



“Changing Demographics of the Middle East: How Policies and Programs Affect Stability in the Region”

Historically, the Middle East has had a high total fertility rate (TFR). Over the past few decades, however, the region’s TFR slowly declined. The region as a whole had a TFR of 3.0 from 2000-2005, down from a high of 6.7 from 1970-1975. Even so, the population of the Middle East continues to increase rapidly due to declines in infant mortality, improvements in healthcare, and demographic echo.

Currently, the Middle East workforce is growing at a rate above 3 percent each year, which demands the creation of 100 million new jobs a year to maintain present employments levels. Considering, the fact that economic growth in the Middle East has stabilized below 4 percent, the present rate of economic growth is almost completely offset by workforce expansion. This fact coupled with the migration flows of job seekers and refugees, increases the probability of instability in the region.

The “Changing Demographics of the Middle East: How Policies and Programs Affect Stability in the Region” briefing luncheon will discuss these and other demographic factors impacting the Middle East. Three experts discussed emerging data on the demography of the Middle East: John Bongaarts, demographer and vice president of the Policy Research Division at the Population Council; Farzaneh (Nazy) Roudi, Project Director of Middle East and North Africa, Population Reference Bureau; and Allan Hill, Andelot Professor of Demography Harvard University.

PowerPoint Presentations:

John Bongaarts [“Demography of the Middle East”](#)

Farzaneh Roudi [“Case Study on Iran: The Success of the Primary Health Care Network”](#)

Allan Hill [“Demographic and Health Prospects in the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(oPt\)”](#)

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