



IFI NEWSLETTER

April - May 2024



NEWS

FutureWORKS COLLECTIVE

SWANA-FoW Hub

Our Institute is proud to announce the hosting of The South West Asia and North Africa Future of Work (SWANA-FoW) Hub, part of the global FutureWORKS Collective. An initiative funded by IDRC in Canada, the Hub will contribute to research and advocate for evidence-based policies on employment and work in the SWANA Region.

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Athar Toolkit and Podcast

IFI's Athar Portal resumed work on its Open Access Toolkit on scientific communication skills with the media and society and the arts of academic rhetoric, composed of two courses in seven videos. In addition, Athar launched the "Science and Society" Podcast series, linking social research to society. The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple, and SoundCloud.

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INSTITUTE INSIGHTS



Institute Insights

Stay tuned for our new short series "Institute Insights" asking three questions to experts, informing policy choices and providing a nuanced perspective to our world's complexities.

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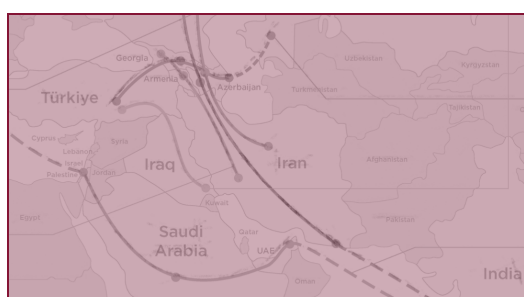
SHAPEDEM-EU Project

As part of the SHAPEDEM-EU, IFI continued its focus groups series, to unpack how EU democracy promotion is perceived and contested by local actors in Tunisia, Lebanon, and Palestine.

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PUBLICATIONS



THE "BATTLE OF THE CORRIDORS": REGIONAL INTERCONNECTIVITY AND THE GEO-ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST



INFOGRAPHIC: THE "BATTLE OF THE CORRIDORS": REGIONAL INTERCONNECTIVITY AND THE GEO-ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST



BSD CONFERENCE REPORT: THE GAZA WAR AND THE REGIONAL TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST



LEBANON'S REFUGEE RETURN AGENDA: NEGOTIATING GLOBAL PROTECTION NORMS AND RESPONSIBILITY SHARING



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ASSOCIATE FELLOW, SAHAR BAASSIRI

We are pleased to welcome Sahar Baassiri as an Associate Fellow, joining as an expert on Arab Affairs, Culture, and Media, in Lebanon and the Arab World.

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ASSOCIATE FELLOW, WISSAM SAADE

We are pleased to welcome Wissam Saade as an Associate Fellow, joining as an expert on Political Philosophy, Nationalism studies, Religion and Politics.

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EVENTS



04/30/2024

BDL'S FORENSIC AUDIT & WAYS FORWARD

The discussion delved into the details of BDL's forensic audit and Toufic Gaspard's IFI-published analysis and the urgent actions needed for financial recovery. Gaspard highlighted three critical issues that shouldn't go unnoticed: the need for pinpointing the individuals responsible for the crisis, assessing the current financial status of the BDL, and exploring feasible solutions to get the country on the path of recovery.

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04/15/2024

LEBANON'S LAST CHANCE FOR PROGRESSIVE DEPOSIT RECOVERY

IFI, in collaboration with Badil – The Alternative, hosted a closed discussion for heads of Lebanese syndicates centered around a study by Mohamad Farida on his two-phase repayment plan for bank depositors. The plan outlines strategies to address the issue of deposits trapped in the banking sector.

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04/22/2024

THE DAY AFTER IN GAZA: A TURKISH VISION

The discussion led by Dr. Umut Uzer explored Türkiye's historical involvement in Palestinian politics and its evolving stance towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It also delved into Türkiye's diplomatic efforts, including proposed guarantorship for Palestine and President Erdogan's initiatives in Gaza.

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04/23/2024

GEOPSYCHIATRY IN POLICY MAKING: IMPLICATIONS FOR WAR AND PEACE

The event highlighted a significant gap in understanding mental health, introducing “geopolitical psychiatry” to address this gap, examining how global factors like globalization, climate change, and conflict impact mental health. This was followed by a discussion with experts in the field.

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05/16/2024

ADOLESCENTS BETWEEN SIEGE AND HOPE

IFI in partnership with Plan International Lebanon presented the results of their joint study “Adolescents between Siege and Hope,” which examines the educational and social factors leading to secondary school dropouts among vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

[Read More](#)



04/30/2024

VULNERABILITY POLICY TOOL

Our Institute in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Lebanon launched the “Vulnerability Policy Tool.” Developed for 123 Lebanese coastal municipalities, the tool will allow them to build climate change resilience, and help them understand, identify, and manage vulnerabilities.

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04/24/2024

BROWN BAG SESSION: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

IFI held its fourth brown bag session with IFI Associate Fellow and Lead Advisor on IFI's WPS Regional Hub Karma Ekmekji, focused on the role of women in peacebuilding and how to promote gender equality in conflict prevention and resolution.

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For a roundup and summary of the Institute's events, visit [Events at IFI](#).

