians who plan to start a business have positive views of the ease of filing paperwork and obtaining a business loan. And slightly less than half (47%) trust that the government would allow their business to make a lot of money.

However, those who say they plan to start a business are more optimistic across several metrics related to entrepreneurship than are young Algerians who have no such plans.

Young aspiring entrepreneurs are significantly more likely than those who don’t have business creation intentions to say that there is someone, outside of their relatives, they trust to be their business partner. These young budding entrepreneurs also say their assets would be safe and the government would allow their business to make a lot of money.

In addition to strong entrepreneurial leanings, young Algerians also express a willingness to make life changes to obtain gainful employment. Majorities of young Algerians say that if unemployed for more than six months they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level (54%), perform home-based work (56%), or start a business (64%). Another 49% say they would be willing to relocate to a different city, but 49% say they would not.

Additionally, young Algerians are open to and ready for job training. More than half (54%) of them are willing to retrain for a different career, if faced with more than six months of joblessness. Also, 76% believe that taking part in regular job training will increase their chances of getting a job or a better job.
Algeria faces a potential exodus of a large number of young, able workers, particularly young men as well as those with more education. One-third of young Algerians would like to emigrate, double the percentage of Algerians 30 years of age or older who say the same. This age gap in desire to emigrate is reflective of the gap in employment status between young and older Algerians. More than one-third (36%) of those 30 or older are employed full time versus one-quarter of those between the ages of 15 and 29.

A desire to leave Algeria for another country is particularly prevalent among young men (41%) compared with young women (23%). Brain drain and human capital loss are critical issues for the country. Young Algerians, regardless of their education level, are equally likely to say they would like to emigrate, meaning the country is just as likely to lose its more educated citizens as the less educated.

There are two main interconnected drivers of emigration in Algeria: the economy and jobs. Young Algerians who express the desire to leave permanently are most likely to identify “improvement in the economy” (37%) and “get a job or a better job” (35%) as the most important changes that would need to occur in Algeria for them to decide to stay.

Young Algerians who hold negative views on many aspects of their society are significantly more likely to want to leave permanently than those with positive views. Three areas stand out: local economy, jobs, and infrastructure. Forty-three percent of those who say current economic conditions in their communities are not good want to emigrate, compared with 25% of young Algerians who view the local economy as good.

Young people who view the job situation negatively are also more likely to want to leave the country permanently. Among young Algerians who say it is a bad time to find a job in their city, 42% express the desire to leave the country permanently versus 24% of those who say it is a good time to find a job.

Young Algerians who are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities and with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs are also significantly more likely to want to emigrate than are those who are satisfied.

Furthermore, young Algerians who are dissatisfied with their local roads and highways, schools, and with the availability of affordable housing are also more likely to express the desire to emigrate than are those who are satisfied with such infrastructure.
GENDER

In Algeria, young men and women have similarly negative views toward economic conditions and the availability of jobs in their country; they also have equally low wellbeing. The two groups, however, differ in three key areas: education, views toward entrepreneurship and employment, and civic engagement.

Many young Algerian women choose to focus on their education. They are significantly more likely than men to report having a secondary level of education, 50% vs. 44%, respectively. They are also more likely than young men to say they are students, 30% vs. 23%, respectively.

At the same time, fewer young Algerian women are working. About one in five say they are employed full or part time, compared with nearly one in three young men.

Young women are also less likely than men to be business owners: 16% say they own their own business, compared with 25% of young men. Young women (15%) are also half as likely as young men (29%) to say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months.

Along with lower entrepreneurial desire, young women are slightly less likely than young men to view entrepreneurs favorably (65% vs. 73%) and to say there is someone outside their family they trust to be their business partner (60% vs. 67%).

Young women also differ from young men in their willingness or ability to make major life changes to obtain employment. Underscoring this gender difference is the significantly large proportion of young men (73%) compared with young women (54%) who say they would be willing to start a business if unemployed for more than six months.

In addition to being less involved in the labor force than young men, young women also report lower levels of civic engagement. Young women are less likely than young men to volunteer their time and to donate money.

![Social and Economic Initiative](image)

Even though young women are just as dissatisfied as young men with economic conditions and express less social and economic initiative, they are still significantly less likely to want to leave Algeria permanently. While 41% of young men desire to emigrate, 23% of young women say the same.

With more young women pursuing additional education, opportunities exist to leverage the school system and prepare women for meaningful careers. Additionally, young Algerian women’s potential represents a unique resource ready and able to help move their country forward.
Young Algerians, regardless of their education level, are equally likely to say they would like to emigrate.
As Bahrain attempts to diversify its economy, cultivate private-sector growth, and improve its local skills base, many of its young people stand ready for the challenge. Young Bahrainis, men and women alike, are better educated than the previous generation, more optimistic, and willing to work hard, train, and even retrain for employment opportunities.

That Bahrain continues to grapple with unemployment among nationals is apparent in young people’s assessment of the jobs situation. Nearly half of young Bahrainis (49%) think it is a bad time to find a job in their communities right now. Majorities, however, remain satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs (59%) and the availability of good job opportunities in their communities (51%).

Many young Bahrainis may not yet be actively looking for work — the plurality of 15- to 29-year-olds (40%) are students. Thirty-four percent are employed full time and 24% say they are not students and not in the workforce. Two percent say they work part time.

The employment picture changes as young Bahrainis age. Sixty-two percent of those aged 15 to 22 say they are students and 14% are employed full time, but among those aged 23 to 29, 63% are full-time employees and 8% are students. One-third of young women aged 15 to 22 are not students and not in the workforce; the percentage rises to nearly half (45%) in the older cohort.

Sixty-two percent of young people in Bahrain say they are satisfied with their living standards, and half (50%) think their standard of living is getting better. This, taken together with their optimism about job creation, may help explain why sizable percentages of the young population are “thriving.” The thriving/struggling/suffering categories combine young Bahrainis’ ratings of their current lives with ratings of where they think their lives will be in five years.

Few young Bahrainis (4%) say they would emigrate permanently if given the opportunity. More than 9 in 10 young people express satisfaction with their communities and say they have family and friends they can count on if they need help.
ACHIEVING IMPACT

Bahrain scores highest on the Mindset Index, but the current score of 69 is lower than previous measures in 2009 that were in the middle to upper 70s. The country’s Access score has remained relatively stable after showing some improvement last year.

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<td>Mindset</td>
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Bahrain’s Policy score continued its downward trend in 2010, which may reflect some uneasiness about the competitiveness of the markets.

**Mindset**

One variable that strongly influences Mindset scores is young Bahrainis’ belief that taking part in regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or getting a better job. Ninety-one percent of those who work full time or are in school agree, but those who are not students and not in the workforce are significantly less convinced (79%).

Young Bahrainis’ satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs also significantly predicts positive Mindset scores. A majority (59%) say they are satisfied, with young women more satisfied than young men (64% vs. 56%).

**Access**

Satisfaction with one’s standard of living strongly predicts higher Access scores. More than 6 in 10 young Bahrainis say they are satisfied; as on several other measures, they are more likely than adults aged 30 and older to express satisfaction (56%).

Trust that the government will allow business owners to make a lot of money is another variable associated with higher Access scores. Fifty-seven percent of young Bahrainis say the government can be trusted in this regard. Budding young entrepreneurs are more likely than those not planning to start a business to believe this (77% vs. 54%).

**Policy**

The most significant predictor of higher scores on the Policy Index is the perception that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business. Less than half (44%) of young Bahrainis say their government makes this simple, suggesting young people believe this needs to be improved. However, the lower percentage may also reflect a lack of awareness. More than one-quarter (27%) of young Bahrainis do not express an opinion.

Young aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely than those not planning to start a business to perceive that the government makes this easy (62% vs. 41%). Satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs also predicts higher Policy scores.
While the majority of young Bahrainis (58%) see their communities as good places for entrepreneurs forming new businesses and view business owners favorably (71%), relatively fewer are in any hurry to join their ranks.

Overall, 14% of 15- to 29-year-olds who are not already business owners say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. Further, few (13%) say they have ever considered starting one.

The portrait of the budding young entrepreneur in Bahrain tends to be male rather than female. Further, the young aspiring entrepreneur may be employed or not in the workforce at all, but is slightly more likely to have the most education.

Prospective young entrepreneurs have a more positive outlook for their communities and for themselves. For example, 48% of young aspiring entrepreneurs say it is a good time to find a job, compared with 37% of those who do not plan to start a business. They are also more likely to say they are satisfied with their standard of living and to believe that it is getting better.

These young aspiring entrepreneurs are also likely to perceive fewer barriers to starting a business. Eighty-two percent say people starting a business in Bahrain can trust their assets and property to be safe at all times. A majority of young aspiring entrepreneurs also believe that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for everyone (62%), compared with 41% of those who do not plan to start a business.

The relatively small percentage of young Bahrainis who want to become entrepreneurs is not surprising given that a majority (52%) of young people would prefer jobs working for the government to ones in business (7%). More than one-third (37%), however, say they would like a job in either area. This mindset may serve Bahrain well as it moves forward with plans to cultivate a climate conducive to entrepreneurship and innovation.

Young Bahrainis are not afraid of hard work. A majority of young people (88%) say they believe people in their country can get ahead by working hard. If, hypothetically, they were unemployed for more than six months, majorities of young Bahrainis say they would be willing to relocate to another city (76%), retrain for a different career (68%), or start their own business (54%). Far fewer, however, would be willing to relocate to another country (21%), which reinforces the finding that relatively few young people in Bahrain express a desire to emigrate to another country.

Eighty-eight percent of young people also say that regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or getting a better job.
Bahrain, like other Gulf countries, is a labor-receiving state rather than a labor-sending state. Overseas workers make up a large percentage of the country’s workforce. Some of the same factors that draw people to Bahrain — including economic prosperity — are what make young Bahrainis want to stay home.

Most young Bahrainis are satisfied with their communities and social networks. Few desire to emigrate permanently (4%) or go abroad for temporary work (7%). This mindset changes little regardless of education or employment status.

As noted earlier, satisfaction with one’s standard of living is prevalent among young Bahrainis, which may explain their reluctance to emigrate. Nearly one-quarter of young people (24%) say they are living comfortably on their present incomes, higher than the 17% of adults aged 30 and older who say the same.

Four percent of young Bahrainis express the desire to move to another country permanently. Sample sizes for educational groups are too small to report results.

Young Bahrainis also exhibit a great deal of civic pride. More than 9 in 10 young people (91%) are satisfied with their communities, and 60% say their communities are getting better as places to live. Eighty-two percent would recommend the city or area where they live to others.

This pride is likely rooted in high satisfaction with infrastructure. Strong majorities of young Bahrainis say they are satisfied with the educational system or schools in their communities (87%) and access to quality healthcare (77%). About half are satisfied with good, affordable housing, which may suggest one area for improvement.

In addition to positive perceptions about economic conditions and their pride in their communities, young Bahrainis also have strong social networks. Nearly all (92%) say they have relatives or friends they can count on whenever they need them. Eighty-eight percent say they are satisfied with their ability to meet people and make friends.

With so many of its young people thriving where they are, Bahrain today is at much lower risk for brain drain and loss of human capital. Despite young people’s relatively dour assessments of the jobs situation in their communities, most would still rather stay in Bahrain than move anywhere else.

Over the next decade, however, the size of Bahrain’s workforce is expected to double, and the country faces a shortage of quality employment and nationals with the appropriate skills. This makes continued investments in human capital, through education reform and the provision of quality training, even more crucial going forward.
Women in Bahrain typically have high rates of education, and their participation in the workforce and in civic and political matters is growing.

Educational parity is evident in young men’s and women’s educational attainment levels and in the percentages currently enrolled in school. The majority of young women (76%) say they have secondary or higher education, as do 75% of young men. A majority of young men in the 15 to 22 age group (68%) say they are enrolled in school, as do 64% of young women.

Young women (91%) and young men (89%) in Bahrain agree that boys and girls should have equal access to education.

Gender disparities exist in young people’s participation in the workforce. Young women in Bahrain are more than three times as likely as young men to say they are not students and not in the workforce (38% vs. 12%). Young men are twice as likely as young women to be employed full time (46% vs. 20%).

Young women are more likely than young men to be satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs. They are less likely than young men to be aware of services that help people find jobs; 86% of young men say they are aware of such services versus 78% of young women. But of those who are aware, young men and women are equally likely to say that they have used these services.

Young women (91%) are more likely than young men (85%) to say people in Bahrain can get ahead by working hard, and they are no less willing than young men to take several actions if they found themselves out of work for more than six months. Young women are equally likely as young men to say they would be willing to retrain for a different career if they found themselves in this situation, and they are equally likely to say they would start their own businesses. Young men, however, are more willing to relocate to another city (80% vs. 72%).

Young women in Bahrain are as likely as young men to view entrepreneurs favorably, but they are less likely to aspire to become one. Eleven percent of young women say they intend to start a business in the next 12 months, as opposed to 17% of young men. Young women are just as likely as young men to say the government makes paperwork easy enough for anyone wanting to start a business and are no more likely than young men to say getting a business loan is easy. The barrier for young women may be that they are more likely to lack someone they can trust outside their families with whom they can start a business.

In terms of civic participation, young men are more likely to have volunteered their time to an organization in the last month or say they donated money in that same period.
In Bahrain, 11% of young women say they intend to start a business in the next 12 months as opposed to 17% of young men.
A large number of young Comorans have the desire and motivation to start and run their own business. However, this desire largely stems from a lack of available means to provide for themselves financially. In fact, most young people hope to earn just enough money to live on. The lack of financial opportunity could be a motivating factor for the one-third of young Comorans who wish to leave the country permanently.

Lack of jobs is a major problem facing Comoran young people. Eleven percent of young Comorans aged 15 to 29 say they are satisfied with the availability of good jobs in their communities. The employment status of young Comorans underscores the extent of the employment challenge. Among those aged 15 to 29, 21% say they are employed full time — including 25% of young men and 17% of young women. Another 28% of young Comorans say they are not students and not in the workforce, with young women much more likely than young men to fall into this category (36% vs. 18%, respectively).

The lack of employment prospects for young Comorans may be a contributing factor for the desire to relocate for work. Almost 6 in 10 say they would be willing to relocate to another city for work if unemployed for more than six months. Additionally, 7 in 10 young Comorans say they would relocate to another country for work under the same circumstances.

Almost three-quarters of young Comorans are classified as “struggling” according to a life evaluation index that takes into account their ratings of their current lives as well as their forecast for their lives five years from now. Despite these low self-assessments of life satisfaction, positive emotions are widespread while negative ones are relatively uncommon. For example, majorities of young Comorans say they experienced a lot of happiness (76%) and enjoyment (76%), did not have a lot of physical pain (78%), and did not have a lot of worry (77%) or stress (91%) the day before the survey.
Young Comorans score highest on the Policy Index, followed closely by the Mindset Index. The Mindset score has remained constant during the last two waves of data collection, while the Policy score has trended up.

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<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mindset</td>
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<td>50</td>
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Young Comorans score relatively low on the Access Index, but it has been trending up during the past waves of data collection.

**Mindset**

The most important variable driving the Mindset score for young Comorans is the belief that taking part in job training increases someone’s chances of employment. Among young people, 77% believe job training will increase one’s chance of getting a job or a better one and 22% do not. For policy makers, this could mean increasing or expanding opportunities for job training for those out of work or those who are not in their chosen career path.

Another significant driver of the Mindset score among young Comorans is the perception that women in Comoros are treated with respect and dignity. Roughly half of young Comorans believe women are treated with respect, and half do not. This demonstrates the importance of the status of women in society to foster economic growth.

**Access**

Two variables have equal importance in driving the Access score among young Comorans: agreement that boys and girls should have equal access to education and that faith helps forgive others. Currently, 81% of young people agree both genders should have equal access to education. Fifty-two percent of young people strongly agree they have forgiven others because of their faith. Helping foster faith and forgiveness could also improve the country’s score on the Access dimension.

Another significant driver of the Access score is the perception that children in Comoros are treated with respect and dignity. Less than half of young Comorans think children are treated with respect.

**Policy**

The main driver of the Policy score is the ease of completing paperwork and permits to start a business. Twenty-four percent of young Comorans, whether they are aspiring entrepreneurs or not, find the paperwork process easy enough for everyone. Reducing the difficulty of completing such paperwork would remove a significant barrier to aspiring entrepreneurs and likely improve the country’s Policy score.
About one-third of young Comorans (34%) say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. Such aspiring entrepreneurs are largely motivated by the need for money: only 1% say they live comfortably on their present household income. The remaining 99% express varying levels of difficulty living on their current income. As such, there are clear financial motivations behind wanting to start a business for young Comorans — they view entrepreneurship as a way to earn a living.

Hopes of higher incomes may be realistic as young Comorans perceive a positive environment for entrepreneurs. Overall, the majority of young Comorans (67%) believe their communities are good places for entrepreneurs. Among aspiring young entrepreneurs, such views increase to 72%.

Most young Comorans who express the intention to start a business are confident they will find competent employees (83%). A majority of aspiring entrepreneurs (67%) also trust their business assets and property would be safe at all times in the country. Overall, a majority of young Comorans (58%) have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs.

Despite relatively strong entrepreneurial tendencies, aspiring entrepreneurs perceive some barriers to starting a business: just 13% say it is easy to obtain a business loan and 23% say it is easy enough to complete the required paperwork and permits to start a business.

National economic conditions may also be a concern for young Comorans planning to start a business — 92% rate economic conditions either as “fair” or “poor.” Additionally, 53% of aspiring entrepreneurs perceive the national economy is “getting worse,” similar to views of young Comorans overall. Perceptions of the local economy are no better: 82% of aspiring entrepreneurs say local economic conditions are “not good” and 46% believe they are “getting worse,” compared with 32% among those who don’t plan to start a business.

The prospect of six or more months of unemployment is a motivating factor to start a business, as 80% of young Comorans say they would consider starting a business if unemployed for that length of time. Among aspiring entrepreneurs, 91% say they would start their own business if facing six or more months of unemployment.

Aspiring entrepreneurs in Comoros tend to have lower levels of education than those who don’t plan to start a business. Almost 8 in 10 say they have only an elementary education or less, compared with 58% of those who don’t aspire to launch a business. School enrollment is also lower: 13% percent of aspiring entrepreneurs are currently in school, which is less than half the proportion of those who don’t plan to start a business (48%).
Young Comorans express a high level of desire to emigrate, as 58% would move to another country if they had the opportunity. This desire is consistent irrespective of education, employment status, or future plans to start a business.

The state of national and local economies are potential factors in pushing young people to consider permanently leaving Comoros. Nationally, 57% of young Comorans think economic conditions are poor. Fifty-one percent of young Comorans think the national economy is “getting worse.” Locally, 21% of young Comorans think their local economic conditions are good and 37% view such conditions as getting worse. Young Comorans who think their standard of living is getting worse are significantly more likely to say they want to leave the country instead of staying (68% vs. 32%).

The desire to emigrate is seemingly at odds with the level of community satisfaction — 71% of young Comorans say they are satisfied with their communities, and a majority say they would recommend their city to someone else (59%). Further, more young Comorans think their community is getting better as a place to live (45%) than getting worse (31%). However, two-thirds of young Comorans who express dissatisfaction with their community want to permanently leave the country.

Given the widespread desire to emigrate, a high level of satisfaction with one’s community does not decrease the desire to leave, but dissatisfaction with one’s community increases that desire. This suggests the primary motivation to emigrate is due to poor economic conditions. Seventy percent of young people who think economic conditions are getting worse in their community want to leave the country permanently.

When young Comorans were asked what could make them stay in the country, the top response is to find a job or a better one (33%). The next most frequent response, offered by 26% of young Comorans, is to have access to better educational opportunities. The important change young women would need to see is an improvement in the economy; 27% of young women compared with 15% of young men cite such reasons to make them stay in Comoros.

![Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education](chart)

Young Comorans who have at least a college education are just as likely as those with an elementary or secondary education to express the desire to leave the country permanently.

By far, France is the country young Comorans most frequently mention as an emigration destination, as 58% of those who wish to live the country permanently say they would go to France. Young Comorans mention the United States (8%) and Canada (5%) as other destinations of choice.
Both young men and young women in Comoros feel they are treated with respect. Both genders are equally likely to have entrepreneurship intentions and participate in community activities. However, young women are less likely than young men to say they work.

There are no gender differences in intentions to start a business among young Comorans. Thirty-four percent of young women say they plan to do so in the next 12 months, compared with 35% of young men who say the same. However, young women (52%) are less likely than young men (64%) to say they know someone (other than a family member) they can trust as a business partner. However, there are no gender differences among aspiring entrepreneurs in how widespread perceptions of the difficulty of obtaining business financing are in Comoros. Additionally, the same proportion of aspiring entrepreneurs among young men and women (24%) think the paperwork required to start a business is easy enough for everyone.

Young women are less likely than young men to say they work, as 36% of the former are not in the workforce and are not students versus 18% of the latter. This gender disparity is reflected in the percentage of men who say they are employed — 25% of them say they are employed full time, compared with 17% of young women who say the same.

Women who are outside the workforce have obligations other than work or school. Twelve percent say they are homemakers or have family responsibilities. No young Comoran men report having such responsibilities. One factor potentially exacerbating women’s low labor force participation is awareness of job placement services, which is less widespread among young women (8%) than among young men (14%).

Both genders agree boys and girls should have equal access to education. Despite this desire for equality in education, women have lower levels of educational achievement — 39% of young men have completed secondary schooling versus 26% of young women. Current enrollment in school is also much lower among young women, as 36% say they are currently enrolled as opposed to 47% of young men.

About half (49%) of young Comorans believe that women in the country are treated with respect and dignity. When asked if they have ample opportunities to make friends, young women are less positive (72%) than young men (83%). But young women are more likely than young men to say they laughed or smiled a lot the day before the survey, 72% and 64%, respectively.

While young women are as likely as young men to report donating money to charity, they appear less likely to take an active role in their communities in some other respects. For example, 22% say they volunteered their time compared with 33% of young men, and half say they helped a stranger in the past month compared with 62% of young men who say the same.
Fifty-eight percent of young Comorans would like to move to another country permanently if they had the opportunity.
DJIBOUTI

Young people in Djibouti are highly confident that their communities are good places for entrepreneurs. Most believe that with hard work, anyone can succeed in their country. Many young people want to capitalize on promising business conditions — one-third have plans to start a business in the next year. Despite this promise, many young people harbor desires to emigrate.

**Figure 1. Employment Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed full time</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed part time</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in the workforce, nor a student</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of young Djiboutians aged 15 to 29 say now is a good time to find a job in the area where they live. However, when employment status is examined, a different picture arises. While more than half (54%) of young Djiboutians say they are currently students, 24% say they are not students and not in the workforce. Young women in Djibouti are more likely than young men to fall into this category (28% vs. 20%). Among 15- to 29-year-olds, just 14% say they are employed full time — including 16% of young men and 11% of young women.

**Figure 2. Life Evaluation Among Young Djiboutians**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thriving</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struggling</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffering</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Young Djiboutians are somewhat negative when evaluating their lives overall, with more than 80% of young men and women classified as “struggling.” The thriving/struggling/suffering categories combine young people’s ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. Only 1 in 10 young Djiboutians are upbeat enough to be considered “thriving.” And 3% of all young people are classified as “suffering.”

Despite the high proportion of “struggling” young people, they tend to be very positive when asked about their emotional health. Four-fifths or more of young Djiboutians report experiencing a lot of enjoyment, not being worried, and not being depressed in the past day.
The current Silatech Index scores from Djibouti are based on aggregated results from two waves of interviewing in 2009. Young Djiboutians score highest on the Mindset dimension, which is consistent with the previous measurement. The Policy dimension follows with the next highest score and has also remained stable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>60</td>
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Finally, young Djiboutians score lowest on the Access dimension. This score has dipped slightly from the previous measurement.

**Mindset**

The most important variable driving the Mindset Index for young Djiboutians is the belief that taking part in job training will improve one’s chance of employment. Among young people, 77% believe job training will increase one’s chances of getting a job or a better one and 22% do not.

Another significant driver of the Mindset Index among young Djiboutians is their satisfaction with their current standard of living. Currently, 82% of young Djiboutians say they are satisfied with their standard of living. This driver underscores the importance of focusing on micro-economic issues to help foster positive change among young people.

**Access**

The most critical variable for driving the Access score is a good or excellent rating of the country’s current economic conditions. Currently, 41% of young people think the economy is “good” and 8% think it is “excellent.” That leaves 50% who think it is “only fair” or “poor.” One other critical driver of the Access Index is the belief among young Djiboutians that the government will allow their business to make a lot of money. As a result, initiatives and programs that can provide reassurances that businesses can be successful are likely to help improve Djibouti’s Access score.

**Policy**

The most powerful driver of the Policy score for young Djiboutians is whether they agree the city or area where they live is a good place for entrepreneurs. Currently, 73% of young people think their community is a good place for entrepreneurs and 26% do not.

The perception that government makes the paperwork and permits required to start a business easy is another driver of the Policy score. Sixty-two percent of young aspiring entrepreneurs agree with this statement. Reducing the perceived level of difficulty would remove a significant barrier for young entrepreneurs in Djibouti and pay off in a higher Policy score.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

The business climate in Djibouti appears quite welcoming for aspiring entrepreneurs. Almost three-quarters of young people think their communities are good places for individuals forming new businesses. Part of this optimism is due to the widespread belief among young people that hard work can pay off: 81% of young Djiboutians say people who work hard can get ahead.

Given young people’s positive views of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship, it is not surprising that 33% of them plan to start a business in the next 12 months; roughly the same number of young men and women say they will do so.

In spite of their desire to start a business in the next 12 months, budding entrepreneurs have a sober view of national economic conditions. Aspiring entrepreneurs are less positive about national economic conditions than those who say they do not plan to start a business — 42% and 53%, respectively, say economic conditions in the country are good or excellent. However, the future is perceived as more promising. Most young people (70%), regardless of intentions to start a business, think economic conditions in Djibouti are getting better.

Among aspiring entrepreneurs, 75% say the local economy is good and the same proportion see local economic conditions as improving. In addition, 65% of aspiring entrepreneurs think it is a good time to find a job where they live.

Aspiring business owners are much more positive about the practical aspects of starting a business than other young people. Seventy-three percent say they have someone (other than a family member) they can trust enough to partner with when starting a business compared with 57% of those who do not plan to start a business. More than half of aspiring entrepreneurs think it is generally easy for anyone to obtain a business loan compared with 35% among those who have no business creation aspirations.

Further, 62% of aspiring entrepreneurs think the government makes the paperwork and permits required to start a business easy, versus 49% of young people without business plans.

Extended unemployment is a source of entrepreneurial motivation among young Djiboutians — 59% say they would start their own business if unemployed for six months or more. Young people with plans to start a business (77%) are even more likely to say they would do so if unemployed for that length of time compared with 52% among those without plans to start a business.

Young budding entrepreneurs are much more flexible in the type of work they would do if unemployed for six months or longer than young people without business plans. When asked if they would take a job beneath their skill level, roughly half (48%) of aspiring entrepreneurs said they would. That compares with 31% of young people with no plans to start a business.
Despite widespread community satisfaction, a relatively large proportion of young Djiboutians say they would leave the country permanently if given the opportunity. Almost one-third (31%) express a desire to emigrate. Many also express the desire to leave their communities, as 32% say they are likely to move away from the area where they live in the next 12 months.

Djibouti’s population overall has a relatively low emigration rate of 2.2%. This is in stark contrast to the 31% of young Djiboutians who desire to leave the country. Young people are much more likely to want to leave the country permanently than those aged 30 and older — 31% and 16%, respectively.

It appears that those who most want to emigrate are least able to leave. Young people who have lower levels of education, those with secondary or elementary or less, are much more likely to express a desire to emigrate than those with a college education. Further, young Djiboutians who are not in the workforce or in school express the greatest desire to emigrate (40%) compared with 19% of those with full-time jobs.

Negative individual perceptions of standard of living may have an effect on young people’s desire to leave Djibouti. Forty-four percent of young people who are dissatisfied with their standard of living wish to leave permanently compared with 28% of those who are satisfied. Future outlook matters too — almost half of young Djiboutians who think their standard of living is getting worse would leave the country, compared with 25% who think their standard of living is getting better.

Young Djiboutians who have a college level of education or higher are significantly less likely than those with a secondary or elementary education to express the desire to leave the country permanently.

Young Djiboutians also express high levels of satisfaction with economic aspects in their communities as 73% think the economy in the city where they live is good. Young people think economic prospects are improving as well — 69% of young Djiboutians perceive the economy in the city or place where they live is getting better. However, young Djiboutians who have negative perceptions of their local economy are nearly three times as likely to desire to emigrate compared with those who think the local economy is good. The local job market also affects individuals’ desire to emigrate. Young Djiboutians who say now is a bad time to find a job are twice as likely to want to leave the country permanently as those who say it is a good time.

The countries of choice for young Djiboutians who desire to emigrate are large Western nations. Canada (24%), France (20%), and the United States (18%) rank as their top destinations.
Young women (30%) are as likely as young men (35%) to say they plan to start their own business in the next 12 months. Aspiring female entrepreneurs (15%) are slightly less likely than their male counterparts (21%) to plan to start a business due to inadequate income.

Young men and women are apt to have similar outlooks when it comes to starting a business. There are no gender differences in reports that they know someone they can trust (other than a family member) to partner with in a business venture. Both young men and young women perceive the difficulty of obtaining business financing as the same, and both find the paperwork required to start a business to be equally accessible.

Young women are less likely than men to say they work — 28% of young Djiboutian women are not in the workforce and are not students. That compares with 20% of young men. Sixteen percent of young men are employed full time versus 11% of young women.

Young women also have achieved slightly lower levels of education than young men. Seventy-seven percent of young women compared with 84% of young men say they have completed secondary education. Few, regardless of gender, report having completed four years of education beyond secondary, just 2% overall. Despite the slight gap in educational attainment, young men and women have the same school enrollment rate. There are few differences in the level of community involvement between genders. They are equally likely to say they have volunteered their time to organizations and donated money to charity. Additionally, young men and young women are equally likely to report having helped a stranger or someone they did not know.

Eighty-five percent of young Djiboutians believe women in the country are treated with respect and dignity. Further, 82% of young people say they personally were treated with respect the day before the survey, with women and men equally likely to report feeling this way — 81% and 83%, respectively. At the same time, young women (70%) are slightly more satisfied than young men (63%) with the freedom to choose what to do with their lives.
Young Djiboutians with lower levels of education are much more likely to express the desire to emigrate than those with a college education.
EGYPT

Jobs and economic conditions are top-of-mind issues for young Egyptians. Even though most are not satisfied with the availability of jobs and hold negative views about national economic conditions, only a minority of young Egyptians would consider leaving the country permanently.

The employment status of young Egyptians is closely divided among students (28%), full-time employees (30%), and those who are not in the workforce nor in school (37%). Just 5% work part time. When asked about the jobs situation, 81% of young Egyptians say it is a bad time to find a job in the city or area where they live, and 77% say they are dissatisfied with the number of quality jobs that are available.

![Figure 1. Employment Status](image)

Young Egyptians’ observations that jobs are scarce may stem from perceptions of the economy, which are unenthusiastic. Attitudes about the local economy are better than those about the national economy, but majorities of young Egyptians say their local economy is not good (61%) and rate the national economy as “only fair” or “poor” (78%). Young Egyptians are more likely to report that the momentum of their local economy is staying the same (48%), compared with getting better (27%) or getting worse (24%). When asked about the direction of the national economy, the largest proportion says it is getting worse (41%) rather than staying the same (32%) or getting better (24%).

It is at the personal level that young Egyptians report the most optimism: 81% are satisfied with their standard of living. Forty-three percent say that their standard of living is staying the same, but nearly the same percentage of people say that it is getting better (38%).

A large majority of young Egyptians — 71% overall — fall into the “struggling” category according to the life evaluation measurement. The rest of the young population is evenly divided between the “thriving” (14%) and “suffering” (15%) categories. No differences exist in this measurement between young men and young women in Egypt.

![Figure 2. Life Evaluation Among Young Egyptians](image)

It should also be noted that relatively large proportions of young Egyptians report experiencing several negative emotions the day before the survey: worry (37%), stress (32%), anger (26%), and sadness (23%).
Mindset is the dimension on the Silatech Index that young Egyptians score best on, well ahead of the Access Index, but both index scores have decreased slightly with each successive measurement. Due to the unavailability of several survey items, no Policy Index score could be calculated.

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**Mindset**

Among the wide range of variables found to be predictors of the Mindset score, the one with the greatest potential to bring about positive change is the treatment of children with respect and dignity. A relatively high 68% of young people believe children are treated with respect and dignity in Egypt.

Other factors can contribute to improving Mindset Index scores, including three variables that deal with jobs and employment. One strong predictor is the perception that taking part in regular job training can improve one’s chances of getting a job or a better one. Satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in Egypt is also predictive of higher Mindset scores. The third variable that can influence Mindset scores positively is young people’s willingness to retrain for a different career field if they were to find themselves out of work for at least six months.

**Access**

The strongest predictor of the Access dimension is having someone outside of one’s family who can be trusted enough to become a business partner. While half of young people (49%) say they have someone they trust enough to make a business partner, half say they do not (50%).

The second variable that is predictive of higher Access Index scores pertains to one’s faith. People were asked to use a five-point scale to rate how much they agree with certain statements about their faith, including “my faith is involved in every aspect of my life.” Forty-four percent of young Egyptians strongly agree with this statement.

**Figure 3. Most Important Factors in Raising Index Scores**
Sixteen percent of young Egyptians say they aspire to start a business in the next 12 months; 22% of men say they intend to, while 10% of women say they will. Financial necessity is most likely a factor among those who aspire to become entrepreneurs. Eighty-nine percent of those who plan to start a business can be classified as doing so out of necessity, meaning they do not report to be living comfortably when asked about their present household income. These findings suggest that many young Egyptians view entrepreneurship as a viable alternative to earn a living.

While a majority of young people (64%) have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, they also disagree (59%) that their communities are good places for entrepreneurs forming new businesses.

When asked to consider the details of launching a business, most young aspiring entrepreneurs find the start-up process to be the most difficult to navigate. One-third of young entrepreneurial Egyptians say that it is easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start their business (32%), and a smaller proportion says that, in general, the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business (23%).

Once the business is established, young entrepreneurial Egyptians’ perceptions of running it become more positive. Half of this group of young people trust the government to allow businesses to make a lot of money, and two-thirds say a business owner can trust his or her assets and properties to be safe at all times (65%). Young aspiring entrepreneurs also feel confident they will easily find hardworking and qualified employees when they need them (64%).

The majority of young Egyptians who are employed full time are men (84%). At the same time, women make up 84% of young people who are not in the workforce nor in school. But both genders have negative views of the job climate (about 8 in 10 young men and women say it is a bad time to find a job in their communities) and express dissatisfaction with the availability of good job opportunities in their communities (84% of young men and 79% of young women).

If young Egyptians were unemployed and looking for work for more than six months, many would be willing to take certain actions to change their situation, including starting their own business (61%), retraining for a different career (57%), taking a job beneath their skills (52%), or performing home-based work (45%). Less popular options include moving for a job, either to another city (39%), or to another country (37%).

People who are not in the workforce are much less likely than full-time workers to say they would take a job beneath their skills (41%, compared with 70% of full-time workers), start their own business (46%, compared with 76% for full-time workers), or retrain for a new career (42%, compared with 73% for full-time workers) if they were out of work for six months or more.
MIGRATION

If given the opportunity 20% of young Egyptians would like to emigrate, but most (79%) would rather stay in Egypt. Those who have completed secondary education are the most likely young Egyptians to express the desire to leave the country. Young women (89%) are far more likely than young men (69%) to express the desire to stay in Egypt. Several factors may explain why the overwhelming majority of young Egyptians would rather stay in their country despite negative views of the economy and jobs.

Most young Egyptians believe hard work can pay off. Nearly 9 in 10 (88%) say that people in Egypt can get ahead if they work hard. Family ties and attachment to one’s community may also be keeping young Egyptians in the country.

When asked about the city or area where they live, 80% of young people say that they are satisfied with their communities. Half of all young people (52%) would recommend the place they live to a friend or associate. If they were to move abroad permanently, young Egyptians would surely miss the proximity of their friends and family. Currently, 77% of young men and women say they have relatives or friends they can count on whenever they need them.

Young Egyptians who have a secondary level of education are the most likely to express the desire to leave the country permanently.

While there are many great aspects of the country that attract young Egyptians to stay, the economy and scarcity of jobs may lure them to leave. Three-quarters (77%) of young people say they are dissatisfied with efforts made to increase the number of quality jobs. People who have already self-identified as wanting to move abroad permanently are even more dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs than people who would rather stay in Egypt (87% vs. 78%, respectively).

When asked to rate the economy, most young people (78%) rate it as “only fair” or “poor”; 20% rate it as “good” or “excellent.” When asked about the direction the national economy is moving, 41% think it is getting worse, 32% say it is staying the same, while 24% say it is getting better.

Other perceptions of challenging economic conditions may be contributing factors to young Egyptians’ desires to emigrate. Overall, 64% of young people are dissatisfied with the availability of good, affordable housing in their communities and 57% are dissatisfied with efforts to deal with poor people in their country.
Many of the differences of opinion between young Egyptian men and women stem from their employment status. Young men are, overwhelmingly, the ones who work; women much less so. Fifty percent of young men are employed full time and 31% are students. Young women are predominantly not in the workforce nor in school (64%); 24% of women are students. As women are not involved in the workplace as much as men, it may affect their attitudes about jobs.

As was previously mentioned, young women are less likely to say they would take certain actions if they were without a job for six months or more. They are far less likely than men to be willing to take a job below their skill set (41% vs. 63%). They are also far less likely than men to be willing to retrain for a different career (43% vs. 69%). Further, half of young women (49%) say they would consider starting their own business if unemployed for at least six months, compared with 72% of young men.

Having people in one's life that one can count on is an important aspect of wellbeing. Although large proportions of both genders report having someone in their life they can count on whenever they need them, young women (82%) are more likely to say so than young men (73%).

Young women are more likely to be married than young men — 80% of men aged 15-29 say they are single or have never been married, while 53% of women in that same age group report being single and 45% married. Women also more frequently report having children in the household than men. Sixty-eight percent of young Egyptian women have one to four children in the home, compared with 52% of men with the same number of children. Thirty percent of young Egyptian women say they have no children, compared with 45% of men who say the same.

Young people differ in their perceptions of the treatment of women in Egypt. Young men (82%) are slightly more likely than women (74%) to say that women are treated with respect and dignity, though a large majority of young Egyptians (78%) agree that women are treated with respect. Women are more likely to say that boys and girls should have equal access to education — 95% of women say this, compared with 87% of men.

Women are also more positive about the school system in their communities than men (65%, compared with 58% of men), though as the primary caretakers of the children, they may have more contact with schools.
Nearly 9 in 10 young Egyptians say that people in Egypt can get ahead if they work hard.
The restoration of more stable security conditions in Iraq since 2008 has brought a host of other problems to light — job growth, access to essential services, and the loss of human capital via emigration. One factor limiting growth in the Iraqi economy is a strong preference among young people to work for the government instead of private businesses. Another is that many young people with higher levels of education, as well as many who intend to start businesses, express a desire to move permanently to another country.

Lack of jobs is unquestionably one of the biggest problems facing Iraq’s young people. Just 6% of Iraqis aged 15 to 29 say they are satisfied with the availability of good job opportunities in their communities. Young Iraqis’ self-reported employment status reflects this widespread frustration. Forty-three percent say they are not students and not in the workforce, though young women are much more likely than young men to fall into this category (55% vs. 32%). Just 17% say they are employed full time, including 25% of young men and 8% of young women.

Joblessness is of concern both from an economic and a security perspective, as frustrated young people — particularly young men — remain recruiting targets of insurgent groups and violent militia. Overall, 46% of Iraqis aged 15 to 29 say they experienced anger for much of the previous day; among young men the figure rises to 51%. Similarly, 31% of young Iraqis say they experienced depression for much of the previous day; among young men, 37% say this.

Young Iraqis are also pessimistic about the quality of their lives overall. The thriving/struggling/suffering categories below combine Iraqis’ ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. About 1 in 10 give ratings high enough to classify them as “thriving,” while about 2 in 10 give ratings so low they are said to be “suffering.”

Employment status makes a considerable difference in young Iraqis’ likelihood to be “suffering;” 11% of those who are employed full time fall into this category, versus 28% of those employed part time and 24% of those not in the workforce nor in school.
The Silatech Index on which young Iraqis score most highly is Mindset, which includes perceptions that society recognizes and seeks to maximize the vital contributions of young people. However, this score has trended downward somewhat during the last two waves of data collection. Iraq’s Policy Index score declined between the first two waves of 2009, but remained steady during the current wave.

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<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
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<td>Mindset</td>
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Iraqis’ low score on the Access Index reflects the country’s severe infrastructure problems and the government’s challenges in promoting job creation. The current score of 26 is similar to results found during previous waves.

Mindset

The single variable most predictive of higher Mindset results is the perception that women in the country are treated with respect and dignity. This suggests young Iraqis’ views of how well society cultivates their potential hinge in part on their perception that women’s contributions are valued.

Another significant predictor of positive Mindset scores is young Iraqis’ belief that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business — a clear signal of official support for entrepreneurial activity.

Access

The Access Index gauges young Iraqis’ perceptions of their access to the training, resources, and opportunities they need to be successful. The variable most predictive of such perceptions is young Iraqis’ satisfaction with their standard of living. This relationship is an indication of the barriers to opportunity associated with poverty.

Young Iraqis’ perceptions that women are treated with respect and dignity are also significantly predictive of their Access Index scores, as they were of Mindset Index results.

Policy

The perception that Iraqi women are treated with dignity and respect appears again as the most significant predictor of Policy Index scores. Policies promoting the social and economic inclusion of women are likely to foster change in all three areas.

For the Policy Index, the belief that there is someone outside their family they could trust as a business partner is another significant predictor of higher scores. This relationship points to the importance of community organizations and civil society networks that improve their access to social capital. Young Iraqis who plan to start businesses are considerably more likely than those who do not to say they are satisfied with opportunities to make friends in their communities, 58% vs. 40%, respectively.
As noted earlier, joblessness is one of the most important problems facing young Iraqis, both in terms of their own personal wellbeing and their contribution to the country’s stability and growth. Harnessing the energy and innovation of young people in new private-sector initiatives is crucial, and successful entrepreneurs should be regarded as examples of social and economic progress. However, there is certainly room for improvement in young Iraqis’ perceptions of entrepreneurship. Half say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, while 26% have an unfavorable opinion.

Overall, 24% of young Iraqis say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. However, the intent to do so is more likely to spring from necessity than perceived opportunities. Just 11% of those who say they plan to start businesses indicate that they are living comfortably on their current income. Moreover, one-third (34%) of young Iraqis who plan to start a business say they had trouble paying for shelter in the past 12 months — significantly more than the 25% among young Iraqis who have no plans to start a business.

Hardship and lack of employment are not the only factors related to entrepreneurial intent among young Iraqis. Community tolerance and civic involvement are also important aspects of public attitudes toward entrepreneurship in the country. Those who intend to start a business in the next year are significantly more likely than those who do not to say their communities are good places for racial and ethnic minorities. They are also more likely to say they volunteered time to an organization.

Many young Iraqis may fail to consider entrepreneurial opportunities simply because they have been conditioned to expect or aspire to jobs in the public sector. Fifty-seven percent say they would rather have a job working for the government rather than a business, while 8% say the reverse.

Aspiring Iraqi entrepreneurs are undoubtedly often deterred from considering private business ownership by perceived administrative barriers. Just 18% say the government makes the paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business, while 17% say it is easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business.

Even assuming such barriers to access can be overcome, weak enforcement of property rights and widespread administrative corruption may lead many aspiring entrepreneurs to fear investing scarce resources in a new enterprise, even if they see a good opportunity. About one-third of young Iraqis (36%) say business owners can trust their assets and property to be safe at all times; 51% disagree. Similarly, 32% say business owners can trust the government to allow their businesses to make a lot of money, while 53% say they cannot. About three out of five (57%) agree that aspiring business owners can be very confident in the availability of hardworking and qualified employees.
MIGRATION

Overall, 18% of Iraqis aged 15 to 29 say they would like to move permanently to another country if given the opportunity. Young men are more likely than young women to say this — 22% vs. 13%, respectively.

Preliminary data suggest young Iraqis with four years of education beyond the secondary level may be much more likely than those in lower education groups to say they would like to emigrate. However, the current sample size is too small to report results for this group.

![Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education](image)

Emigration among more educated young Iraqis is troubling for the potential loss of badly needed human capital. In recent years, many highly trained Iraqis — including teachers, doctors, and lawyers — fled the country to escape violence and kidnapping by insurgent groups. The result has been a growing shortage of the skills and knowledge needed to sustain thriving communities and diversify the country’s economy.

Also troubling with regard to the loss of human capital is the finding that young people who plan to start businesses are more likely to say they would move away permanently than those who do not — 26% vs. 16%. Many of those who would like to start businesses undoubtedly feel their prospects would be better elsewhere. Twenty-six percent of young Iraqis who say the country’s economic conditions are getting worse say they would emigrate given the opportunity, versus 15% of those who say Iraq’s economic conditions are improving.

Young Iraqis are also asked whether or not they are likely to move away from the city or area where they live in the next 12 months. Overall, 20% of those aged 15 to 29 say they are likely to move, while 69% say they are unlikely to do so. Young men (19%) and young women (22%) are similarly likely to say they will probably move. As with the desire to emigrate, young Iraqis who plan to start businesses (29%) are more likely than those who do not (17%) to say they are likely to move away from their communities.

Asked which countries they would like to emigrate to, young Iraqis often name Western nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Sweden. Many have relatives already living in those countries; for example, Sweden has received a large influx of Iraqi asylum-seekers in recent years. It is possible that the desire to emigrate is related to perceptions of Muslim-West relations. Twenty-one percent of young Iraqis who see greater interaction between Muslim and Western societies as more of a benefit would like to emigrate, compared with 11% of those who see such interaction as more of a threat.
Though full-time employment is scarce for all Iraqis, young men are three times as likely as young women to be employed full time, 25% vs. 8%, respectively.

One-quarter of Iraqi women (25%) say they are aware of services and organizations to help people find jobs — similar to the 28% of young men who say the same. However, among those aware of such services, young women are less likely than young men to have used them — 22% vs. 42%.

Other findings reveal gender differences in satisfaction with the limitations facing Iraqi women. Eighty-four percent of young women feel that boys and girls should have equal access to education; 60% of young men agree. Young women are also less likely than young men to say women in the country are treated with respect, 45% vs. 60%, respectively. Given the finding that this item predicted higher scores on all three Silatech Indexes, it is clear that expanding education and employment opportunities for women may be a powerful driver of paradigm shift among young Iraqis.

Despite these differences, Iraqi men and women aged 15 to 29 produce similar results on most experiential measures of wellbeing. For example, 62% among each gender say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day. Slightly more than half of both young men and young women say they experienced enjoyment for much of that day. However, 35% of young Iraqis say they are satisfied with their freedom to do what they wish with their lives, with young women (36%) about equally likely as young men (33%) to feel this way.

In some cases, young Iraqi women exhibit greater daily wellbeing than young men. Young women are actually less likely than young men to say they experienced sadness (29% vs. 37%, respectively), depression (24% vs. 37%) and anger (40% vs. 51%) the previous day. Further, two-thirds of young Iraqi women (67%) say they like what they do each day; just less than half of young men (48%) feel this way.

Fourteen percent of young Iraqi women say they intend to start a business in the next 12 months, as opposed to 33% of young men. Among both genders, low levels of civic participation may discourage the formation of new business initiatives. No more than 8% of men or women say they volunteered their time or donated money to an organization in the past month.

However, other findings suggest restrictions make women less likely than men to have access to social capital — i.e., regular interactions with other potential entrepreneurs with whom they could pool resources and share risks. Young women are less likely than young men to say they attended a place of worship or religious services in the past seven days, 33% vs. 52%, respectively. Moreover, just less than half of young women (48%) say there is someone outside their family they could trust as a business partner, compared to 71% of young men.
In Iraq, the single variable most predictive of higher Mindset scores is the perception that women are treated with respect and dignity.
Overall, young Jordanians are resilient. While a majority are “struggling,” more than one-third rate their lives now and in the future well enough to be considered “thriving.” They are generally satisfied with their communities, and 82% of those working full time are satisfied with their jobs.

Even so, about one-third of Jordanians aged 15 to 29 would consider moving permanently to another country if given the opportunity, including nearly half of the country’s most educated young people. Better economic conditions and respectful treatment of children appear to be key drivers for improvement on the Silatech Indexes and in retaining human capital more broadly.

Nearly half of young Jordanians are students (47%). The rest are working (30%) or are not in the workforce nor in school (23%), with men more likely to fall in the former group and women in the latter. Among those not in the workforce nor in school, 41% are homemakers. Twenty percent of those not in the workforce say they are actively looking for work.

While Jordan has struggled economically since 2009 with lower GDP growth than in previous years and a large fiscal deficit, the economy grew in the first quarter of 2010 compared with the fourth quarter of 2009. As such, young Jordanians are mixed about the economy. They are slightly more likely to rate economic conditions in the country as “poor” or “only fair” instead of “good” or “excellent.” They are more likely to perceive both national and local conditions as getting better rather than getting worse. However, 75% of young Jordanians say they are satisfied with their standard of living and 51% say it is getting better.

Few young people struggle to obtain basic needs such as food (6%) and shelter (2%). Nearly all (94%) are satisfied with their personal health, and few (6%) report health problems. Most (94%) say they have relatives or friends they can count on to help them when needed. Three in four (72%) say the country’s leadership maximizes youth potential and that they are satisfied with their freedom to choose what to do with their lives (76%). Together, the data suggest a positive inclination toward the country overall, but there is still room for improvement.
Jordan has lost ground on both the Mindset and Access dimensions of the Silatech Index since the last wave of data collection. Jordan’s relatively low score on the Access Index highlights an area in need of particular attention and improvement. Due to the unavailability of some survey items, a score for the Policy Index could not be calculated.

**Silatech Index Scores**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>35</td>
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**Mindset**

Young Jordanians’ views about whether children are treated with respect and dignity appear critical in improving Jordan’s Mindset score. This relationship is far stronger than for other metrics, such as the availability and number of quality jobs. Roughly one-quarter of young Jordanians (27%) say children in the country are not treated with respect and dignity, while 70% say they are. Young men and women express similar opinions on the topic; 29% of women and 25% of men say children are not treated with respect.

Further, a gender gap on this issue appears with age: 27% of women aged 30 and older say children are not treated with respect compared with 19% of men the same age. It may be worth investigating why older Jordanian men’s perceptions on this issue improve with age but women’s do not.

**Access**

With a score of 35, ample opportunity exists for improvement on the Access Index. The greatest gains will result from improving views of economic conditions in the country, which are currently mixed. Young Jordanians are slightly more likely to rate economic conditions as “poor” or “only fair” (a sum of 56%) than to rate them as “good” or “excellent” (a sum of 43%).

Young Jordanians with four years of college education are the most negative about the economy; 32% call conditions “poor” versus 24% of those with a secondary education and 20% of those with eight years of elementary education or less. Those who are not in the workforce nor in school are also relatively more negative than other employment groups, with 30% calling conditions “poor.”

Efforts to improve economic conditions for and as perceived by these groups of young Jordanians may help to improve Jordan’s Access Index score. The urgency is clear as the data suggest that economic negativity in the current climate increases with age.
High job satisfaction and a preference for government employment over private sector jobs may help to explain the relatively limited entrepreneurial aspirations expressed by young Jordanians.

Young Jordanians, both employed and not, by nearly a 3-to-1 margin say they would prefer to work for the government (64%) over a business (22%). Currently, 49% of those employed full time work for the government.

Young people in the workforce are most likely to say they are service workers (25%), clerical workers (18%), business owners (14%), or professionals (14%). Most say their organizations are growing (33%) or staying the same (55%), rather than contracting (7%). Furthermore, while 28% of young Jordanians are employed full time, 82% of these workers say they are satisfied with their jobs, 78% like what they do each day, and 62% say their job is ideal for them.

Still, nearly 8 in 10 (78%) young Jordanians say they are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities where they live, and more than half (57%) say it is a bad time to find a job. They are more divided about efforts to increase quality jobs (43% are satisfied, while 49% are dissatisfied).

If they were unemployed and looking for work for more than six months, more young Jordanians say they would be willing to start their own business (74%) than say they would relocate to another city (62%); perform home-based work (60%); take a job below their own academic credentials, skills, and training (58%); retrain for a different career (57%); or relocate to another country (56%).

With respect to the business climate, 84% of young Jordanians have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs. Eight percent of young Jordanians say they plan to start a business within the next 12 months. While few young people aspire to become business owners, 65% of these budding entrepreneurs say their communities are good places for people starting new businesses.

Of those who plan to start a business in the next 12 months, nearly half are currently employed (48% full time and 2% part time) while the rest are students (24%) or not in the workforce nor in school (26%). In Jordan, most aspiring entrepreneurs (64%) are classified as "necessity" entrepreneurs as they report finding it challenging to live on their present household income. “Opportunity” entrepreneurs (36%) are those who say they live comfortably on their present income.

Young men comprise the bulk of aspiring entrepreneurs; 11% say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months compared with 4% of women. The gender gap grows among those aged 23-29, with 22% of men saying they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, versus 7% of women.

These aspiring entrepreneurs are generally confident that they will find hardworking, qualified employees and that their assets and business property will be safe at all times. But they are less confident about completing the necessary paperwork and permits and the ease of obtaining a business loan.
One in three young Jordanians (35%) would move permanently to another country if they had the opportunity. This desire increases with more negative views about national economic conditions, one’s community as a place to live in general, and opportunities for children.

Young people’s desire to emigrate increases with education — suggesting a particularly high risk of brain drain among Jordan’s most educated young people.

**Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>% who want to leave the country permanently</th>
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<tr>
<td>Completed 4 years past high school/college degree</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed elementary or less</td>
<td>26%</td>
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Those with a college degree are far more likely than less educated young Jordanians to express a desire to emigrate.

Young Jordanians who would like to move are most likely to say they would move to the United Arab Emirates (33%), Saudi Arabia (17%), or the United States (14%).

Although expressing the desire to leave one’s country is a wish rather than an intention, there are serious implications for leaders to consider if many among the most educated young Jordanians were to act on their desires. When asked to name the most important change that would need to occur for potential emigrants to decide to stay, 50% say improvements in the economy and 29% say getting a better job — far outweighing all other responses. Underscoring economic factors as a motivator for emigration, 40% of those who rate national economic conditions as “poor” would like to move, as would 43% of those who say the national economy is getting worse. Interestingly, having a more positive perception of the local economy or job opportunities in one’s community does not significantly decrease the desire to emigrate. Together, the data suggest that economic gains at the macro, rather than micro, level are critical to preventing brain drain in Jordan.

Satisfaction with one’s community as a place to live appears to relate to one’s desire to emigrate. Of those who are dissatisfied with their city, 46% want to emigrate, as do 56% of those already inclined to move from their current city in the next year. Nonetheless, no specific views about a city’s infrastructure or public services appear to significantly affect desires, again suggesting motivations are largely economic.

The search for work is clearly a factor that could turn potential migrants into permanent emigrants. Of those who would like to go abroad for temporary work, 80% would move permanently if given the chance. Among those who say they would be willing to relocate to another country to find work if they were unemployed for more than six months, 57% say they would move permanently. The same is true of those willing to relocate to another city to find work (44%).

Young Jordanians who say children do not have daily opportunities to learn and grow or that children are not treated with dignity and respect are also more likely than others to want to emigrate.
Young Jordanians’ attitudes suggest widespread gender parity in the country. While far fewer women are in the workforce, they are generally as satisfied with their lives and communities as men. Most young Jordanians (84%) say women in their country are treated with respect, with men and women agreeing to similar degrees. When asked about their own personal experience, 90% of young women say they are treated with respect.

Young women are also as likely as men to say people in Jordan can get ahead by working hard (81% vs. 80%). Young Jordanian men and women are equally satisfied with the freedom they have to choose what they want to do with their lives (77% vs. 75%, respectively). Perceptions that the country’s leadership maximizes the potential of youth are equally shared by both men (70%) and women (73%).

Nearly all young Jordanians (92%) agree that boys and girls in the country should have equal access to education and, in reality, educational achievement is relatively similar: 90% of women say they completed at least a secondary education versus 84% of young men. As many young women as men say they are students (about half).

However, there is a clear gender gap when it comes to employment. Nearly half of young men (43%) work full time, compared with 11% of young women. Instead, 39% of women are not in the workforce nor in school, versus 10% of men. By ages 23 to 29, when few are still students, 82% of men work full time compared with 27% of women. In this age group, two-thirds of women (66%) are not in the workforce or school, versus 12% of men. Not surprisingly, considering their greater exposure to employment, men are more likely than women to take steps to find work. One-third (34%) would like to go abroad for temporary work, versus 24% of women. If they were unemployed and looking for work for more than six months, young men are more likely than young women to say they would start their own business, take a job beneath their academic credentials and skills, retrain for another career, or relocate in or out of the country. Women are more likely say they would perform home-based work. Four percent of women say they plan to start a business in the next year compared with 11% of men.

Overall, young women appear positive about their lives. They are just as likely as men to be “thriving,” and they report similar daily experiences, both positive and negative. They express similar views as men about their communities and economic conditions. And if given the opportunity, one-third of young women say they would emigrate, exactly on par with men.

Young women express similar levels of civic and social engagement as young men do. Both groups rarely donate their time and fewer than 2 in 10 donate money. But men are more likely than women to say they helped a stranger in need, 34% vs. 22%.

**Figure 6. Social and Economic Initiative**

![Chart showing gender differences in civic and social engagement.

- **Women**: 4% plan to start a business in the next 12 months, 2% volunteered time in the last 30 days, 4% donated money in the last 30 days.
- **Men**: 11% plan to start a business in the next 12 months, 4% volunteered time in the last 30 days, 17% donated money in the last 30 days.

Young women express similar levels of civic and social engagement as young men do. Both groups rarely donate their time and fewer than 2 in 10 donate money. But men are more likely than women to say they helped a stranger in need, 34% vs. 22%.
Seventy-two percent of young Jordanians say the leadership of the country maximizes youth potential.
**KUWAIT**

Most young Kuwaitis (83%) are satisfied with their standard of living, and nearly half rate their lives positively enough to be considered “thriving.” The vast majority of young Kuwaitis are employed or furthering their education, and there is little risk of brain drain as almost none say they wish to emigrate elsewhere. Further, the Silatech Indexes show Kuwait improving on already strong scores across all three dimensions. This strong setting positions young Kuwaitis to thrive, both individually and collectively, with gains for the society overall.

Young Kuwaitis aged 15 to 29 are, for the most part, employed full time (42%) or students (42%).

![Figure 1. Employment Status](image)

Among those aged 23 to 29, just 4% are students and 84% are employed full time. In this older, almost universally employed cohort, 86% have completed at least a secondary education and 93% are satisfied with their jobs.

Young Kuwaitis also report high satisfaction with their incomes. Most say they are either living comfortably (43%) or getting by (36%) on their present household income. Fifteen percent are finding it difficult (11%) or very difficult (4%) to get by.

![Figure 2. Life Evaluation Among Young Kuwaitis](image)

Few young Kuwaitis report having trouble affording basic needs such as food and shelter, which is likely attributable to the large percentages who report having a good job and earning a decent wage. They also report widespread home access to communication, including televisions (100%), cell phones (98%), landline phones (96%), and the Internet (84%).

Nine in 10 young Kuwaitis are satisfied with the city or area where they live. They are also largely satisfied with institutions and city infrastructure. Few express an inclination to move — either within or out of the country. Majorities say the city or area where they live is a good place for immigrants from other countries (68%), racial and ethnic minorities (57%), and entrepreneurs (56%).

Two-thirds (66%) say they are satisfied with the availability of good jobs where they live. Entrepreneurial aspirations run high with 3 in 10 young Kuwaitis saying they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. The vast majority of young Kuwaitis (82%) say people in the country can get ahead by working hard.
Kuwait performs strongly on all three Silatech Indexes. Young Kuwaitis do equally well on the Policy and Mindset dimensions. The most room for improvement exists on the Access dimension.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mindset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All three dimensions have shown improvements since the last wave of data collection. The Access score is up the most.

**Mindset**

While young Kuwaitis’ Mindset score is already relatively high, improved perceptions about their standard of living are most likely to move the score even higher. In early 2010, 83% of young Kuwaitis said they were satisfied with their standard of living, while 16% were not. Ensuring that young Kuwaitis personally benefit from the country’s projected continued GDP growth and budget surplus will likely help improve young Kuwaitis’ overall mindset regarding entrepreneurship and job creation.

Underscoring the relationship between the standard of living and entrepreneurial motivation, aspiring entrepreneurs who are opportunity-driven are more likely to say they are satisfied with their standard of living (94%) than those who are necessity-driven (72%). Further improving the standard of living of all young Kuwaitis may thus help move more aspiring entrepreneurs from one category to the other, ultimately putting more future business owners on a path to success.

**Access**

The variable that most influences Access scores is the perception that the government will allow businesses to make a lot of money. Two-thirds of young Kuwaitis (64%) feel this is the case while 19% do not and 16% say they do not know. However, 80% of young Kuwaitis planning to start a business do trust the government to allow them to be profitable.

Raising awareness of successful stories of business owners may help improve perceptions on this issue. Young people least likely to express such trust are those with just an elementary education (58%), young women (56%), and those aged 22 and under (60%).

**Policy**

Perceptions about the paperwork and permits required to start a business are key to further progress on the Policy Index. Less than half of young Kuwaitis (47%) say the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone. It is the youngest Kuwaitis who perceive the paperwork process as more difficult. Among those aged 15 to 22, 41% say the government makes business paperwork easy, compared with 57% of those aged 23 to 29.

Documenting the extent to which this view relates to entrepreneurial aspiration, 72% of young Kuwaitis planning to start a business say the government makes paperwork easy, compared with 38% of those who do not plan to start a business.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

Three in 10 young Kuwaitis (29%) say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, including near equal percentages of men (30%) and women (28%). Women’s parity with men is particularly noteworthy considering they are uniformly more negative or less informed about all aspects of starting a business, from getting a loan to finding qualified employees, to trusting that the government will let their business be profitable. Further, it is worth noting that among Kuwaitis 30 and older, far more men than women express entrepreneurial aspirations, 48% vs. 26%. This suggests barriers to entrepreneurship among women later in life, either in the family or labor force.

Kuwait’s relatively high level of entrepreneurial desire comes in a country where 90% of young people say they are satisfied with their jobs and 76% say their job is the ideal job for them. The majority of those planning to start a business are already working full time (54%). Most are currently working in clerical (47%) or service jobs (27%) while some work in professional (11%) or other roles. The vast majority (86%) have completed at least a secondary education.

Of those planning to start a business, 56% come from positions of necessity and 44% come from positions of financial opportunity. Asked about their household income, 44% of aspiring entrepreneurs say they are living comfortably on their current income and another 37% say they are getting by on their current income.

Aspiring entrepreneurs tend to be more negative than other young Kuwaitis about economic conditions — both national and local. Forty percent of aspiring entrepreneurs say national economic conditions are “only fair” or “poor,” compared with 30% of those who do not plan to start a business. The gap widens further when assessing local economic conditions. Forty percent of young aspiring entrepreneurs say economic conditions in their community are not good, compared with 25% of young people who have no business creation aspirations. About half of each group say it is a good time to find a job.

Kuwait’s young aspiring entrepreneurs are largely positive about the institutions and infrastructure relevant to starting a business — and in all cases they are as positive or more positive than other young Kuwaitis who do not express entrepreneurial aspirations. Three in four (74%) say they have confidence in the nation’s financial institutions. More than 7 in 10 say the government makes it easy to file the necessary permits and to obtain a loan; 85% trust their assets will be safe at all times.

Young aspiring entrepreneurs express a great deal of confidence in the human capital available in the country. Most (81%) say they are confident they will easily find hardworking and qualified employees. They also express confidence in their own social networks, with 73% saying there is someone (outside their families) they trust enough to make their business partner.
Young Kuwaitis are largely satisfied with their economic conditions, communities, and social networks and thus express little desire to emigrate. Just 3% of young Kuwaitis say they would like to move permanently to another country if given the opportunity. This changes very little as Kuwaitis age and gain more education. Further, 83% of young Kuwaitis are satisfied with the freedom to choose what they want to do with their lives.

Positive economic attitudes help to explain young Kuwaitis’ disinterest in emigration. More than two-thirds of young Kuwaitis see economic conditions in the country as “excellent” (17%) or “good” (51%) and most see conditions as getting better (43%) or staying the same (36%).

Three percent of young Kuwaitis express the desire to move to another country permanently.
Sample sizes for educational groups are too small to report results.

Young Kuwaitis are also positive about their local economic conditions: 70% say economic conditions in their city are good and 53% say they are getting better. Two-thirds of young people say they are satisfied with the availability of good jobs in their community and 52% say now is a good time to find a job. More than 8 in 10 (83%) are satisfied with their standard of living and 57% say it is getting better.

Underscoring their desire to stay in their country, young Kuwaitis express clear satisfaction with their communities. Nearly all Kuwaitis (91%) are satisfied with the city or area where they live, and 87% say they would recommend their city to others. Three-quarters (76%) say they are unlikely to move in the next 12 months. The vast majority say their city is getting better as a place to live (51%) or staying the same (44%).

Young Kuwaitis also express high satisfaction with their city infrastructure. Strong majorities say they are satisfied with services such as roads and highways (79%), public transportation (71%), and the availability of quality healthcare (72%). They are also positive — though to a slightly lower degree — about their educational systems (65%), quality of water (63%), availability of good affordable housing (59%), and quality of air (49%). Very few young Kuwaitis express any difficulty providing for their basic needs such as food and shelter. They are also generally satisfied with their public parks (79%) and the beauty or physical setting of their community (66%).

In addition to the strong pull factors provided by perceptions of good economic conditions and high community satisfaction, young Kuwaitis also appear to have good social networks. Nearly all (95%) say they have relatives or friends they can count on whenever they need them. Further, 86% say they are satisfied with their ability to meet people and make friends in their community.

Taken together, Kuwait has clearly created conditions that make citizens want to stay in their own country rather than move elsewhere permanently.
While women in Kuwait can vote and have been elected to parliament, the Women’s Affairs Committee of Kuwait’s parliament continues its efforts to achieve greater gender equality. Young Kuwaitis paint a positive picture of life for women in their country. At the same time, their views help to pinpoint where there remains room for improvement.

Nine in 10 young Kuwaitis say women in their country are treated with respect and dignity, with both men and women equally likely to say this. Women and men agree that boys and girls should have equal access to education, 87% and 77%, respectively, and that people in the country can get ahead by working hard, 84% (men) and 79% (women).

Young Kuwaiti women are slightly more educated than young Kuwaiti men. While 21% of men report no more than an elementary education, 12% of women fall into this category. Instead, women are slightly more likely than men to have completed a secondary education (79% of women and 70% of men) while 9% of each gender has completed four years of education beyond high school.

Further, young Kuwaiti women hold their own in the workforce. They are as likely as young men to be employed full time, 43% and 42%, respectively.

Still, some clear differences exist regarding the type of work that men and women do. Nearly two-thirds of women (64%) do clerical work, compared with 34% of men. Men outnumber women in service professions, 35% to 8%. Relatively few young Kuwaitis overall say they are in managerial or executive positions, 9% of women versus 3% of men.

The gender parity in Kuwait continues from education and employment into the financial realm. Both young Kuwaiti women and men are largely satisfied with their standard of living, 81% and 85%, respectively. Young women (54%) and young men (59%) say their standard of living is getting better. Both genders express similar satisfaction with their household income, with more than three-fourths of young women and men saying they are living comfortably or getting by.

Majorities of young women do trail their male counterparts in some aspects of wellbeing. Young women are less likely to say they experienced enjoyment or happiness yesterday. Still, they are on par with young men in terms of stress, worry, rest, energy, and learning experiences but are less likely to report experiencing sadness. It is worth noting that 95% of young women say they were treated with respect yesterday. As a point of comparison, 91% of young men say they were treated with respect the day before the survey.

**Figure 5. Social and Economic Initiative**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan to start a business in next 12 months</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteered time in last 30 days</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated money in last 30 days</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majorities of both genders are generally happy with efforts to deal with the poor, preserve the environment, and increase the number of quality jobs. While young women are more likely than men to say they have helped a stranger, the latter are more likely to have donated money to charity. There are no gender differences in Kuwait with respect to volunteering activities.
Three in 10 young Kuwaitis say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months — including near-equal percentages of men and women.
LEBANON

A high public debt burden and limited financing available for private sector investment are hampering economic expansion in Lebanon. Nevertheless, the country has experienced moderate GDP growth since the 2006 war with Israel, and — assuming continued political stability — it is expected to maintain the economic pace through at least 2011.

The economic views of Lebanon’s young people are generally negative, but more so toward the national economy than their local economy. In fact, half of young Lebanese believe economic conditions where they live are good — significantly higher than the 11% who rate national economic conditions the same. Also, by a nine-percentage-point margin, 39% to 30%, more believe their local economy is getting better than getting worse. While only 22% of young Lebanese say it is a good time to find a job, 70% say they are satisfied with where they live, and 65% would recommend their community to others.

Most young Lebanese are either in school or employed. Just 16% say they are neither.

While young Lebanese are generally optimistic about where their lives will be in five years (65% expect to be on rungs 7 to 10 of a 10-step ladder scale), 37% rate their lives this highly today. As a result, the majority are considered “struggling” on the overall life evaluation wellbeing index. But more importantly, young Lebanese are more likely to be classified as “thriving” than “suffering.”

Young Lebanese have near universal access to cell phones and the Internet, and are broadly satisfied with the quality of life where they live. Majorities are also satisfied with housing, public transportation, the educational system, and healthcare.

Religion is as important to young Lebanese as it is to older adults; 87% of young people say religion is an important part of their daily life.
The Mindset Index score for young Lebanese is generally favorable to entrepreneurial activity. However, this age group perceives considerable structural barriers to employment, as reflected by its relatively low Access and Policy scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mindset**

The relatively high Mindset Index score among young people in Lebanon stems from broadly positive attitudes about entrepreneurship and private enterprise, offsetting mostly negative views of the national economy.

Satisfaction with the availability of good jobs in Lebanon emerges as the strongest factor of the Mindset dimension, closely followed by perceptions about whether job training programs are effective. In fact, 25% of young Lebanese are satisfied with the availability of jobs in their city or area, making this a top priority for improvement. However, 84% believe job training helps participants improve their chances of getting a job or a better job, establishing this as an area for maintenance rather than improvement. Thirdly, the perception that women in Lebanon are treated with respect and dignity contributes significantly to the Mindset Index score. Slightly more than half (55%) of young Lebanese believe this is the case, including 58% of men and 51% of women.

**Access**

The top three variables driving the Access Index score reflect broad skepticism among young Lebanese about the ability to succeed in the private sector. These variables include trusting the government will allow businesses to make a lot of money, rating national economic conditions as good or excellent, and feeling satisfied with the availability of good jobs. No more than 27% of young Lebanese have positive reactions to any of these items.

**Policy**

The leading driver of the Policy Index among young Lebanese is the belief that government makes the business paperwork process easy enough. While 19% of young Lebanese believe the government makes such paperwork easy enough, the figure is higher among young aspiring entrepreneurs (28%) than those who don’t plan to start a business in the next year (17%). Also, the percentage saying the government makes such paperwork easy is significantly higher among those young Lebanese that have completed four years of post-secondary education (29%) than those who have a secondary-level education (18%) and those with, at most, an elementary-level education (14%).

Two other factors that strongly contribute to the Policy Index score are perceptions that new business loans are easy to obtain — 31% say they are — and that women in Lebanon are treated with respect (55%).
Young people in Lebanon are mostly negative about current national economic conditions and are pessimistic in their economic outlook. Only 22% believe it is a good time to find a job in their city or region. Nevertheless, a robust 69% say Lebanon is a good place for entrepreneurs. Three-quarters of young Lebanese believe people can get ahead by working hard.

Given this, it is not surprising that 36% of young people — including nearly half of young men — say they have thought about starting their own business. Markedly fewer (20%) say they plan to start their own business in the next year, including 27% of young men and 15% of young women.

Positive perceptions about the ease of government paperwork and obtaining business loans are relatively scarce among young aspiring entrepreneurs in Lebanon. Plus, fewer than half feel confident about the safety of business assets and property. These assessments could be discouraging would-be entrepreneurs from attempting to launch their own business.

In a region of the world where government jobs are generally prized over private sector career options, it is notable that young Lebanese are equally divided in their preference for working for government or business (44% vs. 43%, respectively). This contrasts with adults 30 and older who prefer government jobs (49%) over business jobs (31%). Even stronger differences among age groups are evident when looking at gender, with younger women much more oriented toward working in business than older women — perhaps signaling a generational shift may be underway.

Although nearly half of young Lebanese (46%) say they would leave the country to obtain work if they were unemployed for six months or more, the proportion is lower than those who would be willing to move to another city or area within Lebanon (60%).

Just 6% of young men in Lebanon are neither a student nor working full or part time. The proportion is higher among young women (26%) but this is likely because many young women opt not to work due to marital and parenting roles. Although 80% are satisfied with the work they do, barely half of employed young people, 55%, say their job is ideal for them. This compares with 64% of older workers.

Most young Lebanese have a positive impression of the value of job training programs, but just 34% are aware of such services and only 12% of those who are aware have ever used them.

On the positive side, 55% of young Lebanese, including 53% of aspiring entrepreneurs, say they have confidence in the country’s financial institutions. Most young people are confident about finding qualified, hardworking employees.
Thirty-six percent of young Lebanese say that, if given the opportunity, they would like to move permanently to another country, compared with 27% of older adults.

One-third of potential emigrants say they would like to move to a country in Europe, with France the single most popular choice (13%). Three in ten want to move to North America, with equal percentages choosing the United States and Canada. Twenty percent would move elsewhere in the Middle East, with most potential emigrants mentioning either the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia as their preferred destination.

The desire to emigrate is much greater with young men than young women (43% vs. 29%, respectively). It is also greater among those who have completed at least four years of education past high school than among those who have not gone beyond an elementary education. This suggests Lebanon may already be losing a disproportionate share of its most educated citizens to other countries.

In general, young Lebanese offer positive assessments of their communities. Seventy percent say they are satisfied with their community, and more believe it is getting better (49%) than getting worse (26%).

The desire to emigrate among young Lebanese may largely stem from a personal interest in seeking better job opportunities. Young aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely than those who don’t aspire to start a business (43% vs. 33%) to want to move away. The desire is also higher among young Lebanese who are dissatisfied with their standard of living (44%) than those who are satisfied (33%). Similarly, 33% of those who are living comfortably on their present income want to emigrate, compared with 41% who are finding it difficult to live on the money they currently make.

By contrast, wanting to emigrate is not closely linked with young people’s broader perceptions about Lebanon’s economic climate, such as their ratings of current economic conditions and perceptions of the job market. For instance, the percentage of young Lebanese wanting to emigrate is 40% among those saying the nation’s economy is getting worse, similar to the 37% among those saying it is getting better.

Although economic attitudes do not strongly correlate with the desire to emigrate, what potential emigrants say about their motives for leaving suggests economic factors are relevant. Forty-three percent of these young Lebanese say economic conditions would need to improve for them to remain in Lebanon. Slightly fewer (32%) say they would need to find a job or get a better job.

Most young Lebanese (87%) say religion is an important part of their daily life. Of this group, 34% wish to emigrate, compared with 48% of those for whom religion is less important.
Young women in Lebanon have surpassed young men in attaining higher levels of education. Young women are more likely to have attained at least some post-elementary education than young men (86% vs. 76%, respectively). And, among young Lebanese aged 23 to 29, women (39%) are more likely than men (29%) to have finished at least four years of a college-level education.

Despite women’s educational advantage, young women and men report comparable standards of living. Approximately three-quarters of both genders say they are either living comfortably or getting by on their current income. Fewer than 10% of each group are finding it very difficult to get by.

Young women are about half as likely as young men to be employed either full or part time. Young women are somewhat more likely to identify themselves as students, and much more likely than men to say they are not in the workforce nor in school (26% vs. 6%), largely due to their roles as homemakers.

Among the 27% of young women who do work, 80% are satisfied with their current job, identical to the figure among young men. Also, the percentage of young working women saying they “like what they do” each day is very similar to that of men.

Whether it reflects their higher academic achievement or stems from lesser cultural demands on women to make a living is unclear, but young women are less likely than young men to say that, if faced with long-term unemployment, they would be willing to take a job beneath their credentials or skills (44% vs. 57%, respectively). They are also less likely than men their age to say they would move to another country for work. They are, however, just as willing as young men to relocate to another city within Lebanon and more willing to perform home-based work. Additionally, young women (30%) are less likely than young men (38%) to say they are aware of job training services.

Young women in Lebanon are about half as likely as young men to say they plan to start their own business in the next year. They are also not as active in volunteering their time. But they are on par with men in donating money to charity.

The equality picture for women in Lebanon is generally positive. The slight majority of young Lebanese (55%) believe women in the country are treated with respect, including 58% of men and 51% of women. And in describing their own experiences, 91% of young women say they were treated with respect yesterday, similar to the 89% found among young men.

Still, higher percentages of young women than young men report feeling negative emotions and experiences in their daily lives, such as sadness, depression, and physical pain. Young women in Lebanon are less likely to say they have high energy. But on several other dimensions, including worry, stress, anger, happiness, enjoyment, and learning or doing something interesting, young women’s reported experiences are comparable to young men’s.
“Young Lebanese are equally divided in their preference for working for government or business — 44% vs. 43%, respectively.”
Libya

The current survey was conducted with Libyans living in Tripoli, Benghazi, and Al Kufrah, who represent roughly half of the country’s adult population. Two-thirds of young Libyans surveyed have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs — an encouraging sign for business development in the private sector. However, fewer than one-fifth say it is easy to obtain a loan or to complete the paperwork to start a business. Emigration is another challenge to economic growth; more than one-third of young Libyans surveyed say they would move permanently to another country given the opportunity.

Sixty-two percent of young Libyans surveyed are satisfied with their standard of living. Just 13% say they had trouble paying for food at some point in the past year, while 8% say they had trouble paying for shelter.

However, the young Libyans surveyed are much less content with the job markets in their communities. Twenty-one percent are satisfied with the availability of good job opportunities in their city or area, while 43% are dissatisfied and 36% say they don’t know. Young men are more likely than young women to be dissatisfied with local job opportunities — 50% vs. 35%, respectively.

Overall, 23% of young Libyans surveyed say they are employed full time, with an additional 10% employed part time. However, most of those aged 15 to 22 are students.

Among young Libyans surveyed who are beyond typical school age — those aged 23 to 29 — one-third (33%) say they are employed full time, with men (45%) more than twice as likely as women (20%) to say this.

Overall life evaluations among young Libyans in the study are relatively pessimistic. The categories below combine respondents’ ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. Overall, just 14% of those surveyed give ratings high enough to classify them as “thriving” — but young men (18%) are almost twice as likely as young women (10%) to fall into this category. However, the young Libyans surveyed are also less likely to fall into the lowest category — “suffering” — than young people in several neighboring Arab countries.

Figure 1. Employment Status

Among young Libyans surveyed who are beyond typical school age — those aged 23 to 29 — one-third (33%) say they are employed full time, with men (45%) more than twice as likely as women (20%) to say this.

Overall life evaluations among young Libyans in the study are relatively pessimistic. The categories below combine respondents' ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. Overall, just 14% of those surveyed give ratings high enough to classify them as “thriving” — but young men (18%) are almost twice as likely as young women (10%) to fall into this category. However, the young Libyans surveyed are also less likely to fall into the lowest category — “suffering” — than young people in several neighboring Arab countries.

Figure 2. Life Evaluation Among Young Libyans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thriving</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struggling</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffering</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Employment Status

- Student
- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Not in the workforce, nor a student
Silatech Index results from the current wave reveal that young Libyans are more optimistic in the areas of Mindset and Policy than they are about Access. This suggests a focus on barriers to entry in the private sector — such as lack of financial capital or knowledge about how to register a business — may be particularly important.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mindset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mindset**

Of a wide range of variables tested for their relationships to the Mindset Index, the most predictive was young Libyans’ belief that regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or a better one. Overall, 78% of young Libyans surveyed believe this is the case, while 10% disagree and 12% say they don’t know.

This finding suggests greater focus on the availability of training programs targeted to specific industries or job categories is likely to improve young Libyans’ perceptions that society values their potential.

Two other variables turn up as particularly predictive of Mindset Index scores among young Libyans surveyed: 1) the belief that it is easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business, and 2) the feeling that they were treated with respect the previous day.

**Access**

Job satisfaction is the variable most predictive of scores on the Access Index among young Libyans surveyed. Thus, it is not just having a job that most influences perceptions of access to economic opportunity, but having a *good* job. This idea is also supported by the finding that Access scores are significantly related to their satisfaction with “the availability of good job opportunities” in their communities.

Also predictive of higher scores on the Access Index is young Libyans’ perception that business owners can trust the government will allow their businesses to make a lot of money. Currently, 41% of young people say this is the case, while 19% don’t think so and 40% say they don’t know or do not respond. This uncertainty among many young Libyans may suggest an opportunity for the government to encourage private sector development by reassuring potential entrepreneurs their businesses can be profitable.

**Policy**

In Libya, the variable that best predicts higher Policy Index scores is the perception that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business. This finding underscores the critical role of the Libyan Economic Development Board (LEDB) in streamlining the licensing process and advising potential entrepreneurs.
Ongoing government efforts to promote economic reform reflect recognition of the need to harness educated young Libyans’ human capital. In 2007, the Libyan government established the LEBD, whose mission is to promote business growth and lower barriers to entrepreneurship.

One strategy for doing this is the expansion of job placement services as a vital link between employers and those seeking work. Overall, 41% of young Libyans surveyed say they are aware of services or organizations that help people find jobs. Among those who are aware of such services, one in three (34%) say they have used them.

Young Libyans in the three cities studied were also asked a series of questions about what they would be willing to do if they had been looking for work for more than six months. About 6 in 10 (59%) say they would be willing to take a job beneath their academic credentials or skill level, and the same proportion say they would be willing to retrain in a different career field. Two-thirds (66%) say they would be willing to start their own businesses.

Correspondingly, two-thirds of young Libyans surveyed also say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, while just 8% have an unfavorable opinion and 26% say they don’t know or do not respond. Young men (72%) are more likely than young women (60%) to say they have a favorable opinion.

Almost one-quarter of young Libyans surveyed (23%) say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. Moreover, the intent to start businesses may be less often driven by necessity in Libya than in many neighboring countries. In fact, among young Libyans surveyed, those who say they plan to start a business are more likely to be satisfied with their current standard of living than those who have no plans to start a business. This suggests many are motivated by ideas of perceived opportunities rather than a lack of other options for earning a living.

However, fewer than one in five young Libyans surveyed believe it is easy to obtain a loan (19%) or complete the necessary paperwork (18%) to start a business. Though, a majority (56%) do believe business owners can trust their assets and property to be safe at all times. Half (51%) agree that business owners can be confident they will be able to find hardworking and qualified employees.

Promoting the perception that all obstacles to business ownership can be overcome and that Libya’s economic future looks bright maybe important in convincing young people to take chances on new endeavors. Optimism about the future is strongly related to entrepreneurial intent among the young Libyans surveyed. When asked to rate their lives using a ladder scale, where 0 means the worst possible life for them and 10 means the best possible life, 37% of young entrepreneurial Libyans assess their lives five years in the future as a 9 or 10, compared with 21% of those who do not plan to start a business.
As noted earlier, the current survey was conducted with Libyans living in Tripoli and Benghazi — both on the Mediterranean coast — as well as Al Kufrah further south. Among young Libyans in these cities, 37% say they would move permanently to another country given the opportunity, while half (50%) say they would prefer to stay in Libya. Young men are significantly more likely than young women to express the desire to emigrate.

**Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% who desire to leave their country permanently</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Libya’s major ports have made the country a transit point for Africans from many other countries hoping to cross into southern Europe. However, among young Libyans surveyed who say they would like to emigrate, most name the UAE (31%) and Saudi Arabia (25%) as their top destination choices. About 1 in 10 name Kuwait (11%) and the United States (11%).

As in most countries, the desire to emigrate is strongly associated with quality of life perceptions. Forty-nine percent of young Libyans surveyed who are dissatisfied with their standard of living would like to emigrate, versus 29% of those who are satisfied. Similarly, 45% of those who are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities in their area say they would like to move away permanently, versus 33% of those who are satisfied with local job opportunities.

Respondents who say they would like to emigrate were also asked about the most important change that would need to occur for them to stay in the country. Among young Libyans surveyed, 30% say they would need to find better jobs, while 28% say they would need to see improvements in the country’s economy.

The desire to emigrate is also related to young Libyans’ satisfaction with several elements of the country’s infrastructure, including public transportation, roads and highways, and the quality of water. However, the strongest relationship concerns the country’s education system: 52% of young Libyans who are dissatisfied with the schools in their communities say they would like to move away permanently, versus 30% of those who are satisfied.

Young Libyans were also asked a series of questions gauging attitudes toward their local communities. A majority (69%) say they are generally satisfied with the city or area where they live, but fewer (48%) say they would recommend it to a friend or associate. One in four young Libyans (25%) living in the three cities studied say they are likely to move away from their city or area in the next 12 months, while 45% say they are unlikely to move and 30% don’t know or do not offer a response. Young men are more than twice as likely as young women to say they will probably move away — 34% vs. 16%, respectively.
On a variety of indicators, young Libyan women included in the survey tend to be less optimistic than young men. As noted earlier, young Libyan women are less likely than young men to give high overall ratings to their current and future lives (that is, to be “thriving”). This difference is particularly notable with regard to ratings of their lives five years in the future. Using a scale from 0 to 10, 46% of young men chose one of the top three scale points, compared with 34% of young women.

Young Libyan women surveyed are also less likely than young men to respond positively to several of the survey’s questions about day-to-day wellbeing. They are less likely than young men to say they felt well-rested the previous day (63% vs. 76%) and to say they had enough energy to get things done (64% vs. 73%). Young women are also more likely than young men to say they experienced stress for much of the previous day (33% vs. 22%). However, the young women surveyed were just as likely as the young men to say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day (58% vs. 59%), and that they experienced happiness for much of the day (56% vs. 58%).

Young women in Libya also appear somewhat less optimistic than young men about the prospects facing young workers in the country. The young women surveyed are less likely than young men to believe people in Libya can get ahead by working hard (64% vs. 77%). They are also less likely than young men to believe the country’s leadership maximizes the potential of its youth.

Among Libyans aged 23 to 29 included in the survey—that is, young adults beyond typical school age—men (45%) are more than twice as likely as women (20%) to have full time jobs.

Beyond traditional gender roles, a number of possible factors may affect this difference. Access to job-related information may be more readily available to young men than young women. As noted earlier, 41% of young Libyans surveyed say they are aware of job placement services. However, there may be a need to promote such services more effectively among women; one-third of young women (34%) are aware of them, versus half (49%) of young men.

Young Libyan women may also be more selective than young men when considering the types of jobs they would accept. Two-thirds (68%) of men surveyed between the ages of 23 and 29 say they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level; 51% of women in that age range say the same. Also, 68% of women aged 23 to 29 in the study say that when considering a job or career, the impact on the environment of the work they would do is very important to them; among men in this age range, 20% say the same.

**Figure 6. Human Capital**
Forty-one percent of young Libyans surveyed say they are aware of services and organizations that help people find jobs.
MAURITANIA

Mauritania has undertaken numerous economic and policy changes since 2005, leading the country’s moderate economic growth in certain sectors including mining, oil, and telecom. However, Mauritania remains one of the poorest countries in the world, and the majority of young people report minimal access to life necessities and meaningful employment. Taken together, these deficits contribute to low wellbeing among young people.

In Mauritania, where most of the population is engaged in non-formal employment, 16% of young people aged 15 to 29 say they have full-time work although among those aged 23 to 29, 32% say they work full time. Forty-three percent of young people say they are still in school.

With so few engaged in full-time, gainful employment, many young Mauritanians struggle at times to buy food and pay for shelter. Nearly 4 in 10 say there have been times in the past 12 months when they could not afford food and 29% say the same about shelter. Healthcare is also an issue, with 74% of young Mauritanians reporting that they are dissatisfied with the availability of quality healthcare.

Mauritania lacks the basic infrastructure necessary for economic growth and to expand employment. Majorities of young Mauritians are dissatisfied with roads (65%) and public transportation (68%) in their country.

Additionally, with electricity concentrated mainly in urban areas, very few young people report having access to certain basic means of communication. Half of young people say their homes have a television and just 6% report having Internet access. Cell phone penetration, however, is much higher, with 71% of young Mauritians reporting that they have cell phones in their homes.

The thriving/struggling/suffering categories above combine young Mauritians’ ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. The high prevalence of negative life ratings among young men and women in Mauritania reflect the employment situation and lack of basic access; large majorities of both men and women say they are “struggling.”
Of the three Silatech Indexes, Mauritania does best on Mindset and Policy. Mauritania’s Access score, however, is relatively low, reflecting a profound lack of employment resources and basic frameworks for business development.

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<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
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It is important to note that the Mindset, Access, and Policy Index scores in Mauritania have each consistently increased across three waves of data collection.

**Mindset**

Analysis of a wide variety of measures reveals that in Mauritania, a high Mindset score is most strongly related to young people’s belief that job training increases a person’s chances of getting a job or a better job.

A second driver of high Mindset is the perception that children in Mauritania are treated with respect and dignity. While 66% of young Mauritanians believe this to be true, nearly one-third (31%) say it is not, meaning improvements on this item could have a significant effect on the overall Mindset score.

**Access**

Of all measures tested, young Mauritanians’ views toward economic conditions in their country are the strongest predictor of high Access scores. This is a significant issue as 72% of young people say current economic conditions are “only fair” or “poor” and 23% say they are “good” or “excellent.”

Also strongly related to high Access scores is trust that the government would allow a business to be very profitable, a key metric to stimulate entrepreneurship. While a majority (59%) of young people trust that the government would let their business make a lot of money, 29% do not, highlighting one potential barrier to entrepreneurial activity in the country.

**Policy**

The item most predictive of a high Policy Index score is the belief that children are treated with dignity and respect. As it is also strongly tied to high Mindset scores, it will be an important issue to address to drive change and growth in Mauritania.

Satisfaction with one’s standard of living is another key driver of high Policy scores. About half of young Mauritanians are satisfied with their standard of living, while 48% are not. Looking ahead, 55% of young people believe their standard of living is getting better, but another 44% say it is staying the same or getting worse. Improvement in young Mauritanians’ perceptions of the current and future direction of their standard of living will drive the Policy Index score higher and reflect meaningful changes in economic and job market opportunities in the country.
Employment in Mauritania is largely informal and concentrated in the agriculture, fishing, and mining-related sectors. Young people who are employed full time are most likely to report they are sales workers (21%), service workers (19%), or farming/fishing/forestry industry workers (18%).

One-quarter of young Mauritanians report that they are not in the workforce, meaning that they are not students and not employed full or part time.

Young people’s views regarding the job market reflect the dearth of job opportunities in Mauritania. Nearly half of young Mauritanians say it a bad time to find a job in the area where they live, and 72% are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities. Another 66% are dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.

Either in spite of or because of the current job climate, 24% of young Mauritanians say they are planning to start their own business in the next 12 months. However, among those aged 23 to 29 (who are less likely to be in school) the proportion of those who plan to start a business rises to 38%.

While one-quarter of young Mauritanians express entrepreneurial desires, the large majority of aspiring business owners are driven more by economic necessity than by opportunity. Forty-eight percent of budding entrepreneurs say it is either difficult or very difficult for them to get by on their present income. The findings also reveal that young Mauritanians who only have an elementary level of education are more likely to say they plan to start a business (29%) than are those who have completed up to a secondary level of schooling (17%). This underscores that entrepreneurship is more likely to be out of financial necessity in Mauritania.

Regardless of the reason young people want to open a business, there are significant perceived roadblocks to fulfilling their goal. One-quarter or less of young aspiring entrepreneurs in Mauritania think it is easy enough to get a loan and to deal with the paperwork involved in starting a business.

Whether wanting to start a business or simply seeking a job in the current market, young Mauritanians believe they lack the job services and training that could help them reach their goals. Two in 10 (18%) young Mauritanians say they are aware of job placement services, and of those who are aware of such services, about one-third report having used them. Young Mauritanians are open to job training, with 73% saying they believe such training increases a person’s chances of getting a job or a better one; 61% would be willing to retrain for a different career if unemployed for more than six months.
Forty-two percent of young Mauritanians express the desire to leave their country permanently. Young men are slightly more likely than young women to desire to emigrate, 48% vs. 36%.

Young Mauritanians who have an elementary education or less or at least some secondary education are equally likely to desire to emigrate. Additionally, young people who are employed full or part time, those who are in school, and those who are neither in the workforce nor in school are all equally likely to desire to leave permanently, highlighting the pervasive effects of conditions in the country.

**Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education**

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<th>% who desire to leave their country permanently</th>
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*Sample size too small to report results.

Young people who hold negative views of the economy in their communities (50%) are significantly more likely to want to emigrate than are those who perceive it to be good (29%). The same emigration-desire pattern is observed when young people discuss their views of national economic conditions. Sixty-five percent of young Mauritanians who rate the country’s economy as poor want to leave versus 31% of those who rate it as good.

Similarly, those who are discontent with their standard of living express a greater desire to emigrate than do young people who express satisfaction. More than half (59%) of young Mauritanians who say their standard of living is getting worse want to leave versus 36% of those who believe it is getting better.

Along with views on the economy, young people are also driven to leave the country because of the job market. Fifty-five percent of young Mauritanians who say now is a bad time to find a job in their communities want to emigrate versus 28% of those who say it is a good time.

Another key factor related to young Mauritanians’ desire to emigrate is how they feel about their ability to advance themselves. Young people who believe working hard doesn’t pay off in their country (60%) are significantly more likely to want to leave than are those who think hard work can get them ahead in Mauritania (37%). And half of young Mauritanians who say children do not have an opportunity to learn and grow want to emigrate versus 32% among those who say the opposite.

The third driver of emigration desires are negative views toward the environment for entrepreneurs. Forty-five percent of young Mauritanians who don’t think the government makes it easy to complete the paperwork and permits required to start a business want to leave versus 28% who say the process is easy enough. Additionally, half or more of young people who believe that their assets would not be safe and that their business would not be allowed to make a lot of money express the desire to leave Mauritania.
Young women are just as likely as young men to suffer from the effects of widespread poverty. And while the former are slightly less likely than the latter to be employed, they are equally educated and just as eager as young men to do whatever it takes to get a job.

In terms of employment, fewer young women than men report having a full-time job, 10% vs. 23%, respectively. And more young women than men say they are not in the workforce or in school, 31% vs. 17%, although many women may be choosing not to work.

At the same time, young women and men are equally likely to report that they are in school. In fact, just as many young women as young men have completed a secondary level of education. This gender equality in education is reflected in the large majority of young men and women who say boys and girls should have equal access to education, although young women (98%) are more likely than men (82%) to say this. Additionally, young men (82%) are as likely as young women (80%) to say women are treated with respect in Mauritania.

Reflecting the lack of available employment, majorities of young people express a willingness to make significant life changes to get a job. Half or more of young Mauritanian women say that if unemployed for more than six months they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level, retrain for a different career, or relocate to a different city; these views are shared by the same number of young men.

Young women are as likely as young men to express business creation intentions. Approximately one-quarter of young women and young men say they are planning to start a business in the next 12 months. However, young women are also just as likely as young men to perceive barriers to entrepreneurship, including paperwork and permits involved in starting a business, safety of business assets, and the government not allowing businesses to be profitable.

Despite being just as entrepreneurial as young men, young women are significantly more likely than men to say they would prefer to work for the government, 51% vs. 35%.

![Social and Economic Initiative](image)

Young women are also equally engaged in civic activities, including volunteering and donating money, as are young men, though both groups participate in such initiatives at relatively low levels. In addition, one-third of young women and men believe the leadership in their country maximizes the potential of youth.

Young men and women in Mauritania, while wanting for some of life’s basic necessities, also need work and are willing and able to contribute to their society.
Young Mauritanians who believe hard work does not pay off (60%) in their country are significantly more likely to wish to emigrate than are those who think people can get ahead through hard work (37%).
MOROCCO

According to survey results, Morocco faces challenges including persistently high unemployment and a need to improve young Moroccans’ satisfaction with the country’s education system. By staying focused on such challenges, young Moroccans’ perceptions may improve, especially with respect to entrepreneurship and desire to emigrate. A relatively small percentage of young Moroccans intend to start a business in the next year, while a more substantial proportion say they would move permanently to another country given the opportunity.

Currently, 29% of young Moroccans say they are employed full time, while 6% report being employed part time.

![Employment Status](image)

Less than half of young Moroccans are satisfied with the availability of good job opportunities in their area (36%), or with government efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in the country (41%).

Morocco’s education system has improved substantially in recent years, but enrollment and literacy rates remain low for the region. Young Moroccans themselves see a need to continue improving education for the country’s children — 44% are satisfied with the schools in their area, while 55% are not. Moreover, only a slight majority of young Moroccans (53%) believe children in the country have the opportunity to learn and grow every day.

Most young Moroccans are not particularly optimistic about the quality of their lives overall. The three categories in the graph below combine Moroccans’ ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. The results place 80% of young Moroccans in the “struggling” category. Ten percent give ratings high enough to classify them as “thriving,” while an additional 10% give ratings so low they are considered “suffering.” Life evaluations are similar among young men and young women in Morocco.

![Life Evaluation Among Young Moroccans](image)

However, young Moroccans tend to give more positive responses regarding their day-to-day emotional wellbeing. About three-quarters of young Moroccans say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day (76%), and that they experienced a lot of happiness (72%) and high energy (73%) for much of the day.
Several questions included in the Policy Index were not asked during the current wave in Morocco, so current scores are available for the Mindset and Access Indexes only.

Young Moroccans are more upbeat about societal values regarding the contributions of young people, as represented by the Mindset Index, than they are about actual access to economic opportunities, as represented by the Access Index. However, the country’s current Mindset Index score has declined somewhat since the first half of 2009.

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**Mindset**

Of the range of variables tested, the most predictive of higher Mindset scores is the perception, held by 89% of young Moroccans, that job training increases people’s ability to get a job or a better job. This may reflect a mismatch between the skills and knowledge young people typically attain in school, and the types of jobs available to them once they graduate.

Young Moroccans’ satisfaction with the availability of good jobs is another significant predictor of higher Mindset Index scores. Thus, while expanding training for jobs that are currently available may improve perceptions in this area, government support for job creation and new business initiatives is also a crucial factor.

Finally, Mindset Index scores are significantly related to young Moroccans’ belief that women in the country are treated with dignity and respect. This finding implies that changing young people’s perceptions of how well a society recognizes and fosters their potential contributions relies not just on expanding opportunities for young Moroccan men, but for all young people in the country.

**Access**

The variable most predictive of better Access Index scores is young Moroccans’ ratings of current economic conditions in the country. This finding suggests that economic optimism supports young people’s perception that they will be able to acquire and retain the resources needed to start a business and create jobs. It is likely that perceptions of access to opportunity also help improve young Moroccans’ overall assessment of the country’s economy.
Morocco has made strong economic progress in recent years, posting GDP growth of over 5% in 2008 and 2009. That has allowed the country to reduce the poverty rate and improve living standards for most Moroccans. About two-thirds of young Moroccans (68%) say they are satisfied with their standard of living, and 62% say their standard of living is getting better.

Nevertheless, as noted earlier, demand for jobs has continued to outpace supply, in part because of Morocco’s demographic youth bulge, but also because more women have been trying to join the labor force. Thirty-one percent of young Moroccans who are not employed say they have been actively looking for work in the past four weeks, including 37% of young men and 27% of young women.

Young Moroccans answered a series of questions about what they would be willing to do if they had been looking for work for more than six months. More than half say they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level (56%), or to retrain for a different career (56%). However, 86% of young Moroccans say they would be willing to start their own business, with young men (87%) and young women (86%) responding similarly on this question.

The willingness to create a business reflects a generally positive view of entrepreneurship in Moroccan society. Sixty-five percent of young Moroccans say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, while 19% have an unfavorable opinion. One-third of young Moroccans (34%) say they have thought about starting a business, with young men (42%) more likely than young women (26%) to say so.

However, just 12% of young people say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, with results similar among young men (13%) and young women (11%).

Perceived administrative barriers may discourage some young Moroccans who have considered starting a business from actually making plans to do so. Forty-six percent believe the government makes the necessary paperwork to start a business easy, and 41% believe it is easy to obtain a loan.

Aspiring entrepreneurs are more optimistic about the prospects for business owners once they overcome those initial hurdles. About three-quarters say business owners can trust that their assets and property will be safe at all times, and that they will be able to find qualified labor when they need it.

Most aspiring entrepreneurs (84%) also say there is someone outside their family whom they could trust as a business partner. Civil society organizations have proliferated in recent years, giving young Moroccans more opportunities to be engaged in their communities and develop social networks. Those who say they aspire to start a business are more likely to have donated to a community organization than young Moroccans in general (80% vs. 67%, respectively). However, just 8% among both groups say they have volunteered time.
More than one-third of young Moroccans (37%) say they would move permanently to another country given the opportunity. Young men are significantly more likely than young women to say they would like to emigrate (46% vs. 30%, respectively).

The findings also indicate that 39% of young Moroccans with a primary education or less would like to emigrate, as would 36% of those with a secondary-level education. (The sample size for college-level graduates is too small to report results for that group.)

**Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education**

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*Sample size too small to report results.

Young Moroccans with an elementary level of education or less are as likely as those who have completed secondary education to wish to emigrate.

The desire to emigrate is significantly related to young people’s perceptions of the quality of the education they receive. Forty-two percent of those who are dissatisfied with the schools in their area say they would like to move away given the opportunity, compared with 33% of those who are satisfied.

The finding that so many Moroccan students aspire to emigrate highlights the problem that substantial public resources devoted to education are being lost on students who seek to move away after graduation.

Young Moroccans who would like to emigrate are most likely to name France (24%) or Spain (22%) as their preferred destination. An additional 17% choose Italy, 9% choose Canada, and 7% choose the United States as their top emigration spots.

Young Moroccans’ desires to emigrate are related to quality of life issues. Forty-nine percent of young Moroccans who are dissatisfied with their standard of living would like to move away permanently, compared with 31% of those who are satisfied. Similarly, 43% of those who are dissatisfied with efforts to improve the number and quality of jobs would like to emigrate, compared with 30% of those who are satisfied.

When those who wish to emigrate are asked to name the most important change that makes them want to stay in Morocco, 62% cite the ability to get a job or a better one. An additional 23% say they would have to see improvements in the country’s economy.

Young Moroccans also answered whether or not they are likely to move away from their city or area within the next 12 months. Overall, 27% say they are likely to move, with young men (32%) more likely than young women (23%) to respond this way.

As with emigration from the country, many young Moroccans are undoubtedly motivated to leave their communities by the lack of job opportunities. Though two-thirds of young Moroccans (66%) say they are satisfied with the city or area where they live, just one-third (34%) say it is a good time to find a job there.
The Moroccan government’s steady pursuit of human development and political liberalization over the past 20 years has encouraged social and economic reform in a number of areas, including gender equality. One landmark achievement was the passage of a new family law in January 2004, which strengthened women’s rights in the areas of divorce and child custody and raised the legal marriage age to 18.

Social changes in Morocco have also led to greater gender equality in education. International statistics indicate that adult women still lag significantly behind men in terms of literacy, but that primary and secondary school attendance rates are similar among boys and girls. The vast majority of young women (90%) and young men (86%) in Morocco say boys and girls should have equal access to education.

Moroccan women have also been increasingly likely to seek formal employment in recent years. However, young Moroccan women remain about half as likely as young men to say they have full-time jobs (18% vs. 40%, respectively). More than half of the country’s young women (56%) say they are not in the workforce and not students, compared with 22% of men.

These differences are accounted for in large part by traditional gender roles; many Moroccan women say they do not work because they are homemakers or have family responsibilities. However, young women may also be less prepared than young men to identify available avenues of opportunity. Forty percent of young women say they are aware of services or organizations that help people find jobs, compared with 51% of young men.

Young women and young men in Morocco respond similarly to two questions about community engagement. Despite the development of a vibrant civil society over the last two decades, fewer than 1 in 10 young women (8%) and young men (7%) say they have volunteered time to an organization in the past month. However, both young women (69%) and young men (68%) are far more likely to say they have donated money to an organization during that time. This may reflect young Moroccans’ adherence to religious obligation, as charitable giving is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Emotional wellbeing is another area in which young Moroccan women give responses similar to those of young men. For example, 74% of young women say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day, compared with 77% of young men. Seventy-one percent of young women and 76% of young men say they experienced high levels of energy for much of that day.

About two-thirds of young Moroccans (64%) say women in the country are treated with respect and dignity, while 35% disagree. Young women (63%) and young men (65%) are similarly likely to feel that women are treated with respect.
In Morocco, 42% of those who are dissatisfied with the schools in their area say they would like to move away permanently versus 33% of those who are satisfied.
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

The economy of the Palestinian Territories — always tenuous at best — is still struggling to recover from the sharp contraction that occurred in the first few years of the second intifada, beginning in September 2000. However, since an internal Fatah-Hamas rift erupted in 2007, the economic narrative has largely been a “tale of two cities.” The economy and infrastructure of the Hamas-led Gaza Strip has been further hampered by an Israeli blockade and military assaults, while the West Bank is slowly benefiting from an influx of international aid as well as private investment.

Despite some positive developments in the West Bank, the collective picture of economic opportunity across the Palestinian Territories is highly negative. Eighty-four percent of young people aged 15 to 29 describe economic conditions as “only fair” or “poor,” and 87% say it is a bad time to get a job in their area. The psychological climate is also challenging. Forty percent of young people say they experienced worry yesterday, 27% experienced depression, and 38% experienced anger.

Only 15% of all young people are employed full time, and another 5% work part time. However, there are major gender and age imbalances. With the majority of young men and women aged 15 to 22 identifying as “students,” only a quarter of young men in this age bracket, and a mere 2% of young women, are employed. Among those aged 23 to 29, 59% of men are employed versus 15% of women; however, 35% of this older male group is still not employed or in school.

The vast majority of young people are “struggling,” according to a life evaluation index that takes into account young Palestinians’ ratings of their current lives as well as their forecast for their lives five years hence. Nearly as many young people are suffering as thriving.

With greater responsibility for providing a living appearing to fall on Palestinian men than women, young men are relatively eager to seize opportunities such as moving abroad, going abroad for temporary work, and starting their own business. Focusing job training and job placement efforts on this group could be particularly effective. And as economic conditions improve, a large pool of well-educated young women is available to be tapped as well.
While all three Silatech Index scores are subdued in the Palestinian Territories, the Access score is strikingly low, highlighting the profound structural and economic problems that stifle entrepreneurial aspirations. By contrast, the relatively high Mindset score seems to speak to the resiliency of young Palestinians.

Although the Mindset and Access Index scores have improved slightly since 2009, the Policy Index score remains essentially unchanged.

### Silatech Index Scores

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### Mindset

The most important contributor to the Mindset Index is the perception that leadership is maximizing youth potential. This suggests that, consciously or unconsciously, young Palestinians perceive that appreciation for the contributions youth can make is a marker for the vitality of the country more generally. Relatedly, the feeling that one is treated with respect is also important, although 90% of young people report they did feel respected the day before taking the survey. Another strong predictor of Mindset is believing that one’s property and other assets are safe — an area of considerable difficulty in the Palestinian Territories given the regional unrest and military conflict. One-third of young Palestinians trust that their assets and property are safe, unchanged from 2009. The analysis suggests that raising Palestinian youth’s confidence on each of these dimensions would create more fertile conditions for young would-be Palestinian entrepreneurs to take action.

### Access

Young Palestinians’ rating of economic conditions is by far the strongest predictor of their Access scores. With only 16% of young people rating the economy as “excellent” or “good,” it is clear why the Access Index is as low as it is. Secondarily, the perception that government allows businesses to make a lot of money is also significantly predictive. Just 38% of young people, including 39% of aspiring entrepreneurs, believe this is the case. Young Palestinians who strongly agree with the statement “faith is involved in every aspect of my life” — 40% of this age group versus 47% of young people 30 and older — are much more likely to score positively on the Access Index than those who rate their faith as less important.

### Policy

Four variables emerge as the leading predictors of the Policy Index, with the perception that women are treated with respect being the most important. Another is the perception that children are treated with respect — perhaps signifying that when young Palestinians believe the most vulnerable among them are respected, it creates a broader sense of national wellbeing. Having someone outside their family whom they would trust as a business partner and being satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs are also key drivers of the Policy Index.
Uncertainty can be a strong deterrent to the kind of economic risk-taking involved in launching a business. In the Palestinian Territories uncertainty is not the issue — rather, it is the apparent certainty that the future is bleak. This may explain why only 14% of young Palestinians — 20% of men and 8% of women — plan to start their own business in the next 12 months.

Close to two-thirds of young aspiring entrepreneurs and non-entrepreneurs alike believe the Palestinian economy is getting worse. Both groups have a highly negative view of the job market, and of economic conditions more broadly.

Budding young entrepreneurs are also similar to non-entrepreneurs in their personal financial situation. More than 60% of both groups find it difficult or very difficult to get by on their present income; less than 10% are living comfortably.

Aside from gender, what most distinguishes would-be entrepreneurs from others is their greater willingness to take risks, generally. They are much more likely than young Palestinians who don’t want to launch a business to say that, if unemployed long-term, they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level (75% vs. 52%), start their own business (76% vs. 50%), relocate within the Palestinian Territories (61% vs. 44%), or relocate to another country (51% vs. 38%). Perhaps related to this, 61% of young aspiring entrepreneurs, compared with 49% of those who have no business creation intentions, are satisfied with their own freedom in life.

Aspiring entrepreneurs also seem to have greater social connections. Sixty-eight percent, compared with 54% of young Palestinians who don’t plan to start a business, say they know someone other than a family member they would trust as a business partner. They are much more likely than non-entrepreneurial young Palestinians — 57% vs. 39% — to report having helped a stranger in the past month.

Perceptions about structural obstacles to doing business do not seem to be a major factor in fostering entrepreneurship. Young Palestinians who plan to start a business in the next 12 months are more likely than those who have no such plans to believe government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for businesses (40% vs. 26%), but they have similar views about the ability to obtain business loans, the safety of assets and property, and the opportunity to make money.

Despite the many problems stifling the West Bank and Gaza economies, 46% of all young Palestinians still say the country is a good place for entrepreneurs and 66% say people can get ahead by hard work. Given the choice, about half would opt for a government job, but a sizeable minority (26%) say they would prefer working for a business. More than half say the environmental impact of the work they do is very important to their job decision.

In addition to a large proportion of young Palestinians being unable to find work, many don’t feel fulfilled. At 63%, the percentage of young workers who are satisfied with their job leaves significant room for improvement. Furthermore, 44% consider what they do to be their “ideal job.”
Nearly one in three young Palestinians would, if given the opportunity, like to move permanently to another country — almost double the percentage of adults aged 30 and older (32% vs. 17%).

At every age level, the desire to emigrate is also twice as high among men versus women, registering at 43% among young men aged 15 to 29.

Partly reflecting the preponderance of young men among potential emigrants, this group is slightly more likely to be employed and less likely to be out of the workforce or in school than are those who don’t want to emigrate, although 4 in 10 of both groups are students. In other words, lack of employment does not directly drive the desire to emigrate. However, the drive to seek greater opportunity does relate, as 43% of those who plan to start their own business would emigrate, versus 30% of those who do not express business creation aspirations.

The desire to emigrate is not related to one’s level of formal schooling. Nevertheless, at 37%, the percentage of young Palestinians who have completed four years of college-level education and would like to leave the Palestinian Territories represents a significant risk for brain drain.

**Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education**

There is no clear relationship between formal educational attainment and young Palestinians’ desire to leave the country permanently.

While local economic concerns, such as dissatisfaction with the availability of good job opportunities and negative perceptions about the local economy, are moderately related to the desire to emigrate, some emotional and political factors are stronger. Forty-one percent of young people who say they did not smile or laugh a lot the day before want to emigrate. This contrasts with 24% of those who did experience these positive emotions. Conversely, 41% of those who worried “yesterday” desire to emigrate versus 27% who did not worry.

Dissatisfaction with one’s city (43%), perception of widespread government corruption (39%), and disapproval of the country’s leadership (38%) are all associated with relatively high levels of desire to permanently leave the country.

Still, when asked what it would take to cause them to stay rather than emigrate, young people are most likely to cite economic factors: 35% would need a job — or a better job than they now have — and 33% would look for improvements in the economy. A combined 17% cite improvements in the political arena, including more freedom and less emphasis on needing connections to find a job.

Of potential emigrants aged 15 to 29, 20% would like to move to the United Arab Emirates and 12% would like to move to the United States. An additional 28% would move elsewhere in the Middle East, and 27% would move to a country in Europe.

In more immediate terms, one in five young Palestinians say they are likely to move away from the city or area where they now live in the next 12 months. Similar to the profile of those who would leave the country permanently, this intention is more common among young men than young women (24% vs. 15%).
Young Palestinians broadly agree with one of the fundamental tenets of gender equality — that boys and girls deserve equal access to education. And despite small segments of young men (14%) and women (6%) disagreeing with this, there is, in fact, a high degree of equality in educational outcomes in the Palestinian Territories. Similar percentages of young men and women aged 15 to 29 (more than 80% each) have completed at least their secondary education; 5% of young men and 7% of young women have completed four years of college-level education.

At the same time, young men and women differ markedly in their employment and marital situations. Young women aged 15 to 29 are twice as likely as young men to be married (39% vs. 16%) and, among young people aged 23 to 29, more than two-thirds of women are married versus fewer than half of men.

Reflecting this core lifestyle difference, young women are far less likely than young men to be employed either full or part time (7% vs. 33%) and are much more likely to say they are not in the workforce or in school (51% vs. 24%). These differences are magnified among 23- to 29-year-old Palestinians, when the life paths of men and women sharply diverge following their school years. Among young men aged 23 to 29, 59% are employed and 35% are out of the workforce and school (either by choice or because of unemployment). By contrast, only 15% of young women in this age bracket are employed while 77% are out of the workforce and school.

Underscoring this issue, 40% of young women who do not currently have a job, including 72% of those aged 23 to 29, say the reason they are not employed is because they are homemakers. Additionally, just 7% of young women not in the workforce or in school (compared with 24% of young men) are actively looking for work.

Within this context it is clear why young women would be far less likely than young men to want to start their own business, or to retrain or relocate to find work. The responsibilities of marriage may simply reduce young women’s interest in and/or ability to pursue a career, particularly given the severe shortage of jobs.

To the extent young women want to work, they are less likely than young men to identify private business as their preferred employer (20% vs. 31%, respectively). However they are more likely to say they would work for either (21% vs. 14%). About half of both genders choose government.

One of the most striking job-related differences by gender is the type of work performed by those who are employed. Young working women are heavily concentrated in professional careers, and to a lesser degree clerical jobs, whereas young men work predominantly in service and sales as well as construction and other labor jobs. This suggests that young women are less likely than young men to work for work’s sake; rather, those who work are much more likely to be on a career path.

Young men and women have equally negative perceptions about the Palestinian economy and job climate. They also report similar daily emotional experiences, such as worry, sadness, stress, anger, and happiness. However, in addition to young women being less likely than young men to plan on starting their own business in the next year, they are somewhat less likely to be civically engaged, as seen by the slightly lower percentages of volunteering and donating money.
Nearly one in three young Palestinians would, if given the opportunity, like to move permanently to another country.
**QATAR**

Young Qatari are relatively satisfied with the quality of their lives and exhibit high levels of emotional wellbeing. Most are also satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in the country. However, they are less likely to believe that procedural barriers to business ownership — including securing a loan and obtaining a permit — are easy to overcome.

Half of Qatari aged 15 to 29 say they are students; however, most of them are concentrated in the lower half of that age cohort — 72% of Qatari aged 15 to 22 are students, versus 20% of those aged 23 to 29. Conversely, 35% of Qatari aged 15 to 29 say they are employed full time — but this figure rises to 61% among those aged 23 to 29.

The Qatari economy saw average growth of more than 17% between 2004 and 2008, and it continued to grow at more than 8% in 2009 despite the global economic crisis. This strong economic performance is reflected in young Qatari’s perceptions of their quality of life. Currently, more than 9 in 10 (92%) say they are satisfied with their standard of living, and 75% say it is improving.

Young Qatari are also relatively optimistic about the quality of their lives overall. The thriving/struggling/suffering categories combine young Qatari’s ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. Almost half (49%) give ratings high enough to classify them as “thriving,” while virtually all of the remainder give mid-level ratings that place them in the “struggling” category. Very few (1%) give ratings so low they are classified as “suffering.”

Young Qatari women are significantly more likely than young men to be “thriving” — 65% vs. 38%, respectively. This greater satisfaction among young women may in part reflect the recently expanding role of women in the country’s government and economic life.

In terms of emotional wellbeing, young Qatari paint a relatively positive picture. Seventy percent say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day, and a similar proportion (69%) say they experienced enjoyment for much of that day; results for both questions are similar among young men and young women. About 9 in 10 young Qatari (89%) say they were treated with respect the entire day, though young men (95%) are somewhat more likely than young women (82%) to feel this way.
The current Silatech Index scores from Qatar are based on aggregated results from two waves of interviewing in 2009. Young Qataris’ scores on all three indexes are relatively high. Of the three indexes, young Qataris’ score on the Access Index is lowest, due largely to fewer than half believing it is easy to obtain a loan or that the government makes it easy to complete the paperwork and permits necessary to start a business.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>83</td>
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**Mindset**

The variables most highly related to Mindset Index scores are young Qataris’ ratings of current economic conditions in the country and their satisfaction with their standard of living. These findings imply that economic optimism supports the perception among young people that their contributions to society are valued. This relationship likely runs both ways, with optimism about the country’s Mindset also helping to bolster young people’s assessment of economic conditions.

**Access**

The strongest predictor of higher Access Index scores among young Qataris is the belief that there is someone outside their family that they could trust as a business partner. This relationship points to the importance of community organizations and social networks that allow young Qataris to interact with a broader range of people and identify those with common interests and goals.

Qataris’ perception that entrepreneurs can trust the government to allow their businesses to make a lot of money also relates to scores on the Access Index. Sixty percent agree with this statement, while just 4% disagree — however, 36% say they do not know or do not respond.

**Policy**

Higher Policy Index scores relate to young Qataris’ perception that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business. Efforts by the government to minimize the administrative barriers facing new business owners are a strong sign of commitment to policies that support entrepreneurship.

Young Qataris’ belief that the city or area where they live is a good place for entrepreneurs also predicts higher Policy Index scores, as does the presence of someone outside their family they feel they could trust enough to go into business with.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

Young Qataris generally view the country’s employment situation positively. A majority of young Qataris (58%) say it is a good time to find a job in their communities. Two-thirds (65%) are satisfied with efforts to improve the number and quality of jobs in the country. And the vast majority (96%) believe people in Qatar can get ahead by working hard.

The Qatari government has invested considerable resources in the country’s schools, with education free for all country nationals up through the tertiary level. The majority of young Qataris (86%) are satisfied with the schools in their area. Moreover, almost all (96%) say Qatari children have the opportunity to learn and grow every day.

Given the esteem in which the country’s education system is held, Qatari schools are well-positioned to encourage entrepreneurial attitudes among students and prepare those who are interested in becoming business owners with the skills and knowledge to do so. Particularly at the college level, the development of entrepreneurship education programs may encourage more young Qataris to consider creating new private-sector enterprises.

A stronger focus on entrepreneurial education may in turn help diversify the country’s employment base; among young Qataris who are employed full or part time, two-thirds (66%) say they work for the government.

Their high level of support for job training indicates that young Qataris would value educational opportunities to equip them to address specific needs in the job market. More than 9 in 10 (94%) believe taking part in regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or a better job.

A significant proportion of young Qataris express an interest in entrepreneurship. About one in four (24%) say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. However, about half (49%) believe it is easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business in the country, and a little more than one-third (36%) believe the government makes the paperwork and permits easy enough for prospective business owners.

Young Qataris are somewhat more likely to be optimistic about the country’s labor market; 59% say business owners will be able to find hardworking and qualified employees. A stronger majority express confidence in private property protection; 81% of young Qataris say business owners can trust that their assets and property will be safe at all times.

**Figure 4. Business Climate Among Young Qataris***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% yes</th>
<th>Government makes paperwork easy enough</th>
<th>Easy to obtain a business loan</th>
<th>Trust assets will be safe at all times</th>
<th>Feel confident they will find qualified employees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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* Sample size for aspiring entrepreneurs too small to report results.

Eight in 10 young Qataris (80%) also agree that there is someone they trust enough to make their partner in starting a business — another key indicator of entrepreneurial potential.
Young Qataris, for the most part, express widespread satisfaction with their communities. Ninety-five percent say they are satisfied with the city or area in which they live, and 88% say they would recommend it to a friend or colleague as a place to live. Thus, it is no surprise that just 13% of young Qataris overall say they are likely to move away from their city or area in the next 12 months.

There is a significant gender difference in these responses, with 20% of young Qatari women saying they are likely to move away in the next 12 months, versus just 7% of young men. Perceptions of local job opportunities are a likely factor in the difference — while about two-thirds of young men (67%) say it is a good time to find a job in their area, fewer than one-half of young women (48%) agree.

Several key attributes help explain Qataris’ widespread overall community satisfaction. As noted earlier, 86% of young Qataris say they are satisfied with the schools in their area, and a similar proportion (84%) say they are satisfied with the availability of quality healthcare. Satisfaction with public transportation, roads and highways, and the availability of good affordable housing is somewhat less prevalent, though a majority of young Qataris are satisfied with each.

Majorities of young Qataris also indicate they are satisfied with environmental conditions in their city or area, including the quality of air (82%) and the quality of water (74%).

Reflecting Qatar’s status as a receiving country for migrants rather than a sending country, 71% of young Qataris view their communities as good places for immigrants. However, a lower proportion (52%) say their communities are good places for racial and ethnic minorities.

Finally, relatively high percentages of young Qataris indicate involvement with civic organizations, another factor that may explain their positive views of their cities and local areas. A majority (61%) say they have donated money to a charity in the past month, while 22% say they have volunteered their time to an organization in the past month.
Qatari leadership has, in recent years, supported an expanded role for women in the country’s public and private life. Moreover, the Qatari constitution grants equal rights to education and employment for all citizens. Growing contributions made by Qatari women in the public and private sectors may be reflected in the finding that the vast majority of young women (96%) and young men (99%) say women in Qatar are treated with respect and dignity.

Most young Qatari women also respond positively to questions regarding their emotional wellbeing. Seventy-one percent of young women say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day, close to the 70% of men who say the same. Similarly, 69% of young women say they experienced enjoyment for much of that day, versus 68% of men. Just 29% of young women say they experienced worry for much of the day, while 64% say they did not; again, results for men are very similar.

As noted earlier, 35% of young Qataris say they are employed full time; young women (30%) are only somewhat less likely than young men (40%) to respond this way.

However, economic optimism is less prevalent among young women in Qatar than among young men. Sixty-four percent of young women and 84% of young men say their standard of living is improving. Similarly, 60% of young women believe the Qatari economy as a whole is getting better, while 76% of young men say the same. Young women are also considerably less likely than young men to say they are satisfied with efforts to improve the number of quality jobs in the country — 53% vs. 77%, respectively.

Young Qatari women also have a dimmer view of prospects for entrepreneurship than young men. They are less likely than young men to say it is easy for anyone to obtain a loan (39% vs. 57%), and to say the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for prospective business owners (27% vs. 44%).

These perceptions may help explain why young Qatari women (20%) are somewhat less likely than young men (29%) to say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. Regarding two other indicators of community participation — volunteering one’s time and donating money to an organization in the last 30 days — young men and women respond similarly.
The vast majority of young Qataris (96%) believe people can get ahead by working hard in their country.
SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia was able to withstand the effects of the global economic crisis better than most other countries in the region. This strong position has led to overall feelings of satisfaction among young people. They are optimistic about the future, express satisfaction with their personal lives, and have little desire to emigrate.

In the Kingdom, a total of 39% of young people report being employed either full or part time, 36% say they are students, and 25% say they are neither in the workforce nor students. Young men (58%) are more likely than young women (9%) to report working full time. Young women (45%) are more likely to report they are neither working nor currently students, compared with 8% of young men.

The work ethic is strong in Saudi Arabia, as 87% of young people believe people who work hard can get ahead. Additionally, 92% of young Saudis feel that job training increases one’s chances for employment. Faced with a hypothetical situation of at least six months of unemployment, majorities of young people say they are willing to take a job beneath their skills or training, retrain in a different career, start their own business, or perform home-based work.

Majorities of young Saudis express satisfaction with their communities’ economic outlook and infrastructure. Despite widespread satisfaction, few young people indicate they engage in civic activities. Forty-five percent of young people say they helped a stranger, 29% donated money, and 18% volunteered their time in the last 30 days.

Young Saudis are very optimistic about the quality of their lives. The thriving/struggling/suffering categories combine their own ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be in five years. Forty-three percent of young people are in the “thriving” category and just 2% fall in the “suffering” category.

Emotional wellbeing is just as positive for young Saudis. More than 6 in 10 young people say, in the previous day, they smiled or laughed a lot, felt enjoyment, felt happiness, and had enough energy during the day before they took the survey. Fewer than 4 in 10 young people report feeling worried, stressed, sad, angry, or depressed during that same day.
ACHIEVING IMPACT

Young Saudis score highest on the Mindset dimension. Overall, the Mindset Index score has dropped slightly over the last wave of data collection.

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<th>Silatech Index Scores</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mindset</td>
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<td>70</td>
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Young Saudis score lowest on the Access dimension; however, scores have increased slightly on this dimension over the previous collection period. Due to the unavailability of some survey items, a score for the Policy dimension could not be calculated for the current wave of research.

Mindset

Young Saudis’ satisfaction with the availability of good job opportunities in their city is the most important variable to create change in the Mindset score. In the country, 50% of young people report satisfaction with the availability of good job opportunities in their city. Saudis in the older youth group (aged 23 to 29) are more likely than those in the younger youth group (aged 15 to 22) to report satisfaction (57% and 45%, respectively).

Another variable impacting the Mindset score is the perception that job training increases one’s chances of finding a job or a better job. In the Kingdom, young men (95%) are more likely than young women (89%) to share this view.

Efforts aimed at informing young people of job placement services may help improve young Saudis’ perceptions of the labor market. Roughly 3 in 10 young people report awareness of such services.

Access

In Saudi Arabia, young people’s belief that the government will allow businesses to make money is the factor that has the most potential to move the needle on the Access score. Sixty-two percent of young Saudis believe that the government will allow businesses in the country to make a lot of money.

The belief that children in the Kingdom are treated with respect is another variable that can positively affect the Access score. While this feeling is shared by a majority of young people, aspiring entrepreneurs (92%) are most likely to hold this view.

![Figure 3. Most Important Factors in Raising Index Scores](image-url)
As Saudi Arabia looks for ways to diversify its economy, one area of growth in the private sector may be from entrepreneurial activity. In international rankings, Saudi Arabia stands in the top decile of countries around the world (and ranks first in MENA) for ease of doing business. The country’s position in the rankings is due to the many reforms enacted in recent years, which may not be lost on young Saudis. Sixty-eight percent of young people believe their country is a good place for entrepreneurs. Young Saudis are also positive in their views of entrepreneurs, as 61% say they have a favorable opinion.

Twenty-five percent of young Saudis say they plan to start their own business in the next 12 months. When looking at this group of aspiring entrepreneurs, it is important to note that 62% are employed full time and 21% are students. This suggests that those who intend to start a business may be doing so from a strong financial position (“opportunity”) rather than out of economic necessity. Forty percent of aspiring entrepreneurs say they are living comfortably on their present income, while 45% say they are getting by and a combined 13% say they are finding it difficult or very difficult to get by on their present income.

Self-determination may be another factor that differentiates aspiring entrepreneurs from those who don’t plan to start a business. The former are more likely to report being satisfied with the freedom they have in their life. In addition, aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely than those who don’t intend to become business owners to believe in the principle that hard work pays off.

Civic engagement and spirituality may also be key indicators of entrepreneurship. Young Saudis who say they intend to start their own businesses are more likely than non-entrepreneurial young Saudis to report having donated money, helped a stranger, and volunteered their time in the last 30 days. Aspiring entrepreneurs (85%) are also more likely than those who don’t plan to start a business (62%) to say they have attended a religious service in the past seven days.

Based on the positive attitudes aspiring entrepreneurs exhibit, it is not surprising that they are also more likely to report satisfaction with the administrative aspects of starting a business. In addition, 81% of young aspiring entrepreneurs say they have someone, outside of their family, they can trust to be a business partner.
With access to education, government spending on social programs, and a current budget surplus, young Saudis are satisfied with their situation. Few young Saudis (7%) express a desire to move permanently to another country if given the opportunity. When looking at this group of potential emigrants, there is very little difference based on gender, employment status, or education; this suggests the country has a handle on mitigating brain drain.

The same is true regarding young Saudis’ desires to relocate within the country. When asked if they were likely to move away from the city or area they live in the next 12 months, a majority (65%) of young people indicate they were not likely to move, while 29% say they would like to move. This suggests that young Saudis are not only satisfied with their country, but also their local areas.

Seven percent of young Saudis express the desire to move permanently to another country. Sample sizes for educational groups are too small to report results.

When evaluating their local communities, 90% of young people say they are satisfied with their communities. Sixty-two percent of young people say their city is “getting better” as a place to live and 80% say they would recommend it to a friend. Further, 68% of young Saudis state they are satisfied with the beauty of their city.

When asked about the local infrastructure, majorities of young people indicate they are satisfied with the educational system (66%) and the availability of quality healthcare (62%). Additionally, 63% of young Saudis express satisfaction with public transportation and roads and highways (61%).

A key factor driving young Saudis’ community satisfaction could be a sense that their communities have faith in them. Eighty-six percent of young Saudis say children in their country are treated with respect and dignity and 81% believe children have the opportunity to learn and grow every day. In addition, majorities of young Saudis report being satisfied with the freedom they have in their lives (61%) and say they learned or did something interesting the day before the survey (56%).

Family may also be a key factor in young Saudis’ desire to stay in their country. Nine in 10 young people say they have friends or relatives they can count on for help if they were in trouble.

Young Saudis’ voices about the state of the economy and their communities can shed light on their relatively low desire to permanently leave the Kingdom. Seventy-eight percent of young people say they are satisfied with their standard of living and 72% rate the economy in their communities as “good.” Additionally, 53% of young Saudis say it is a good time to find a job in the country and 50% say they are satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in Saudi Arabia.
In Saudi Arabia, the proportion of women in the labor force has risen sharply since the mid-1990s, but it is estimated that they still make up about 15% of the overall workforce. The findings show the extent of the gender disparity in labor force participation for young people. Overall, 58% of young men say they work full time compared to 9% of young women. This disparity is even greater among men (82%) and women (14%) aged 23 to 29 who say they work full time.

Educational achievement is not a factor in explaining these differences in the workforce. Young women are just as likely as young men to have completed at least a secondary level of education. Overall, 41% of young women are students, compared with 31% of young men. This suggests that, in Saudi Arabia, young women are critical assets to tap for the country’s future.

Young people share many similar views regarding the labor market. Equal proportions of young men and young women believe it is a good time to find a job in Saudi Arabia. However, young men (55%) are more likely than young women (45%) to be satisfied with the efforts to increase the number of quality jobs. Though if out of work for at least six months, young women and men are similar in their views regarding their willingness to take a job beneath their skills or retrain for a different career.

Regarding the entrepreneurial environment, young women and men believe the country is a good place for entrepreneurs. However, young men (66%) are more likely than young women (57%) to have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs. These findings may explain, at least in part, the large gender differences in entrepreneurial intent — 35% of young men plan to launch a business in the next 12 months, while 14% of young women say the same.

Civic engagement is relatively low for both young men and young women. Roughly 3 in 10 of both genders report having donated money in the past 30 days, and even fewer report having volunteered their time. Half of young men report having helped a stranger or someone they didn’t know in the past month. As a point of comparison, 41% of young women report having helped a stranger.

Gender disparities are striking when looking at issues of respect. Eighty-nine percent of young men say women in Saudi Arabia are treated with respect, compared with 79% of young women who say the same. Additionally, young men (89%) are more likely than young women (83%) to say children are treated with respect and dignity. Young men (85%) are also more likely than young women (77%) to say children have the opportunity to learn and grow. Further, young men are also more likely to say that the leadership of the country maximizes the potential of youth (74%) than are young women (54%).
Twenty-five percent of young Saudis say they plan to start their own business in the next 12 months.
Relative stability and security in Somaliland have enabled private business and domestic trade to thrive. However, because its status as a sovereign state is unrecognized, it is cut off from trade with most of the world — resulting in limited opportunities for young people and driving them out of the country by the thousands.

Three-quarters of Somaliland’s young people say they believe people can get ahead in their country through hard work, but finding work may be the toughest part of the job. More than 6 in 10 young people (63%) say it is a bad time to find a job in their communities and nearly as many (60%) are dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.

Employment and education make a considerable difference in how Somalilanders aged 15 to 29 rate their lives. Young people with a secondary education or higher are nearly twice as likely to be “thriving” as are those with less education (21% vs. 11%). Those with any job — full or part time — and students are more likely than those not in the workforce to be “thriving.”

Despite the prevalence of “struggling” young people, majorities report experiencing enjoyment and happiness the day before the survey, and relatively few report negative experiences such as stress, worry, or physical pain.

* Because of ongoing conflict in Somalia, Gallup conducted the survey in the Somaliland region.
Somaliland scores highest on the Mindset and Policy Indexes. The current Mindset score of 69 marks some improvement over scores in the mid-60s in 2009. Somaliland’s Policy Index score declined between the first two surveys in 2009, but stabilized in the current administration.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mindset</td>
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<td>69</td>
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Somaliland’s relatively lower score on the Access Index largely reflects the lack of jobs available to young people. The current score of 51, however, is up from scores in the lower-to mid-40s in 2009.

### Mindset

The variable that influences Mindset scores the most is the basic belief that national economic conditions are good or excellent. Overall, 4 in 10 young people in Somaliland rate national economic conditions as “good” (32%) or “excellent” (8%), while about 6 in 10 rate them as “only fair” (27%) or “poor” (32%).

Another significant predictor of positive Mindset scores is young Somalilanders’ belief that their government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business. A majority (56%) say their government makes this easy enough, with aspiring entrepreneurs more likely to say this than those who do not plan to start a business (63% vs. 54%).

### Access

The two variables that highly influence Access scores address individual and macro-level engagement issues in business. As with Mindset scores, the perception that national economic conditions are “excellent” or “good” also predicts Access scores.

Satisfaction with the availability of good job opportunities in one’s community is another variable associated with higher Access scores. Thirty-nine percent of young people in Somaliland are satisfied on this measure.

### Policy

The most significant predictor of higher scores on the Policy Index is the perception that children are treated with dignity and respect. Although the variable is not an economic indicator typically associated with productivity, this relationship illustrates the link between the perceived investment in young people and economic opportunity.

Satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs also predicts higher Policy scores. Young people employed full time are more likely to be satisfied than those employed part time (43% vs. 31%). Those working part time are as likely to be satisfied as those who are not in the workforce.

“Good jobs” is a recurring theme in both the Policy and Access Indexes; job creation efforts targeted toward young people are likely to foster change in each of these dimensions.
While the majority of young Somalilanders see their communities as poor places to find jobs, they see them as good places for entrepreneurs forming new businesses. The vast majority of young people in Somaliland (90%) view entrepreneurs favorably, and it stands to reason that so many young people would plan to emulate entrepreneurs’ perceived success.

Overall, 31% of 15- to 29-year-olds who are not already business owners say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. However, these plans likely form out of necessity rather than perceived opportunity. Twenty-four percent of aspiring entrepreneurs say they are living comfortably on their current incomes, while 76% say they are not.

As many young Somalilanders say they already own businesses (30%) as say they plan to start one. Business is the preferred career choice of young Somalilanders by far. Seventy-four percent of 15- to 29-year-olds say they would rather have a job working for a business, while 14% prefer a job working for the government.

The portrait of the budding young entrepreneur in Somaliland tends to look slightly older (from the 23 to 29 cohort) and is more likely to be male than female. Further, the aspiring entrepreneur is more likely to have a job already, either full or part time, but is no more likely to come from one education group versus another. Possibly because they have experienced business hurdles firsthand in their preparations to start a business, these young aspiring entrepreneurs are likely to perceive fewer barriers. Nearly all (91%) entrepreneurial young people in Somaliland say those starting a business in their country can trust their assets and property will be safe at all times, which speaks to the relative stability and peace in the region versus its neighbors.

A majority of aspiring young entrepreneurs also believe that the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough for everyone (63%), compared with 54% of those who do not have business plans. One key aspect of starting a business — securing a loan — appears to be more of a barrier to entrepreneurship. Less than half (48%) of budding young entrepreneurs say it is easy for anyone to get a business loan, but they are still more likely to see it this way than the 33% of those who do not plan to start a business.

A majority of young people in Somaliland (75%) say they believe people in their country can get ahead by working hard. Aspiring young entrepreneurs are even more likely to share this view (80%) than those who are not planning to start a business (73%). But regardless of their business intentions, if they were unemployed for more than six months, majorities of young Somalilanders say they would be willing to take the risk to start their own businesses.
Thousands of young people are leaving Somaliland, often risking their lives to do so. Convincing them to stay will be a significant challenge: Although it reflects desire rather than reality, 52% of Somalilanders aged 15 to 29 say they would like to move permanently to another country if given the opportunity. Young men are more likely than young women to say this — 56% vs. 47%, respectively — but they represent sizable proportions of each gender.

The potential loss of human capital and brain drain for Somaliland is significant. More than half of young people (58%) with a secondary-level education or higher express a desire to migrate permanently.

Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education

Young Somalilanders who have at least a secondary level of education are more likely than those with less education to express a desire to leave the country permanently.

Though Somaliland has made progress in education, the government admits that access, equity, and quality of education continue to be key challenges. Young Somalilanders (49%) are twice as likely as adults aged 30 and older (24%) to say they have a secondary education or higher. The current generation is more educated than the last, which indicates investments in education are starting to pay off.

But, if young, educated people leave, the investment goes with them. Young people, however, are equally likely to desire to emigrate regardless of their employment status. Roughly half (47%) of young people who are employed full time say they would like to leave permanently if given the chance.

When young Somalilanders who expressed a desire to emigrate are asked to name the most important change that would need to occur to make them stay, they are equally likely to say “get a job/better job” and “improvements in the economy.” “Better educational opportunities” are also frequently mentioned.

Asked which countries they would like to emigrate to, young Somalilanders most often name Western nations such as the United States (29%) and the United Kingdom (32%). Many young people in Somaliland likely already have friends or relatives living in either country, as Western Europe and the United States were primary destinations for the Somaliland Diaspora who fled when civil war broke out in 1988. Somaliland’s economy still relies heavily on remittances from abroad. Remittance flows are estimated between $500 million and $700 million.

That young potential emigrants choose these two countries over all others as their desired destination is not surprising, given that young people in Somaliland overwhelmingly approve of the leadership of the United States (71%) and the United Kingdom (79%).
Somaliland’s government supports primary education for all children, but total primary enrollment overall remains extremely low and highly inequitable (36% of girls and 64% of boys). International estimates suggest 60% of girls drop out before they complete elementary school and achieve sustainable literacy.

Such an educational gender divide is evident in young men’s and women’s educational attainment levels and in the percentages currently enrolled in school. The majority of young women (52%) say they have an elementary education or less, while the majority of young men (54%) have a secondary or higher education. A majority of young men in the 15 to 22 age group (54%) say they are enrolled in school, compared with 36% of young women in this age group.

Despite the gender disparities that exist in education, young women and young men in Somaliland equally agree that girls and boys should have equal access to education. Further, they are also in complete agreement that women in Somaliland are treated with dignity and respect (79% and 82% agree, respectively).

Gender disparities exist in young people’s participation in the workforce. Young women in Somaliland are nearly twice as likely as young men to say they are not students and are not in the workforce (47% vs. 24%). Young men are more likely than young women to be employed full time or part time, and to be students.

Young women, however, are no more likely than young men to be dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs, and are no more likely to say that now is a bad time to find a job in their communities.

Young women are just as likely as young men to say people in Somaliland can get ahead by working hard, but they differ slightly in what they would be willing to do if they found themselves out of work for more than six months. While 70% of young men say they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill levels if they found themselves in this situation, 58% of young women say they would do the same. Young women, on the other hand, would be more willing to perform home-based work (68%) than young men would (53%).

Young women in Somaliland are as likely as young men to view entrepreneurs favorably, but they are somewhat less likely to aspire to become one. Twenty-eight percent of young women say they intend to start a business in the next 12 months, as opposed to 34% of young men. Young women are just as likely as young men to say the government makes paperwork easy enough for anyone wanting to start a business and are no more likely than young men to say getting a business loan is easy. The barrier for young women may be that they are more likely to lack someone they can trust outside their families that they can start a business with.

**Figure 6. Social and Economic Initiative**

- **Plan to start a business in next 12 months:** 28% (Women) vs. 34% (Men)
- **Volunteered time in last 30 days:** 20% (Women) vs. 27% (Men)
- **Donated money in last 30 days:** 33% (Women) vs. 38% (Men)

Young women are only slightly less likely to say they volunteered time to an organization in the last month or donated money.
As many young Somalilanders say they are already business owners (30%) as say they plan to start one.
SUDAN

Young people recognize the promise Sudan holds for entrepreneurs; they are highly favorable of business owners and believe hard work will bring rewards. However, the current business climate presents numerous challenges and opportunities. Half of aspiring young entrepreneurs (51%) express a desire to leave Sudan permanently. Likewise, 50% of young Sudanese with four years of college also desire to leave. Capturing the energy and imagination of these high-potential individuals will be critical for Sudan’s future economic success.

**Figure 1. Employment Status**

Lack of jobs is a major problem facing young Sudanese. Among those aged 15 to 29, 21% say they are satisfied with the availability of good jobs in their communities. Their employment status underscores the extent of the job challenge for young people in the country: 36% say they are not students and not in the workforce. Young women are much more likely than young men to fall into this category (53% vs. 19%, respectively). Among 15- to 29-year-olds, 23% say they are employed full time — including 33% of young men and 13% of young women.

The thriving/struggling/suffering categories combine young people’s ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be five years in the future. Overall, young Sudanese are negative when evaluating their lives, with 80% classified as “struggling.” Young women are slightly more likely to be “suffering” than young men (13% vs. 8%). Roughly 1 in 10 young Sudanese are upbeat enough about their lives to be considered “thriving.”

Young people have a mix of access to modern communications infrastructure in Sudan. While 87% of young Sudanese do not have landline telephone access in their homes, 81% say they have access to a cell phone. This is coupled with a low Internet access rate: 92% of young Sudanese say they do not have Internet access in their home and 60% do not have access in their communities. Television ownership is widespread, with 75% of young Sudanese saying they have access to a television in their homes.
ACHIEVING IMPACT

Young Sudanese score highest on the Mindset dimension of the Silatech Index. The overall Mindset score has trended downward somewhat from the last wave of data collection. Sudan’s Policy Index has trended down during the last two waves of data collection.

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The lowest index score for young Sudanese is the Access dimension. The Access score has decreased somewhat since the first survey.

### Mindset

The variable that most strongly drives the Mindset Index among young Sudanese is the belief that children in the country are treated with respect and dignity. This demonstrates the importance of young people’s perceptions of how Sudanese society overall treats its children.

Another significant predictor of the Mindset Index is favorable opinions of entrepreneurs. About 70% of young Sudanese have positive views of entrepreneurs. Fostering more positive perceptions of entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial ethos could positively affect the Mindset score.

### Access

The variable most predictive of high Access scores is young people’s confidence that the government will allow businesses to make a lot of money. Currently, 58% of young Sudanese believe the government would allow them to make a lot of money.

Another key driver of the Access dimension is young people’s rating of current national economic conditions. Thirty-seven percent of young Sudanese say national economic conditions are good or excellent.

### Policy

The only significant variable driving the Policy score among young Sudanese is the perception that the government makes the paperwork and permits to start a business easy enough. Currently, less than half (41%) of young aspiring entrepreneurs in Sudan think the paperwork or permits required to start a business are easy to complete. While this perception of difficulty is not widespread among aspiring entrepreneurs, it still is perceived as a barrier to business entry. In all likelihood, streamlining the paperwork process would positively increase the country’s Policy score.
Young aspiring entrepreneurs in Sudan face a number of opportunities and challenges. They view the business climate positively, yet they perceive many administrative barriers to starting a business.

Majorities of young Sudanese (75%) say their communities are good places for entrepreneurs, and 70% have favorable opinions of business owners. Young Sudanese think a good work ethic will be rewarded: 91% believe that people who work hard in Sudan can get ahead.

Thirty-eight percent of young Sudanese say they want to start their own business in the next 12 months. For such aspiring entrepreneurs, the prospect of increased income is a primary motivator: 92% are not living comfortably on their present income. Given the high proportion of young people struggling to live on their current income, it is not surprising that a majority (62%) say they would start a business primarily to make more money. Fewer (18%) say they plan to start a business because of a lack of job opportunities.

Economic conditions in Sudan may pose challenges to budding entrepreneurs, as 60% think national economic conditions are “poor” or “only fair.” However, they view the future as more promising. Most young Sudanese (59%), regardless of their aspirations to start a business, think economic conditions in the country are getting better.

Aspiring entrepreneurs in Sudan perceive a mix of favorable and unfavorable conditions in the business climate. Nearly one-third (30%) think it is easy to obtain a business loan, and 41% think the government makes it easy enough to complete the paperwork and permits required to start a business in Sudan.

At the same time, majorities of aspiring entrepreneurs are confident business assets and property will be safe at all times (67%) in their country and that they can find qualified labor when needed (87%).

Another important component of successful entrepreneurship relates to social trust. In Sudan, three-quarters of aspiring entrepreneurs say they know someone outside of their family circle whom they trust enough to be a business partner.

The lack of employment prospects for young Sudanese may be a contributing factor for the desire to relocate for work. Fifty-eight percent of young Sudanese, including 68% of aspiring entrepreneurs, would relocate to another city for work if unemployed for at least six months. Under the same circumstances, 58% say they would be willing to move to another country for a job, and aspiring entrepreneurs (72%) are even more willing to do so.
Many of Sudan’s young people with the highest potential to make a difference express a desire to leave the country permanently. Half of those with four years of college-level education and half of aspiring entrepreneurs say they want to emigrate. These individuals possess the drive and/or education to ensure the country’s future economic growth and must be kept engaged and given productive reasons to stay in Sudan.

While most young Sudanese want to remain in the country, 39% say they would relocate permanently to another country if given the opportunity. Young aspiring entrepreneurs are much more likely (51%) than those who do not plan to start a business (32%) to say they want to emigrate.

When examining the desire to emigrate by education level, those with four years of college-level education are most likely to express such a desire. Young people with only an elementary education are the least likely to express a desire to emigrate (36%).

Young Sudanese are somewhat split about local economic conditions: 50% say such conditions are not good, while 45% say they are. The future community economic outlook is mixed as well: 42% of young people think their local economy is getting better and 39% think it is staying the same.

**Figure 5. Desire to Emigrate and Education**

- Young Sudanese who have a college or equivalent education are more likely than those with an elementary education to express the desire to leave the country permanently.

Despite the desire of some high-potential young Sudanese to emigrate, the majority of young people (69%) say they are satisfied with the city or area where they live. The momentum of city satisfaction is positive, as 52% of young people say their city is getting better as a place to live. Aspiring entrepreneurs are even more optimistic, with 58% saying their communities are improving, compared with 49% of those who do not aspire to create a business.

When asked what changes would make them stay in Sudan, 33% of those who express the desire to leave cite improvements in the economy and another 36% say they would need to secure a job or find a better job.
Few gender disparities exist among aspiring entrepreneurs. Thirty-four percent of young Sudanese have thought about starting their own business — young men (37%) and young women (32%) express similar views. Forty-two percent of young men say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, while 36% of young women say they plan to do the same.

Men and women are driven by similar reasons to start a business: to make more money. The majority of young aspiring entrepreneurs find it hard to get by on their present household income.

Among aspiring entrepreneurs, there are no gender differences in the perception of difficulty in obtaining business financing. Additionally, both genders are equally likely to say the government makes paperwork easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business in Sudan. However, young women (63%) are less likely than young men (71%) to trust their business assets will be safe at all times in the country.

Young women have much lower levels of participation in the workforce than young men: 53% of young women are not in the workforce and are not students, versus 19% of young men. This gender disparity is reflected in the number of young people who say they are employed full time: 33% of young men compared with 13% of young women. Most women who are not in the workforce or in school have other obligations: 43% are homemakers or have family responsibilities, compared with only 3% of young men.

A majority of young Sudanese (83%) believe boys and girls should have equal access to education. Young women have similar levels of elementary educational attainment compared with young men, though young men (28%) have had more secondary schooling than young women (20%). However, 33% of young women are currently enrolled in school versus 45% of young men.

Both young men and young women have similar levels of community involvement on key measures. Both genders are equally likely to say they have volunteered their time to an organization and donated money to charity.

However, there are clear differences between young men and women on other measures. The former are more likely than the latter to say they have helped a stranger or someone in need, 76% and 60%, respectively. Young men are also more likely than young women to say they have voiced their opinion to a public official.
In Sudan, 67% of aspiring entrepreneurs are confident their assets and property will be safe at all times.
SYRIA

In recent years, the Syrian government has gradually implemented a number of reforms intended to encourage entrepreneurship and investment, such as increasing bank lending and easing foreign-currency restrictions. The current survey results indicate many of the country’s young people remain ambivalent about building careers in the private sector. Though almost three-quarters of young Syrians say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, most still say they would prefer to work for the government than for a business. More than one-quarter of young Syrians say they would emigrate given the opportunity; among this group, about half cite improvements in job availability or economic conditions as factors that would make them want to stay in the country.

About two-thirds of young Syrians (64%) say they are satisfied with their current standard of living, and they are more than twice as likely to say their standard of living is getting better (49%) than to say it is getting worse (20%).

Nonetheless, a majority of young Syrians (57%) are dissatisfied with the availability of good jobs in their area. The same proportion of young people are dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number and quality of jobs in the country. Overall, one-third of young Syrians (32%) say they are employed full time, with young men (42%) twice as likely as young women (21%) to respond this way.

Young Syrians are not particularly optimistic about the overall quality of their lives. Respondents’ ratings of their current lives, and predicted ratings of their lives five years in the future, are combined to generate three categories. Sixteen percent of young Syrians give ratings high enough to classify them as “thriving,” while the majority of young people fall into the “struggling” category. Unusually for the region, young women are somewhat more likely than young men to fall into the thriving category.

Young Syrians’ responses are more favorable when it comes to day-to-day measures of emotional wellbeing. For example, around two-thirds of the country’s young people say they experienced happiness (63%) and high energy (64%) for much of the previous day.
Young Syrians are most likely to respond positively to questions related to the Mindset Index, indicating they are relatively optimistic about the value society places on the contributions of young people. The current score of 66 is consistent with scores from the previous two waves of research.

The current Policy Index score represents the continuation of a downward trend over the past two waves of data collection, suggesting young Syrians have lost some confidence in policies regarding entrepreneurship. Syria’s Access Index score has also dropped during this time, although not as significantly.

### Silatech Index Scores

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### Mindset

One variable that shows a strong relationship with higher Mindset scores among young Syrians is their perception that job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or a better job. This finding suggests that expanding training opportunities that are tailored to specific industries or vocations may be an effective way to demonstrate to young people that their potential contributions to the labor force are valued and supported.

Also significantly related to Mindset scores is young Syrians’ satisfaction with the availability of good jobs in their communities. This suggests that expanding job-specific training opportunities alone may not be enough to improve young Syrians’ Mindset scores; they may also need to perceive concrete measures to stimulate local job growth.

### Access

Young Syrians’ satisfaction with their standard of living is the variable most predictive of higher Access scores. This relationship suggests that those with lower incomes in Syrian society are also less likely than those who are living more comfortably to feel they have access to good jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities — i.e., fewer avenues to improve their living standards.

### Policy

Among the variables that most reliably predict higher Policy Index scores among young Syrians is their perception that children in the country are treated with dignity and respect. This relationship implies that a focus on developmental opportunities available to children is seen as an important aspect of a policy environment that fosters the contributions of young people. Currently 70% of young Syrians say children are treated this way, while 24% disagree.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

The Syrian government has engaged in initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and business development, thereby shifting a greater share of the country’s workforce from public sector to private sector jobs. Currently, however, 54% of young Syrians say they would prefer to work for the government, while 31% would prefer to work for a business and 14% would take either type of job.

Expansion of job placement services may be one way to improve the efficiency of private-sector development. Just 22% of young Syrians say they are aware of services or organizations that help people find jobs. Of that group of young Syrians, just one-quarter (25%) have actually used such services.

Young Syrians do indicate a willingness to be flexible in their efforts to meet the country’s labor needs. Asked what they would be willing to do if they were unemployed and looking for work for more than six months, 59% say they would take a job beneath their skill level. A similar proportion (58%) say they would be willing to retrain for a different career, while 62% say they would be willing to start their own business.

In fact, 43% of young Syrians say they have thought about starting their own business at some point. One in five (21%) actually aspire to start a business in the next 12 months. However, the desire to do so may, in most cases, be driven by necessity rather than perceived opportunity; just 28% of young aspiring entrepreneurial Syrians indicate they are living comfortably on their current income, while the remainder indicate they are getting by or struggling to some extent.

Nonetheless, those who start businesses are generally admired by young Syrians; 73% say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, with young men (77%) somewhat more likely than young women (68%) to say this. A majority of young Syrians (69%) also believe their community is a good place for entrepreneurs, while 23% disagree.

Given these favorable impressions, why don’t more young Syrians plan to start businesses? Barriers to access may appear daunting to many aspiring entrepreneurs who would otherwise consider doing so. About 3 in 10 believe the government makes the necessary paperwork easy and that it is easy to obtain a loan to start a business.

However, as in most Arab countries, budding entrepreneurs in Syria are much more likely to say the country’s business owners can trust that their assets and property will be safe, and that they will be able to find hardworking and qualified employees when they need them.

**Figure 4. Business Climate Among Aspiring Entrepreneurs**

Three-quarters of aspiring entrepreneurs (76%) say there is someone other than a family member whom they can trust enough to partner with in starting a business. Among aspiring entrepreneurs, young men (79%) are more likely than young women (65%) to say this.
About 3 in 10 young Syrians (28%) say they would like to emigrate permanently to another country, given the opportunity; 32% of young men and 23% of young women say they would move if they had the chance. Those with an elementary-level education or less and those with a secondary-level education are similarly likely to say they would prefer to emigrate (the sample size for college-level graduates is too small to report results for that group.)

![Desire to Emigrate and Education](chart)

Young Syrians who have at least a secondary level of education are as likely as those with little or no education to express the desire to leave the country permanently.

Only about 1 in 10 young Syrians who would like to emigrate cite better educational opportunities (11%) as the most important change that would make them want to stay. Further, 66% of young Syrians say they are satisfied with the educational system in their areas, and 72% say children in the country have opportunities to learn and grow every day.

Quality of life factors are less predictive of young people’s desire to emigrate in Syria than in many Arab League countries. For example, 26% of those who are satisfied with their standard of living would like to emigrate, similar to the 30% of those who are dissatisfied. Similarly, 27% of those who had trouble paying for food in the past year would like to emigrate, compared with 26% of those who did not have trouble.

However, there is a bigger difference when it comes to young Syrians’ perceptions of opportunity in the country. Those who believe people in the country can get ahead by working hard are less likely to want to emigrate than those who do not believe this is the case (26% vs. 43%, respectively).

Young Syrians were also asked whether or not they are likely to move away in the next 12 months. Close to 3 in 10 (29%) say they are likely to move, while 67% say they are likely to stay in their city or area. As with the desire to emigrate, lack of jobs is a likely motive for many young Syrians who say they will probably leave their communities. Though two-thirds (65%) say they are satisfied with the city or area where they live, only about one-third (32%) say it is a good time to find a job there, while 59% disagree.

Young Syrians who say they would like to emigrate name a wide range of countries as their preferred destinations, but the United Arab Emirates is the top choice, cited by 25%.

Aspiring emigrants were also asked to name the most important change that would make them want to stay in the country. Forty-two percent say they would have to be able to get a job or a better job, while 11% say economic conditions in the country would have to improve.
In Syria, young women and young men respond similarly on most measures of wellbeing, including overall life evaluations (as noted earlier) and more specific indicators of emotional health. For example, 58% of young women say they smiled or laughed a lot the previous day, compared with 56% of young men. Similarly, 62% of young women and 63% of young men say they experienced happiness for much of that day.

Moreover, most young women in Syria feel women in the country are treated with respect and dignity, though they are somewhat less likely than men to respond this way (69% vs. 78%, respectively).

About three-quarters of both young Syrian women (78%) and young men (79%) agree that boys and girls should have equal access to education. International statistics indicate literacy rates among young women in the country are virtually on par with those of young men. The current survey indicates that young women (58%) and young men (57%) are similarly likely to say they have at least some secondary education or more.

As noted earlier, young Syrian women are only about half as likely as young men to have full-time jobs. However, among those who are employed, 21% of young women are in professional roles such as doctors, lawyers, and teachers. By comparison, just 9% of employed young men fall into the professional worker category.

About two-thirds of young Syrian women (68%) say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, while 14% have an unfavorable opinion. Young men are only somewhat more likely to view entrepreneurs favorably, at 77%.

Young women and young men in Syria are similarly likely to say they have thought about starting a business (41% vs. 45%, respectively). But there is a more significant difference in the proportions who say they intend to start a business in the next 12 months — 17% of young women do so, compared with 25% of young men.

The difference in gender among those who intend to start a business may be influenced in part by perceptions of access to the necessary resources. Young women (24%) are somewhat less likely than young men (34%) to say the government makes the necessary paperwork and permits easy enough to obtain. Moreover, 62% of young women say there is someone outside their family they could trust to make their partner in starting a business, compared with 72% of young men. However, young women (25%) and young men (26%) are similarly unlikely to say it is easy to obtain a loan to start a business.

Regarding other aspects of civic engagement, however, there is little difference by gender. Young men and young women are similarly likely to say they volunteered time to an organization in the last month and to say they donated money to an organization during that time.
Though almost three-fourths of young Syrians say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, most still say they would prefer to work for the government than for a business.
TUNISIA

Tunisia’s investments in human capital, social services, and infrastructure have led to decreased poverty and increased equality, educational attainment, and economic growth. The effects of these efforts are reflected in young Tunisians’ satisfaction with their infrastructure and access to key services.

The majority of young Tunisians are satisfied with the services and structures in place in their communities. Highlighting the country’s investment in education is the 72% of young Tunisians who are satisfied with the school system in the city where they live. Additionally, a large number of Tunisians in the younger age cohort (those aged 15 to 22) tell Gallup that they are in school (52%) at the time of the survey.

More than half of young Tunisians are also satisfied with other important community necessities including widely available quality healthcare (61%), transportation systems (64%), and good, affordable housing (58%).

Although close to two-thirds (64%) of young Tunisians have completed secondary schooling — more than twice the number of those 30 or older (25%) — most are still struggling to join the labor force. Despite the country’s social and economic investments, the large majority of young Tunisians evaluate their present and future lives relatively poorly. Rampant joblessness likely plays a role in the large number of young Tunisian men and women who are classified as “struggling.”

Further, slightly more than half of young Tunisians say they experienced a lot of stress the day prior to the survey, and 27% report experiencing a lot of anger.

Although frustrated, young Tunisians are poised to be engaged actors in their society and they express a positive outlook. Almost all young Tunisians (91%) believe a person can get ahead in their country by working hard. Further, 68% of young people say that if unemployed for more than six months, they would be willing to retrain for a different career. Additionally, majorities of young Tunisians are hopeful for their future, with 63% who say their standard of living is getting better and 55% saying the city where they live is getting better.
ACHIEVING IMPACT

TUNISIA

Of the three Silatech Indexes, Tunisia scores best on Policy and Mindset. The relatively high Policy score is likely driven, in part, by the high percentage of young Tunisians who believe leadership in the country maximizes the potential of young people (78%). A high Mindset score likely reflects young Tunisians’ positive perceptions toward job training and hard work.

By comparison, Tunisia fares worst on the Access dimension, highlighting young people’s concerns about perceived barriers to entrepreneurship.

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Of note, across the three waves of data collection, all three index scores have decreased.

**Mindset**

In Tunisia, a high Mindset score is related most to an individual’s belief that job training increases a person’s chances of getting a job or a better job. As Tunisia works to transition to a more knowledge-based economy, many young Tunisians are likely to feel more engaged in their society if given the training necessary to fill these jobs.

Also strongly predictive of a high Mindset score is satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs. As about half of young Tunisians are currently satisfied with such efforts, this is an area, which if addressed, could have a large impact.

**Access**

The strongest variable influencing the Access scores is the perception that the government will allow a business to make a lot of money. In Tunisia, while 29% of young people say they are planning to start their own business, a smaller 20% are already business owners. Though 72% of young Tunisians currently believe the government allows businesses to make a lot of money, any improvement on this metric stands to improve the Access score.

**Policy**

The strongest driver of high Policy Index scores in Tunisia is young people’s satisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.

A second significant factor for high Policy scores is the view that it is easy enough to obtain a loan to start a business. Less than half of young aspiring entrepreneurs believe it is the case, pointing to a need for improved access to loan money.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

Young Tunisians are not only struggling to find employment in general, but they are also frustrated with the few jobs that are available. Sixty-one percent of young Tunisians say they are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities in the city or area where they live. Young people’s views also shed light on the general dearth of available jobs. More than half (54%) of young Tunisians say it is a bad time to find a job in their city, while 37% say it is a good time. Another 47% are dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.

Even amid a gloomy jobs outlook, young people in Tunisia express a willingness to work hard and do what it takes to obtain gainful employment. If unemployed for more than six months, 62% of young Tunisians say they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level, 56% would relocate to a different city in the country, and 77% say they would consider starting their own business.

Overall, 29% of young Tunisians say they are already planning to start their own business in the next 12 months. Young aspiring entrepreneurs express positive views across several crucial measures of the viability of starting and running a business in Tunisia. Sixty-two percent of young people who plan to start a business say there is someone (other than a family member) they trust to be their business partner and 87% believe they will be able to find hardworking and qualified employees.

There are, however, key issues that young aspiring entrepreneurs may struggle with in trying to start their business: 43% say it is easy to obtain a loan and a similar proportion say the government makes paperwork and permits easy enough.

Though, young Tunisians, even those who are planning to start a business, do not necessarily view entrepreneurship as the best choice of careers. The majority of young aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to be planning to start a business out of necessity as few other alternatives may be available to earn a living, as just one-third of those who plan to start a business say they are living comfortably on their present income. Among all young Tunisians, 68% say they would rather work for the government, while 9% prefer to work for a business.

Job training and services may be the critical levers needed to help shift young Tunisians’ perspectives regarding working in the private sector and to help them feel better prepared to do so. For example, 58% of young Tunisians say they are aware of job placement services and among those who are aware of such services, 28% report having used them. However, young people are open to job training, with 83% saying that regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or a better job.

Figure 4. Business Climate Among Aspiring Entrepreneurs
Many young Tunisians express the desire to leave their country permanently. Nearly half (44%) of those aged 15 to 29 say they would emigrate, given the opportunity. This is more than double the number of those 30 or older who say the same (17%).

Young Tunisians with a secondary education are as likely as those with an elementary education or less to desire to emigrate. (The sample size of Tunisians with at least four years of college is too small to report.) The potential departure of young Tunisians with education and skills could lead to a human capital challenge as the country seeks to grow its knowledge-based business sector.

There are three significant factors playing into a young person’s desire to permanently leave Tunisia — views about the current job climate, opinions regarding economic conditions, and perceptions related to governance.

More than half (57%) of young Tunisians who say they are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities express the desire to leave permanently versus 31% of those who are satisfied. Further, 52% of young people who say it is a bad time to find a job in their communities express the desire to emigrate compared with 35% of those who say it is a good time to find a job. Additionally, 51% of young Tunisians who are dissatisfied with efforts in the country to increase the number of quality jobs wish to emigrate versus 38% of those who are satisfied.

A relationship similar to jobs and a desire to emigrate exists between young Tunisians’ views toward the economy and their wanting to permanently leave the country. Young Tunisians who view their local economy as good are less likely to desire to emigrate than those who say it is not good, 40% vs. 55%. Also, 55% of young Tunisians who think the national economy is getting worse wish to leave permanently compared with 41% among those who believe it is getting better.

Other important predictors of desires to emigrate include institutional confidence and freedom of expression.

While 77% of young Tunisians are confident in the country’s judicial system, those who express a lack of confidence in the judicial system are more likely to wish to emigrate (59%) than those who say they are confident in this institution (39%). Similarly, while 64% of young people are confident in financial institutions in Tunisia, those who do not have confidence are more likely to express the desire to leave Tunisia permanently (59%) than those who say they have confidence in the financial system (36%).

Additionally, young Tunisians who say “most” people in their country are afraid to express their political views are far more likely to desire to emigrate (58%) than are those who say that “some are afraid” (44%) to express such views.

However, the most important element that could change young Tunisians’ desire to emigrate is to have a job or a better one (54%). Another 25% say improvements in the economy would make them want to stay.
In Tunisia, while young men and women have many of the same opportunities in life, they also, for the most part, share the same frustrations and roadblocks. Both genders agree that women and men should have equal opportunities.

Nearly all young Tunisians (including men) say women are treated with respect in their country. In terms of education, young women are just as likely as young men to have obtained a secondary-level education level, 63% vs. 64%. Five percent of both young women and men say they have completed four years of education beyond high school.

Young Tunisian men and women are equally unhappy with job market conditions there. Young women are just as likely as men to say it is a bad time to find a quality job where they live. Another 6 in 10 young women say they are dissatisfied with the availability of good job opportunities and about half of young women express dissatisfaction with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs.

Along with shared frustrations about the job market, is a shared willingness among young men and women in Tunisia to do what it takes to obtain employment. When asked if they would be willing to take certain actions if unemployed for more than six months, young Tunisian women are as likely as young men to say they would be willing to take a job beneath their skill level or to retrain for a different career.

Although young women are just as likely as young men to express dissatisfaction with the job market in Tunisia, they are significantly less likely to be willing to relocate to a different part of the country for a job and to desire to leave the country permanently. Nearly two-thirds of young men say that if unemployed for more than six months they would be willing to relocate to another city in Tunisia compared with 49% of young women who say this. While more than half of young Tunisian men wish to emigrate (53%), 37% of young women say the same.

Perhaps reflecting the gender parity in education, young women are just as likely as young men to say they are planning to start a business in the next 12 months, 27% and 32%, respectively. However, young women are slightly less likely than young men to say there is someone they trust (other than a family member) to be their business partner, 53% vs. 62%. Regardless, young women and young men, at 18% and 21%, respectively, say they already own their own business.

Civic activity levels are also similar for young men and women, though both groups express relatively low engagement in such activities. Young men and women are equally likely to say that in the past month they have volunteered their time to an organization or donated money to a charity.

Taken together, these data indicate that young Tunisian women are just as educated, entrepreneurial, and engaged in their society as are young men.
In Tunisia, young women (27%) are just as likely as young men (32%) to say they are planning to start a business in the next 12 months.
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Young Emiratis are doing exceptionally well overall. In fact, the majority can be classified as “thriving” based on their own assessments of life satisfaction. They express satisfaction with their communities and the economy and have little desire to leave the United Arab Emirates.

A near majority of young Emiratis aged 15 to 29 years old are students (49%), approximately one-third work full time (30%), 16% are neither in the workforce nor in school, and the rest (5%) are employed in part-time jobs.

Enthusiasm about the economy is widespread, though it is more pronounced in regard to local economic conditions. Three-quarters (75%) of Emiratis rate economic conditions in their communities as “good,” and two-thirds (64%) say that local economic conditions are getting better. By contrast, 60% of young Emiratis call the national economy “good” or “excellent,” and 56% say the country’s economy is getting better.

In terms of overall life evaluation, young Emiratis fare among the best in the region. A large majority (63%) can be classified as “thriving,” approximately one-third are “struggling” (36%), and 2% fall in the “suffering” category. The three categories combine young Emiratis’ ratings of their current lives with predicted ratings of where their lives will be in five years. No significant difference exists between young men and women.

There are many factors that contribute to young Emiratis’ positive life evaluation. For example, community satisfaction is widespread, as 93% report being satisfied with their city or area, and three-quarters (73%) say their communities are getting better. Most (83%) would also recommend their city or area to a friend or associate as a place to live.

Regarding infrastructure and services in their communities, young Emiratis are satisfied with the quality of healthcare (87%), the educational system (83%), roads and highways (76%), and public transportation (72%). Issues related to jobs may be contributing to the proportion of young Emiratis who fall into the struggling category. Roughly half of young people (49%) say now is a bad time to find a job in their communities, while 36% say the time is good to find a job.
Young Emiratis’ Silatech Index scores saw an increase after the first measure in 2009. But since the second study, scores have either decreased slightly or remained steady. In 2010, young Emiratis fare best on the Policy Index.

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### Mindset
The most important variable that can positively influence the Mindset Index score is related to job training. Currently 93% of young Emiratis think that taking part in regular job training can increase people’s chances of getting a job or getting a better job.

Another variable likely to improve scores on the Mindset dimension is positive perceptions of the number of quality jobs available locally. Young Emiratis are essentially split on their assessment of the availability of good jobs in their communities: 42% say they are satisfied and 47% say they are dissatisfied.

### Access
While the Access Index score is the lowest of the three Silatech dimensions, young Emiratis still fare relatively well on this index. The variable that best predicts a higher Access score pertains to views about national economic conditions.

Currently, 60% of young Emiratis rate the national economy as “excellent” or “good.” Young Emiratis who are aspiring entrepreneurs are slightly less positive about the national economy (55%) than are those who do not plan to start a business (63%).

### Policy
Regarding Policy Index scores, the variable that would most likely produce the largest positive change is access to loan money for budding entrepreneurs. Half of young Emiratis (51%) agree that it is easy enough for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business in the country, while 32% do not. In addition, 16% say they do not know whether or not it is easy to obtain a loan. In order to raise the Policy score, not only can perceptions about loan access be changed from negative to positive, but education around the loan process and outcomes could affect the knowledge and perceptions of the “do not know” group.
Young Emiratis show a slight penchant for entrepreneurship. Seventeen percent of young people aged 15 to 29 say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, leaving 75% who say they have no such plans. However, most young Emiratis would rather work for the government than a private business – 71% say they prefer a job in government.

Perceptions of the ease of starting and running a business in the United Arab Emirates are more or less the same between aspiring entrepreneurs and those who have no plans to start a business. The main difference appears when young people are asked if they have someone other than a family member whom they trust enough to have as a business partner. Seventy-eight percent of aspiring entrepreneurs say they do have such a person in their life compared with 56% of young people who do not plan to start a business.

Attitudes toward the business climate among young Emiratis who plan to start a business are positive for the most part. However, they express more confidence in some aspects of business entry than others. For example, 82% of aspiring entrepreneurs say they have confidence they can find qualified labor, but 49% say it is easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business.

Even though fewer than one in five young Emiratis (17%) plan to start a business in the next 12 months, a majority of young Emiratis feel positively about entrepreneurs in their communities. Sixty-seven percent of all young people say they have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, and 75% say the city or area where they live is a good place for entrepreneurs starting new businesses. Young aspiring entrepreneurs are slightly less positive about their communities being a good place for entrepreneurs forming new businesses (65%).

Opinions about jobs in the United Arab Emirates are somewhat unenthusiastic. Half of all young Emiratis (49%) say now is not a good time to find a job in the city or area where they live, and 36% say it is a good time. Young people are split on the availability of good jobs: 42% express satisfaction with the availability of good jobs while 47% are dissatisfied. At the same time, about two-thirds of young people (65%) say they are satisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs in the United Arab Emirates.

**Figure 4** Business Climate Among Aspiring Entrepreneurs

![Business Climate Among Aspiring Entrepreneurs](image_url)
If given the opportunity to move abroad permanently, the vast majority of young Emiratis (93%) would want to continue living in their country. With such a high proportion of young Emiratis falling into the life evaluation category of thriving (63%), it is not surprising to find so few wanting to emigrate.

As was previously mentioned, satisfaction with one’s community is widespread among young Emiratis. Further, they express satisfaction with the infrastructure and services offered in their communities, such as schools, healthcare, roads and highways, and public transportation. Eighty-three percent would recommend their community as a place to live to a friend or associate.

Nineteen percent of young people say that they are likely to move away from the city or area where they currently live in the next 12 months, compared with 76% who say they are unlikely to move.

Many young people may be rooted in the strong social ties that they already have in the United Arab Emirates. Eighty-nine percent say they have friends or relatives they can count on to help whenever needed. And 82% say they are satisfied with the opportunities they have to meet people and make friends in their communities.

They may also choose to stay because they feel that the United Arab Emirates is open and accepting of many kinds of people, including immigrants from other countries. Sixty-five percent of young Emiratis say the city or area in which they live is a good place for immigrants.

And on a personal level, most young people (85%) say they are satisfied with the freedom they enjoy in the United Arab Emirates to choose what they want to do with their lives.

The lure of employment only slightly increases the proportion of young Emiratis who would consider moving to another country. When asked if they would relocate to another country if they found themselves out of work and looking for a job for six months or more, 12% said they would relocate and 79% said they would not. Young Emiratis are, however, more open to the idea of relocating to another city within the United Arab Emirates for a job: 38% said they would, while 53% said they would not.

Two percent of young Emiratis express the desire to move to another country permanently.

Sample sizes for educational groups are too small to report results.
While young women and men have different attitudes on several aspects of their lives, their views on some gender issues reveal much common ground. Young Emiratis are unanimous (97%) that women in their country are treated with respect and dignity, and also in their conviction that boys and girls should have equal access to the same level of education (95%).

Young Emiratis are positive in their assessments of basic infrastructure, but differences of opinion exist between young men and young women. The former are more satisfied than the latter with the public transportation systems (76% vs. 67%), roads and highways (80% vs. 72%), and the educational system (86% vs. 80%). They are also more satisfied with the availability of public parks (92% vs. 81%).

A gender gap is also present in self-reported measures of experiential wellbeing, although the gap often does not exist for those aged 23 to 29 years old, but only in the younger cohort, aged 15 to 22 years old. For example, more young men aged 15 to 22 say they smiled or laughed a lot of the day yesterday (85%) than young women in the same age cohort (71%). The same pattern is observed for having enough energy to get things done (91% vs. 79%), feeling a lot of happiness (84% vs. 73%), and being worry-free (82% say they experienced no worry versus 70% of women).

Young Emiratis show a great sense of participation in their communities. Forty-two percent of young people overall have donated money to a charity in the last month, including 38% of men and 45% of women. Fifty-six percent of all young people say they have helped a stranger in need in their community in the last month. Volunteering one’s time is less common than donating money or helping a stranger. However, 16% of young women and 13% of young men say they volunteered their time to an organization in the last month.

Young Emirati women and men express similar views about the job situation. Neither group is overwhelmingly positive about the local job market, but young women are slightly more so (41%) than men (32%). And even though most young people express a desire to work for the government over business, young women (63%) are less likely than young men (79%) to show a preference for government jobs over private sector ones. Young women are also less likely than their male counterparts to have a favorable opinion of entrepreneurs, 62% vs. 72%.
Seventy-five percent of young Emiratis say the city or area where they live is a good place for entrepreneurs."
Yemen's depressed economy appears to have a tremendous impact on the country's young people. Most young Yemenis express negative views about the job situation and the direction of the economy. Many express the desire to leave the country permanently in hopes of finding better employment opportunities elsewhere. Further, intentions to start a business most likely stem out of survival and necessity as few see alternatives to earning a living.

The outlook on the economy and jobs is negative among young Yemenis. About half think the economy is getting worse nationally (53%) and in their local area (51%), and 84% say that it is a bad time to find a job in their communities. These attitudes are reflected in the employment status of young Yemenis: approximately half (49%) are not currently in the workforce or in school. Of the remaining population, 20% work full time, 18% are students, and 13% are employed part time.

Two-thirds of young Yemenis (66%) can be classified as “struggling” according to the life evaluation index that takes into account ratings of their current lives as well as their forecast for their lives in five years. Across genders, young Yemenis are equally as likely to be classified as “thriving” (18%) as they are “suffering” (16%). However, young men (25%) are far more likely to be suffering than women (9%).

Dissatisfaction with the services in their communities may be reflected in young Yemenis’ “struggling” status. At least 7 in 10 young Yemenis are dissatisfied with the availability of quality healthcare (72%), the availability of good, affordable housing (70%), and the availability of good jobs (80%) in their communities.

The mental wellbeing of young Yemenis may also be reflected in the proportion of the population that is classified as “struggling.” Approximately one-third of all young people felt a lot of anger (38%), stress (37%), worry (36%), and depression (31%) the day before the survey. Twenty-two percent also felt a lot of sadness that day, while one-third of young Yemenis also report experiencing physical pain.

However, a majority of young Yemenis say they felt a lot of happiness (62%) the day before the survey. And a strong majority (84%) are confident that hard work will help people get ahead in Yemen.
Yemenis fare the best on the Mindset Index, followed closely by the Policy Index. Both of these scores saw no movement from the last measurement. The Access Index score, by far the lowest of the three, dropped slightly from the last reading. This low score is a reflection of the acute infrastructure concerns, lack of jobs, and economic conditions of the country.

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Improvement on all index scores hinges on jobs, particularly the availability of good jobs. But other issues that affect employment are also significant drivers of change for Mindset, Access, and Policy scores, such as job training and the economy. Another important factor that can improve scores is the level of respect for children in Yemen.

**Mindset**

While the job environment is a predictor of the Mindset Index, respect is the most important theme to affect the score. Currently, about half of young Yemenis (49%) feel that children are treated with respect and dignity in their country, and roughly half (47%) feel that they are not. If Mindset measures inclusion and productivity within the society, it is clear to see how the perceived treatment of children can have an effect on the overall score.

Two other significant predictors of the Mindset Index are related to jobs. More widespread perceptions that job training can help people get a job or a better one, along with more positive views about the availability of good job opportunities, will help improve Mindset scores.

**Access**

The main predictor of a higher Access score is an improved perception of the availability of good jobs. Currently, 80% of young Yemenis say they are dissatisfied with the availability of good jobs in their communities. Perceptions of economic conditions as related to perceptions of the job climate are an important predictor of higher Access scores. The treatment of children turns up again as a significant predictor of this index score, though with slightly less impact on the Access scores than Mindset scores.

**Policy**

A strong majority of young Yemenis express a preference for government jobs over any other type of work environment. They may see public sector employment as more stable and offering better benefits, or perhaps they perceive more government jobs are, in fact, available. In the analysis of the Policy Index, such preference affects the index score negatively. As a result, the biggest impact on the Policy Index will come from convincing young people that the private sector is an important contributor to the national economy and offers good job opportunities.
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

YEMEN

Approximately one-quarter (27%) of young Yemenis say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months. Such entrepreneurial intentions are far more likely to stem from economic necessity (84%) than from a position of opportunity (15%), as most young Yemenis say it is challenging to live on their current household income. Several differences exist between young aspiring entrepreneurs in the country and those who do not have business creation intentions, including their employment status: a greater proportion of non-entrepreneurial Yemenis are likely to be out of the workforce and not in school (57%) than aspiring entrepreneurs (39%), while aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to be employed full time (26% vs. 12%, respectively).

Aspiring entrepreneurs have a slightly better outlook on their personal lives and their communities than the country’s young people in general. They are more satisfied with the city or area where they live (70% vs. 61%) and are more likely to recommend it to a friend or an associate as a place to live (62% vs. 38%). They are also more optimistic (59%) than those who don’t express the desire to launch a business (49%) that their communities are good places for entrepreneurs to live.

Young aspiring entrepreneurs have better access to communication than those who do not want to start a business, such as having a landline telephone (39% vs. 26%), a television (78% vs. 69%), and a cellular phone (73% vs. 63%) in their home. And young aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely than other young Yemenis to report satisfaction with the freedom to do what they want with their lives, 68% and 58%, respectively.

Perceived barriers to business entry are prevalent. One-quarter (25%) agree that it is easy to obtain a business loan and 31% agree that filing paperwork and permits is easy enough. At the same time, 56% of aspiring entrepreneurs trust their assets will be safe at all times in Yemen.

Aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely than those who do not want to start a business to believe there’s a person they trust enough outside of their family to make a business partner, 73% vs. 54%. They are also more likely (80% vs. 64%) to say that if someone wants to start a business in Yemen, they can feel very confident that they will easily find hardworking and qualified employees when they need them.

Figure 4. Business Climate Among Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Young Yemenis were asked to consider several actions they might take if they were unemployed for more than six months. Young aspiring entrepreneurs showed more willingness to do what it takes to change their unemployment situation than young Yemenis in general. Seventy-two percent of aspiring entrepreneurs say they would take a job beneath their skill level (compared with 57% among those who do not want to create a business), 82% say they would start their own business (compared with 56%), 71% would retrain for a different career (compared with 59%), 59% would relocate to another city within Yemen (compared with 44%), and 57% say they would relocate to another country for work (compared with 36%).
While a majority of young Yemenis (66%) would like to continue to live in Yemen, 33% say they would leave if given the opportunity to live abroad permanently. Half of young Yemeni men (49%) would want to move permanently, compared with about one-quarter of young women (22%). Among young Yemenis who are employed full time, 51% express the desire to leave the country permanently. Young Yemenis with the lowest levels of education are the most likely to express the desire to emigrate.

Aside from demographic differences between the people who would like to emigrate and those who would rather stay, attitudinal differences exist as well. It is clear that young people who would like to emigrate are experiencing tougher economic hardship than other young people. They are more likely to express dissatisfaction with their standard of living (54% vs. 39%) and to say that their standard of living is getting worse (41% vs. 31%). About half (53%) of young Yemenis who express a desire to leave permanently say there were times during the last 12 months when they did not have enough money for food, compared with 40% of those who do not wish to leave.

When asked about the economy in the city or area where they live, 78% of potential emigrants say conditions are not good, compared with 65% of those who do not want to leave Yemen. Potential emigrants are much more likely to say that conditions are getting worse, compared with those who do not want to emigrate (60% vs. 47%, respectively). And when asked about the economy of the country, potential emigrants are even less optimistic: 66% see it as getting worse, compared with 55% of young Yemenis who do not want to emigrate.

Potential emigrants show more willingness than young Yemenis who prefer to stay in the country to do what it takes to change their employment situation. When asked what they would be willing to do if they were out of work for more than six months, potential emigrants would be more likely to take a job beneath their skill set (71% vs. 57%), retrain in a different career field (71% vs. 59%), relocate to another city within Yemen (74% vs. 35%), and relocate to another country (84% vs. 20%).

Those with an elementary level of education or less are far more likely than all other young Yemenis to express the desire to leave the country permanently.

The stress of the economy and unemployment among young Yemenis who would like to leave the country is surely taking a toll on them emotionally. Forty-two percent say that they did not feel well-rested the day before the survey. Forty-one percent also say they experienced a lot of worry, and 44% did not experience a lot of enjoyment. About half (52%) of the people who would like to move abroad permanently report feeling stress.
Twenty-two percent of young Yemeni women are in the “thriving” category, which is well above the 14% of young Yemeni men that fall into that category. This translates into young women having a more positive outlook on personal economics: 62% say they are satisfied with their standard of living, compared with 47% of men who say the same. Further, 44% of young women say their standard of living is getting better, compared with 30% of young men.

Young Yemeni women’s attitudes are more positive about other economic topics as well. While neither gender overwhelmingly thinks the economy of his or her community is good, women are less likely (62%) than young men (79%) to say it is bad. They are also much less likely to say it is getting worse (41%) than young men (64%).

Young women are more positive than young men to think their communities are getting better (49% and 27%, respectively). And while neither men nor women are incredibly optimistic about efforts to increase the number of quality jobs, women are more upbeat (30%) than men (17%).

Business aspirations are less prevalent among young women: 19% say they plan to start a business in the next 12 months, compared with 37% of young men. One reason, perhaps, is because men (75%) are much more likely than women (48%) to say they already have someone, other than a family member, whom they can trust enough to make their partner in starting a business.

But young women are also less positive about some aspects of entrepreneurship. For example, 61% of young women compared with 79% of young men think future business owners can feel confident that they will easily find hardworking and qualified employees when they need them. Further, they are less likely than young men to trust the government will allow business owners to make a lot of money (42% and 52%, respectively).

Young men and young women in Yemen report giving money to charitable organizations at more or less the same levels. However, women (5%) are less likely than men (15%) to report having volunteered their time to an organization in the past month.

When asked about the treatment of women in their society, 71% of both young men and women feel that women are treated with respect and dignity in Yemen. Yet women (55%) are far less likely than men (70%) to report satisfaction with their freedom to choose what to do with their life.
In Yemen, aspiring entrepreneurs are more likely to report having access to communication services than young Yemenis who do not plan to start a business.
Of all Arab youth wishing to emigrate, 60% are men and 40% are women.
CHAPTER 8

METHODOLOGY
METHODOLOGY

The Silatech indexes of Mindset, Access, and Policy are based on data from the Gallup World Poll. This report presents poll findings from 20 countries that are members of the League of Arab States and the Somaliland region of Somalia. The Gallup World Poll is an instrument used in more than 150 countries and areas that is designed to measure a variety of core wellbeing issues such as employment, health, safety, education, national institutions, and region-specific issues. Before fieldwork began, four key steps took place: questionnaire design, translation, training, and sampling.

**Questionnaire Design**

Most items have a dichotomous (“yes or no”) response set to minimize contamination of data because of cultural differences in response styles and to facilitate cross-cultural comparisons.

**Translation**

The questionnaire was written in English and then translated into French and Arabic, with additional translations made as needed for major languages in each country. Two translators who are proficient in the original and target languages complete independent translations of the survey into the target language with the aim of conceptual equivalence of words or phrases. A third translator reviews the translated versions against the original version to agree on a common translation. That translation is then back-translated into French or English and adjustments or discrepancies are resolved. Final confirmations of valid translations are submitted to Gallup for each local translation needed.

**Training**

Traditionally, Gallup selects local partners who have experience in nationwide public opinion studies. In locations where public opinion polling is a relatively recent research activity (for example, Yemen, Syria, and several African countries), Gallup conducts extensive training to ensure that local partners are adequately prepared for the polling work. Gallup conducts in-depth training sessions with local field staff prior to the start of data collection. Topics covered in training include household selection, respondent selection, correct administration of the questionnaire, and other field quality procedures. The training sessions provide examples of best practices and standards required to ensure high quality when data are collected.

The standardization procedures used in the translation and training phases are vital to ensuring that the questions asked of one population are comparable to another population. The sampling procedures used in each country are the next step toward the uniformity of data collection.

**Sampling**

With few exceptions, all samples are probability-based and nationally representative of the resident population, aged 15 and older, as is standard for all Gallup World Poll studies. The coverage area is the entire country including urban and rural areas. Areas where the safety of the interviewing staff is threatened, scarcely populated islands, and areas that interviewers can reach only by foot, animal, or small boat are not included in the polling studies. For all waves of the Silatech data collection, quotas were collected in countries where the proportions of nationals were less than 50%. The World Poll survey includes at least 1,000 surveys of individuals in each country. Only in countries
with large expatriate populations does the sample size of nationals decrease to less than 1,000 per country. Please refer to Annex A for exact national populations and exceptions to nationwide sampling. All World Poll surveys for Silatech countries were conducted face-to-face using the following procedures:

**Face-to-Face Survey Design**

**First Stage:** Face-to-face surveys were conducted for all Silatech data collection. The first stage of sampling is the identification of PSUs (Primary Sampling Units) consisting of clusters of households. PSUs are stratified by population size and/or geography and clustering is achieved through one or more stages of sampling. Where population information is available, sample selection is based on probabilities proportional to population size; otherwise, simple random sampling is used.

**Second Stage:** Random route procedures are used to select sampled households. Unless an outright refusal occurs, wherever possible, interviewers must make at least three attempts to survey the sampled household. Attempts are made on different days, and if local custom permits, at least one attempt is made on a weekend. After three attempts, if an interview cannot be obtained at the initial sampled household, the household to the immediate right of the initial household is selected. If the first attempt at this household is unsuccessful, then the house immediately to the left of the initial household is selected.

**Third Stage:** Respondents are randomly selected within the selected households. Interviewers list all eligible household members and their ages or birthdays. The respondent is selected by means of the Kish grid. The person who answers the door is not informed of the selection criteria until after the respondent has been identified.

**Data Weighting**

Data weighting is used to ensure a nationally representative sample for each country and is intended to be used for calculations within a country.

First, base sampling weights are constructed to account for household size. Weighting by household size (number of residents aged 15 and older) is used to adjust for the probability of selection, as residents in large households will have a disproportionately lower probability of being selected for the sample.

Second, post-stratification weights are constructed. Population statistics are used to weight the data by gender, age, and, where reliable data are available, education or socioeconomic status.

Finally, approximate study design effect and margin of error are calculated (calculations are presented in Annex A). The design effect calculation reflects the influence of data weighting and does not incorporate the intraclass correlation coefficients.

Specifically for the Gulf countries, where there is a substantial expatriate population, weighting was calculated separately for the national population based on national targets and the expatriate population based on available targets for these groups. Only the populations of nationals are reported on for Silatech, so the weighting applied to this group allows for analysis void of the expatriate populations.
**Margin of Error**

The maximum margin of error is calculated around reported proportions for each country-level data set, assuming a 95% confidence level. The margin of error also includes the approximate design effect for the total country sample. Country-specific data for margin of error is in Annex A.

**Silatech Indexes**

The Silatech Indexes are the Mindset Index, Access Index, and Policy Index. Each of the three indexes was constructed independently and is presented independently for scoring and ranking. Each index is appropriate for a top-level assessment of a country on core Silatech issues. Looking at each of the component indexes independently allows for granularity in the country scores, increased insight into specific strengths of a country or region, and points to opportunities for growth through the Silatech project.

The Mindset, Access, and Policy Indexes are tested for reliability on the youth national population. The data provided in the report related to index scores represent only youth nationals for each country.

Details of each index are provided in the first Silatech report. Topline information involving index construction and reliability are noted here. Full external correlations testing external validity of the measures is available in Annex D.

**Mindset Index**

The Mindset Index measures several factors that either help or hinder young people’s inclusion and productivity within society. The four overarching concepts addressed are attitudes toward work, attitudes toward self-determination, community support to accelerate youth, and community support to enhance engagement in society and the economy.

**Index Questions**

- Thinking about the job situation in the city or area where you live today, would you say that it is now a good time or a bad time to find a job?
- Do you think that taking part in regular job training increases people’s chances of getting a job or getting a better job?
- Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your freedom to choose what you do with your life?
- Do most children in this country have the opportunity to learn and grow every day, or not?
- Can people in this country get ahead by working hard, or not?
- In the city or area where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the educational system or the schools?
- Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for entrepreneurs forming new businesses?

**Index Construction**

Index scores are calculated at the individual record level. For each individual record, the following procedure applies: The first three items are recoded so that favorable answers are scored as a “1” and all other answers (including don’t know and refused) are assigned a score of “0.” If a record has no answer for an item, then the item is not eligible for inclusion in the calculations. An individual record has an index calculated if it has valid scores for six of the seven items. A record’s final index score is the mean of valid items...
multiplied by 100. The final country-level index score is the mean of all individual records for which an index score was calculated. Country-level weights are applied to this calculation.

**Reliability**
The Mindset Index has a Cronbach’s alpha of .82 when aggregated at the country level.

**Access Index**
The Access Index measures several factors that address both individual and macro-level engagement in business. The four overarching concepts addressed in the index are basic systems and framework for access, economic demand, job availability or placement, and access to capital and business development services.

**Index Questions**
- In your country, do you have confidence in each of the following, or not? How about the judicial system and courts?
- Right now, do you think economic conditions in your country, as a whole, are getting better or getting worse?
- Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with efforts to increase the number of quality jobs?
- In general, is it easy for anyone to obtain a loan to start a business in your country, or not?
- In general, does the government make paperwork and permits easy enough for anyone who wants to start a business, or not?

**Index Construction**
Index scores are calculated at the individual record level. For each individual record, the following procedure applies: All five items are recoded so that favorable answers are scored as a “1” and all other answers (including don’t know and refused) are assigned a score of “0.” If a record has no answer for an item, then the item is not eligible for inclusion in the calculations. An individual record has an index calculated if it has valid scores for three of the five items. A record’s final index score is the mean of valid items multiplied by 100. The final country-level index score is the mean of three of the five items for individual records for which an index score was calculated. Country-level weights are applied to this calculation.

**Reliability**
The Access Index has a Cronbach’s alpha of .91 when aggregated at the country level.

**Policy Index**
The Policy Index measures several factors to address increased employment and economic opportunity. The three overarching concepts addressed are social inclusion, improvement of competitiveness of markets, and stimulating employment and economic opportunities.

**Index Questions**
- Would you say that the leadership in your country maximize on the potential of youth?
- Do you think the government of your country is doing enough to fight corruption, or not?
- If someone wants to start a business in your country, can they feel very confident that they will easily find hardworking and qualified employees when they need them?
- If someone wants to start a business in your country, can they trust the government to allow their business to make a lot of money?
• If someone wants to start a business in your country, can they trust their assets and property to be safe at all times?

Index Construction
Index scores are calculated at the individual record level. For each individual record, the following procedure applies: All five items are recoded so that favorable answers are scored as a “1” and all other answers (including don’t know and refused) are assigned a score of “0.” If a record has no answer for an item, then that item is not eligible for inclusion in the calculations. An individual record has an index calculated if it has valid scores for four of the five items. A record’s final index score is the mean of valid items multiplied by 100. The final country-level index score is the mean of four of the five individual records for which an index score was calculated. Country-level weights are applied to this calculation.

Policy Index Calculations
The calculation of the Policy Index in the current report and in the February 2010 report differed from the Policy Index calculation used in the first iteration of the Silatech Index launched in June 2009. In June 2009, the following item was asked:

• In general, do you mostly agree or mostly disagree with the following? Those responsible for the progress of your society maximize on the potential of youth within your country.

This item was modified prior to the February 2010 report data collection and has been constant for the last two rounds of data collection and reporting. The updated question reads:

• Would you say that the leadership in your country maximize on the potential of youth?

The results for these two items yielded different results. In some countries, responses to the current item were higher — essentially raising the Policy Index score for a country. In other countries, responses to this item stayed the same and likewise had no effect on the index score. In some countries, responses to this item dropped considerably, negatively affecting the Policy scores. To account for the differences in the Policy Index because of the changed wording in this “maximization of youth potential” item, scores only from the current item wording are used in the index calculations and discussions for Policy.

Reliability
The Policy Index has a Cronbach’s alpha of .83 when aggregated at the country level.
For potential emigrants in the low-income group, Saudi Arabia (26%) and the United States (22%) are the top two desired destination countries.
CHAPTER 9

ANNEXES
## ANNEX A: 2010 DATA COLLECTION AND SAMPLE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Data Collection Dates</th>
<th>Number of Interviews</th>
<th>Design Effecta</th>
<th>Margin of Errorb</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
<th>Mode of Interviewing</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Exclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Feb 1-Mar 7</td>
<td>1,001</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative, some areas excluded. The sparsely populated deep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South and governorates that represent security risks within Algiers were</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>excluded. The excluded areas represent approximately 25% of the population.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Mar 31-Apr 30</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Bahraini nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Feb 22-Mar 8</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>French, Comorian</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Mar 13-Mar 23</td>
<td>1,042</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Feb 17-Feb 27</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, Kurdish</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Mar 20-Apr 9</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Apr 8-Apr 17</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Kuwaiti nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Feb 3-Mar 25</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Feb 20-Mar 18</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Three geographies included</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sample was restricted to three areas: Tripoli, Benghazi, and Al Kufra. The</td>
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<td>areas represent roughly 50% of the population. The sample skews high on</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>education.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>Feb 28-Mar 11</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, French, Poulaar, Wolof, Soninke</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The northern region (Tiris) and the eastern region (Adrar) were excluded</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>due to insecurity. The excluded areas represent approximately 5% of the</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>population.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Feb 18-Mar 23</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, French</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>Feb 4-Feb 20</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>The sample includes East Jerusalem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Data Collection Dates</td>
<td>Number of Interviews</td>
<td>Design Effect(^a)</td>
<td>Margin of Error(^b)</td>
<td>Response Rate</td>
<td>Mode of Interviewing</td>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>Exclusions</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Mar 17-May 29; Jul 1-Aug 10</td>
<td>1,023</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Saudi nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somaliland (region)</td>
<td>Feb 27-Mar 11</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Feb 19-Mar 4</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td>Nationally representative, some areas excluded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Mar 3-Apr 30</td>
<td>1,029</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Feb 3-Apr 27</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Feb 21-Apr 20</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Emirati nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Feb 12-Feb 27</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) The design effect calculation reflects the weights and does not incorporate the intraclass correlation coefficients. Design effect calculation: \(n^* (\text{sum of squared weights})/[(\text{sum of weights})^2 (\text{sum of weights})]\)

\(^b\) Margin of error is calculated around a proportion at the 95% confidence level. The maximum margin of error was calculated assuming a reported percentage of 50% and takes into account the design effect. Margin of error calculation: \(\sqrt{(0.25/N) \times 1.96^2 \times (DE)}\)
### ANNEX B: 2009 DATA COLLECTION AND SAMPLE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (Waves 1 and 2 Combined)</th>
<th>Data Collection Dates</th>
<th>Number of Interviews</th>
<th>Design Effect (a)</th>
<th>Margin of Error (b)</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
<th>Mode of Interviewing</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Exclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Feb 21-Mar 22 Aug 1-Sep 12</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>72% 34%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative, some areas excluded</td>
<td>Sparse deep South was excluded. Excluded area represents less than 10% of the population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Feb 23-Mar 19 Aug 17-Sep 15</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>87% 79%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Bahraini nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Feb 23-Mar 5 Jul 15-Oct 10</td>
<td>869</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>84% 87%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>French, Comorian</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Mar 2-Mar 12 Jul 25-Aug 2</td>
<td>1,163</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>85% 93%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>French, Afar, Somali</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Mar 7-Mar 22 Aug 11-Aug 19</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>91% 86%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Feb 20-Mar 12 Aug 10-Aug 20</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>88% 78%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, Kurdish</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Mar 18-Apr Sep 23-Oct 10</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>62% 46%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Feb 23-Mar 18 Aug 10-Aug 30</td>
<td>568</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>69% 63%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Kuwaiti nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Feb 18-Mar 20 Aug 2-Aug 30</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>20% 20%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya (Wave 2 Only)</td>
<td>Aug 17-Oct 19</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td>Three geographies included</td>
<td>Sample was restricted to three areas: Tripoli, Benghazi, and Al Kufrah. The areas represent roughly 50% of the population. The sample skews male and employed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>Feb 20-Mar 1 Jul 25-Sep 26</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>79% 82%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Feb 26-Mar 18 Aug 7-Aug 24</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>88% 84%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, French</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>Feb 13-Feb 22 Aug 3-Aug 17</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>NA 84%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex B: 2009 Data Collection and Sample Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country (Waves 1 and 2 Combined)</th>
<th>Data Collection Dates</th>
<th>Number of Interviews</th>
<th>Design Effect$^a$</th>
<th>Margin of Error$^b$</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
<th>Mode of Interviewing</th>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Exclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Aug-Oct</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Qatari nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Feb 17-Mar 20</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>77% 70%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Saudi nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 1-Aug 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somaliland (Region)</td>
<td>Mar 6-Mar 17</td>
<td>1,060</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>86% 85%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, Somali, Afar</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 1-Aug 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Mar 2-Mar 12</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>88% 87%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td>Nationally representative, some areas excluded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jul 29-Aug 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Feb 20-Mar 16</td>
<td>947</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>59% 72%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 10-Sep 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Feb 20-Mar 25</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>72% 72%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 2-Aug 22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Mar 1-Mar 31</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>68% 58%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Emirati nationals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 8-Sep 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Feb 24-Mar 19</td>
<td>1,001</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>80% 90%</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Nationally representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 4-Sep 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^a$ The design effect calculation reflects the weights and does not incorporate the intraclass correlation coefficients. Design effect calculation: $n^*(\text{sum of squared weights})/[(\text{sum of weights})^2*(\text{sum of weights})]$.

$^b$ Margin of error is calculated around a proportion at the 95% confidence level. The maximum margin of error was calculated assuming a reported percentage of 50% and takes into account the design effect. Margin of error calculation: $(_{0.25/N})^*_1.96^*_2(\text{DE})$. 
## ANNEX C: PREDICTIVE MODEL ADJUSTED R SQUARED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti&lt;sup&gt;^&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar&lt;sup&gt;^&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somaliland (region)</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted R<sup>2</sup> in the above table indicate the model fit for regression analyses in the country reports.

<sup>^</sup> R<sup>2</sup> values are based on 2009 regression analyses.

<sup>*</sup> Regression analysis could not be completed because of the unavailability of certain data items.
### ANNEX D: SILATECH INDEX VALIDATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Source/Title</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_CB_mean WP Community Basics</td>
<td>.708**</td>
<td>.722**</td>
<td>.770**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_CE_mean WP Citizen Engagement</td>
<td>.759**</td>
<td>.737**</td>
<td>.700*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_CM_mean WP Communication</td>
<td>-0.199</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>-0.396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_CR_mean WP Corruption</td>
<td>-0.302</td>
<td>-0.134</td>
<td>-0.720*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_FS_mean WP Food and Shelter</td>
<td>.655*</td>
<td>.603*</td>
<td>0.531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_LO_mean WP Law and Order</td>
<td>.666**</td>
<td>.540*</td>
<td>.869**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_NI_mean National Institutions</td>
<td>0.580</td>
<td>.642*</td>
<td>.743*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_NX_mean WP Negative Experience</td>
<td>-.655*</td>
<td>-0.461</td>
<td>-.643*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_OT_mean WP Optimism</td>
<td>.801**</td>
<td>.901**</td>
<td>.921**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_PE_mean WP Personal Economics</td>
<td>.810**</td>
<td>.918**</td>
<td>.908**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_PH_mean WP Personal Health</td>
<td>.839**</td>
<td>.633*</td>
<td>.785**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_PX_mean WP Positive Experience</td>
<td>.730**</td>
<td>.600*</td>
<td>.835**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_PF_mean WP Religion</td>
<td>.658*</td>
<td>.566*</td>
<td>.804**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_ST_mean WP Struggling</td>
<td>-0.114</td>
<td>-0.177</td>
<td>-0.219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_SU_mean WP Suffering</td>
<td>-.888**</td>
<td>-.819**</td>
<td>-.896**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_TH_mean WP Thriving</td>
<td>.747**</td>
<td>.754**</td>
<td>.766**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_VI_mean WP Violence</td>
<td>0.141</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>-0.459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_WO_mean WP Work</td>
<td>.769**</td>
<td>.650*</td>
<td>.941**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDEX_YD_mean WP Youth Development</td>
<td>.861**</td>
<td>.807**</td>
<td>.914**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Income International Dollars</td>
<td>0.526</td>
<td>0.129</td>
<td>-0.411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Poverty Index</td>
<td>-0.234</td>
<td>-0.258</td>
<td>-0.011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prison</td>
<td>0.540</td>
<td>0.556</td>
<td>0.644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Correlation significant to 0.01
*Correlation significant to 0.05
^Correlation could not be calculated due to the unavailability of some data items.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Source/Title</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicides</td>
<td>-0.555</td>
<td>-0.547</td>
<td>-.667*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption Perceptions Index</td>
<td>.691**</td>
<td>.733**</td>
<td>.657*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political rights</td>
<td>-0.120</td>
<td>-0.192</td>
<td>-0.238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil liberties</td>
<td>-0.342</td>
<td>-0.322</td>
<td>-0.433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom press</td>
<td>0.071</td>
<td>0.187</td>
<td>0.063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
<td>0.532</td>
<td>.585*</td>
<td>0.197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total life expectancy at birth</td>
<td>0.486</td>
<td>.536*</td>
<td>0.259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth, male</td>
<td>0.478</td>
<td>.538*</td>
<td>0.245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation rate</td>
<td>0.167</td>
<td>0.123</td>
<td>-0.099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of parliament seats held by women</td>
<td>0.131</td>
<td>0.272</td>
<td>0.186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal computers</td>
<td>0.479</td>
<td>0.514</td>
<td>0.286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed line and mobile phone subscriptions (per 1,000)</td>
<td>.788**</td>
<td>.854**</td>
<td>.592*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19)</td>
<td>-0.060</td>
<td>-0.107</td>
<td>-0.109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)</td>
<td>-0.063</td>
<td>-0.134</td>
<td>-0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Age dependency ratio, old (% of working-age population)</td>
<td>-0.357</td>
<td>-0.367</td>
<td>-0.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Age dependency ratio, young (% of working-age population)</td>
<td>-0.015</td>
<td>-0.087</td>
<td>-0.055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 CO2 Emissions (kg per 2005 PPP $ of GDP)</td>
<td>0.497</td>
<td>0.407</td>
<td>0.091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 CO2 Emissions (metric tons per capita)</td>
<td>.724**</td>
<td>.825**</td>
<td>0.581</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008 Cost of business start-up procedures (% of GNI per capita)</td>
<td>0.298</td>
<td>0.277</td>
<td>0.208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 CPIA equity of public resource use rating (1 = low to 6 = high)</td>
<td>0.376</td>
<td>0.296</td>
<td>0.402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Ease of Doing Business Index (1 = most business-friendly regulations)</td>
<td>-0.061</td>
<td>-0.077</td>
<td>-0.147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Emigration rate of tertiary educated (% of total tertiary educated pop.)</td>
<td>-0.299</td>
<td>-0.384</td>
<td>-0.450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Correlation significant to 0.01
* Correlation significant to 0.05
^ Correlation could not be calculated due to the unavailability of some data items.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Source/Title</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008 Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)</td>
<td>.698*</td>
<td>.761**</td>
<td>0.341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Fertility rate, total (births per woman)</td>
<td>0.240</td>
<td>0.172</td>
<td>0.202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Fixed broadband Internet subscribers (per 100 people)</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.065</td>
<td>0.040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP growth (annual %)</td>
<td>-0.289</td>
<td>-0.281</td>
<td>-0.248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per capita (constant 2000 US$)</td>
<td>-0.264</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
<td>-0.292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per capita (constant LCU)</td>
<td>-0.116</td>
<td>-0.113</td>
<td>-0.186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per capita (current US$)</td>
<td>-0.210</td>
<td>-0.199</td>
<td>-0.248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per capita growth (annual %)</td>
<td>-0.323</td>
<td>-0.299</td>
<td>-0.298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2005 international $)</td>
<td>-0.288</td>
<td>-0.275</td>
<td>-0.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per capita, PPP (current international $)</td>
<td>-0.288</td>
<td>-0.275</td>
<td>-0.324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 GDP per person employed (constant 1990 PPP $)</td>
<td>0.381</td>
<td>0.447</td>
<td>0.532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 GDP per unit of energy use (constant 2005 PPP $ per kg of oil equivalent)</td>
<td>-0.360</td>
<td>-0.279</td>
<td>-0.372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Gross national expenditure (% of GDP)</td>
<td>-.740**</td>
<td>-.835**</td>
<td>-0.520</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 Health expenditure per capita (current US$)</td>
<td>.692**</td>
<td>.757**</td>
<td>0.463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Health expenditure, private (% of GDP)</td>
<td>-0.197</td>
<td>-0.426</td>
<td>-0.355</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 Health expenditure, public (% of GDP)</td>
<td>-0.146</td>
<td>-0.249</td>
<td>-0.574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Health expenditure, public (% of government expenditure)</td>
<td>0.241</td>
<td>0.088</td>
<td>-0.056</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 Health expenditure, public (% of total health expenditure)</td>
<td>0.216</td>
<td>0.412</td>
<td>0.132</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 Health expenditure, total (% of GDP)</td>
<td>-0.203</td>
<td>-0.413</td>
<td>-0.508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)</td>
<td>0.475</td>
<td>0.517</td>
<td>0.239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Improved sanitation facilities, rural (% of rural population with access)</td>
<td>0.504</td>
<td>0.546</td>
<td>0.235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Improved sanitation facilities, urban (% of urban population with access)</td>
<td>0.327</td>
<td>0.303</td>
<td>-0.058</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Correlation significant to 0.01
* Correlation significant to 0.05
^ Correlation could not be calculated due to the unavailability of some data items.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Source/Title</th>
<th>Mindset</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 Improved water source (% of population with access)</td>
<td>0.179</td>
<td>0.253</td>
<td>0.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access)</td>
<td>0.082</td>
<td>0.142</td>
<td>0.068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Improved water source, urban (% of urban population with access)</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td>0.353</td>
<td>0.158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Labor participation rate, female (% of female population aged 15+)</td>
<td>0.296</td>
<td>0.335</td>
<td>0.220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Labor participation rate, male (% of male population aged 15+)</td>
<td>0.109</td>
<td>0.175</td>
<td>0.106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Labor participation rate, total (% of total population aged 15+)</td>
<td>0.371</td>
<td>0.423</td>
<td>0.341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Life expectancy at birth, female (years)</td>
<td>-0.304</td>
<td>-0.270</td>
<td>-0.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Life expectancy at birth, male (years)</td>
<td>-0.228</td>
<td>-0.193</td>
<td>-0.148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Life expectancy at birth, total (years)</td>
<td>-0.266</td>
<td>-0.231</td>
<td>-0.185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Literacy rate, adult female (% of females aged 15 and older)</td>
<td>-0.495</td>
<td>-0.490</td>
<td>-0.621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Literacy rate, adult male (% of males aged 15 and older)</td>
<td>-0.097</td>
<td>-0.092</td>
<td>-0.141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Literacy rate, adult total (% of people aged 15 and older)</td>
<td>-0.356</td>
<td>-0.351</td>
<td>-0.464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Literacy rate, youth female (% of females aged 15-24)</td>
<td>-0.36</td>
<td>-0.354</td>
<td>-0.434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Literacy rate, youth male (% of males aged 15-24)</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>0.206</td>
<td>0.233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Literacy rate, youth total (% of people aged 15-24)</td>
<td>-0.125</td>
<td>-0.119</td>
<td>-0.143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate, per 100,000 live births)</td>
<td>-0.424</td>
<td>-0.485</td>
<td>-0.239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Mobile cellular subscriptions</td>
<td>-0.337</td>
<td>-0.330</td>
<td>-0.326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Mortality rate, adult female (per 1,000 female adults)</td>
<td>0.421</td>
<td>0.392</td>
<td>0.339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Mortality rate, adult male (per 1,000 male adults)</td>
<td>0.293</td>
<td>0.261</td>
<td>0.214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>0.191</td>
<td>0.161</td>
<td>0.099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Mortality rate, under 5 (per 1,000)</td>
<td>0.138</td>
<td>0.110</td>
<td>0.043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Net migration</td>
<td>.521*</td>
<td>.512*</td>
<td>.625*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005 Persistence to grade 5, female (% of cohort)</td>
<td>0.257</td>
<td>0.374</td>
<td>0.195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Persistence to grade 5, male (% of cohort)</td>
<td>0.265</td>
<td>0.402</td>
<td>0.269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Persistence to grade 5, total (% of cohort)</td>
<td>0.245</td>
<td>0.357</td>
<td>0.231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Persistence to last grade of primary, female (% of cohort)</td>
<td>0.254</td>
<td>0.349</td>
<td>0.175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Persistence to last grade of primary, male (% of cohort)</td>
<td>0.292</td>
<td>0.406</td>
<td>0.272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Persistence to last grade of primary, total (% of cohort)</td>
<td>0.250</td>
<td>0.340</td>
<td>0.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Population ages 0-14 (% of total)</td>
<td>-0.062</td>
<td>-0.131</td>
<td>-0.097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Population ages 15-64 (% of total)</td>
<td>0.136</td>
<td>0.203</td>
<td>0.167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Population ages 65+ (% of total)</td>
<td>-0.363</td>
<td>-0.363</td>
<td>-0.364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Population density (people per sq. km)</td>
<td>-0.150</td>
<td>-0.140</td>
<td>-0.201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Population growth (annual %)</td>
<td>.648**</td>
<td>.689**</td>
<td>.714**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)</td>
<td>-.615*</td>
<td>-0.414</td>
<td>-0.238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Primary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)</td>
<td>-0.250</td>
<td>-0.191</td>
<td>-0.173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Primary completion rate, male (% of relevant age group)</td>
<td>-0.123</td>
<td>-0.084</td>
<td>-0.031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)</td>
<td>-0.189</td>
<td>-0.140</td>
<td>-0.104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Progression to secondary school (%)</td>
<td>0.154</td>
<td>0.349</td>
<td>0.109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Progression to secondary school, female (%)</td>
<td>0.165</td>
<td>0.355</td>
<td>0.088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Progression to secondary school, male (%)</td>
<td>0.143</td>
<td>0.341</td>
<td>0.132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)</td>
<td>-0.250</td>
<td>-0.231</td>
<td>-0.385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Ratio of female to male tertiary enrollment (%)</td>
<td>.978**</td>
<td>.979**</td>
<td>0.988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Ratio of female to male primary enrollment (%)</td>
<td>-.628*</td>
<td>-0.567</td>
<td>-.685*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Ratio of female to male secondary enrollment (%)</td>
<td>0.297</td>
<td>0.320</td>
<td>0.357</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2008 Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary education (%)</td>
<td>0.158</td>
<td>0.181</td>
<td>0.213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Rural population (% of total population)</td>
<td>-0.207</td>
<td>-0.272</td>
<td>-0.226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Rural population growth (annual %)</td>
<td>0.414</td>
<td>0.448</td>
<td>0.524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 School enrollment, primary (% gross)</td>
<td>-0.383</td>
<td>-0.357</td>
<td>-0.292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 School enrollment, primary (% net)</td>
<td>-0.930**</td>
<td>-0.961**</td>
<td>-0.927**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 School enrollment, secondary (% gross)</td>
<td>-0.046</td>
<td>-0.03</td>
<td>0.101</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008 School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)</td>
<td>-0.510</td>
<td>-0.512</td>
<td>-0.772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 School enrollment, tertiary, female (% gross)</td>
<td>-0.120</td>
<td>-0.121</td>
<td>-0.643</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008 School enrollment, tertiary, male (% gross)</td>
<td>-0.567</td>
<td>-0.570</td>
<td>-0.734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Start-up procedures to register a business (number)</td>
<td>-0.147</td>
<td>-0.136</td>
<td>-0.310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Survival to age 65, female (% of cohort)</td>
<td>-0.375</td>
<td>-0.343</td>
<td>-0.295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Survival to age 65, male (% of cohort)</td>
<td>-0.256</td>
<td>-0.221</td>
<td>-0.181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Telephone lines (per 100 people)</td>
<td>-0.121</td>
<td>-0.088</td>
<td>-0.092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Total enrollment, primary (% net)</td>
<td>-0.834*</td>
<td>-0.833*</td>
<td>-0.935*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Total enrollment, primary, female (% net)</td>
<td>-0.889**</td>
<td>-0.888**</td>
<td>-0.960**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Total enrollment, primary, male (% net)</td>
<td>-0.724</td>
<td>-0.724</td>
<td>-0.879*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Unemployment, male (% of male labor force)</td>
<td>0.997</td>
<td>0.959</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Unemployment, female (% of female labor force)</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>-0.347</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL_COMP</td>
<td>0.589</td>
<td>.756*</td>
<td>0.596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMAN_DEV</td>
<td>.591*</td>
<td>.661**</td>
<td>0.330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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