



CARPO

Center for Applied Research
in Partnership with the Orient

Annual Report 2022

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1 Introduction

After navigating through 2020 and 2021, particularly challenging years due to the severe impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we started 2022 with the hope that things would gradually go back to normal. Normal in the sense that we would again be able to travel to the region we focus on, convene regional and international stakeholders, and conduct research and exchange in a variety of countries with minimal travel restrictions. And, indeed, the first half of 2022 lived up to our high hopes from the very beginning. In the framework of our *Tafahum wa Tabadul* project, for which we have partnered with the Gulf Research Center Foundation, we held a side-event at the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2022 in February. It was an exciting new experience to elevate our project work to the big stage of world politics. Overall, our project activities in 2022 took place in the region we focus on, more than ever before. We held events in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt and Oman. Research and outreach trips were conducted in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. In addition to the MSC 2022, we had the chance to actively contribute to global conferences such as the 'Doha Forum' and held a side-event at the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. We entered new partnerships with the Bonn Center for Conflict Studies (BICC) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), which resulted in a joint workshop in Berlin on 'Modern Warfare in the Middle East' as well as a workshop held in Amman (with FES only) focusing on the Yemeni diaspora.

Then, in July 2022, we had a very distinguished visitor at our premises in Bonn: In the framework of her two-week tour through Germany to with meet civil society, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and think tanks, Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock paid a visit to our hometown Bonn. We had previously been approached by the Federal Foreign Office and asked whether CARPO could host a small roundtable with Minister Baerbock in our premises, joined by two additional Bonn-based civil society organizations. The idea of the Minister's team was to have an open exchange about approaches to conflict prevention, peace promotion and stabilization in different regions of the world. We, of course, happily and proudly responded positively to the request to host this roundtable in our Bonn office. On 16 July we were joined by representatives from the Bonn-based NGOs CARE and BICC. During the 90-minute exchange, BICC, CARE and CARPO presented some of their project work. We took the opportunity to introduce the Minister to our *Tafahum wa Tabadul* project, our *Iran-Saudi Dialogue Initiative* as well as our *Rethinking Yemen's Economy* initiative. We very much enjoyed the open exchange and appreciated Minister Baerbock's genuine interest in the work of institutions such as our own. And yet...little did we know what was about to befall us as a direct consequence of this very special meeting.



*Federal Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock (front center)
with representatives from BICC, CARE and CARPO*

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Only three months later, we found ourselves in the midst of a massive defamation campaign. In a very well-concerted effort, we as an organization and in particular one of our co-founders, Adnan Tabatabai, were subjected to false allegations that led to months of online harassment, various forms of digital violence and actual acts of vandalism. What had happened? After the outrageous and heartbreaking death of 22-year old Iranian-Kurdish woman Mahsa Zhina Amini in police custody in Iran, protests broke out across the country, decrying police brutality and demanding an immediate end of the enduring injustice against the Iranian people. These events mobilized the Iranian diaspora worldwide, who themselves staged protest marches around the globe in solidarity with their protesting compatriots back in Iran. In such eventful times, our CEO Adnan is regularly approached and featured in German and international media to analyze the developments in Iran. This time, however, his assessments were met with extremely harsh reactions. These reactions were not just critical rebuttals of Adnan's analysis – substantial rebuttals are not only welcome but are also necessary for the sake of pluralistic discourse.

Instead, he was attacked personally. His family background was used as a liability against him, while his assessments, research and project work were portrayed as lobbying for the Islamic Republic of Iran. All this despite a lack of any evidence or substantial point of reference. In the same vein, CARPO was accused of being an Iranian government lobby organization. It did not matter to those who defamed us that we at CARPO have never run an Iran program. Neither have we ever implemented a project fostering bilateral German-Iranian relations. Moreover, and unlike many other institutions in Germany, we have never signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a single Iranian state institution. Iran is one of many regional countries we work on in our projects. Iran matters in our *Iran-Saudi Dialogue Initiative* and in our multilateral regional dialogue initiative *Tafahum wa Tabadul*. The latter project, which we have been implementing in partnership with the Gulf Research Center Foundation, has received funds from the German Federal Foreign Office. In the course of the defamation campaign, however, these project funds were misleadingly portrayed as lobbying funds. Unsurprisingly, the pictures taken during the visit of Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock in Bonn were then used to – again – falsely claim Adnan Tabatabai is *the* Iran advisor of Minister Baerbock and the German Federal Foreign Office. To be clear, Iranian stakeholders, as from all other countries of our region, are engaged as participants in our workshops, as attendees of our conferences and/or as co-authors or translators of our publications. This is the case for all of the countries we focus on: However, no political affiliation whatsoever, with any political camp in Iran or any of our project countries, is generated. CARPO furthermore abstains from any form of service or advocacy for the interests of any government, and we have never received any funds from any regional actor. All allegations in this direction are baseless and void of any substantial point of reference. Our Annual Reports present, in full transparency, our projects, donors and partners. A short visit to [our website](#) should suffice to obtain a comprehensive overview of what we do, which goals we pursue, who financially supports our work, and who we work with. It's all there, publicly available and free for download.

One may ask why all that is outlined here was not put out in public when the defamation campaign began. Our answer is simple: We were strongly advised not to do so, both out of security considerations and as public reactions would have only made things worse during the heat of the attacks. We as a team, as well some of us individually, received invaluable support and advice from [HateAid](#), a Berlin-based organization specialized in supporting the targets of digital violence and defamation campaigns. For this support we are forever grateful. Given the scope of the attacks, Adnan was strongly advised to avoid public appearances and deactivate his social media accounts. As CARPO, we were recommended to undertake a series of security measures to protect the

team and to prevent digital violence from turning into physical violence. This unfortunately could not be prevented fully: After our Bonn office building was vandalized end of October, police strongly advised us to work from home until things calmed down. We were obviously shocked by how easily false allegations developed a life of their own and how rapidly disseminated through media we had previously believed to be more dedicated to fact-checking. But one thing was particularly hard to digest: How little resilience against such defamation campaigns exists in Germany's institutional landscape, and how quickly a public climate silences reasonable voices. Unless victims of defamation campaigns are properly backed by public institutions, and these main institutional pillars designed to bolster democratic and pluralistic contexts become more robust, truly pluralistic discourse will come increasingly under threat.

Effectively, we were in crisis mode for the three remaining months of 2022. An incredible team spirit kept the CARPO engines running. While we had to invest an enormous amount of energy into mitigating the effects of this defamation campaign, we knew that our project work had to go on – and we found reassurance in doing so. We were relieved and energized at the same time to see that all described above was happening only in the German context. Obviously, it matters greatly to us as a German organization how we are viewed in the German public. And yet, the focus of our projects lies elsewhere. We felt no impact whatsoever on our work with stakeholders in other European countries, let alone in our project region. On the contrary, we finally managed to take the activities of *Tafahum wa Tabadul* into our target region and held one workshop in Kuwait end-October and one in Muscat end-November. We had the privilege of hosting a side-event at the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh on opportunities for green entrepreneurship and in exploring the climate-energy-health nexus. Beyond Egypt, Kuwait and Oman, different activities took our team members to Jordan, Iraq, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in fall 2022. But even within the German context, our wonderful team members Mirjam Schmidt and Sebastian Sons came up with another debut: the very first CARPO podcast series. On the occasion of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar 2022, Mirjam and Sebastian developed and produced a German-language podcast series called *Katar 2022 – Mehr als eine WM [Qatar 2022 – More than a World Cup]* and brought in distinguished experts as interviewees. It was fascinating and intriguing to shed light on the manifold implications of this World Cup, not only for the Middle East but also for the region's relations with Europe. During the World Cup, our team also pulled off the '3rd CARPO Research Forum' – this time with a focus on knowledge justice, a theme very much at the heart of our work. Featuring an amazing panel of experts, this virtual conference reminded us that there is always going to be merit in convening experts and researchers virtually for the sake of exchange and knowledge transfer.

So, yes, 2022 will be a year to remember. But we will not allow it to go down only as the year we endured a defamation campaign; rather, as a year of utmost team cohesion and real dedication to what we as an organization believe in. We are looking forward to the future of CARPO and to take you with us in this exciting journey.

For now, enjoy perusing our Annual Report 2022!

Sincerely,

The CARPO Executive Board

2 About CARPO

CARPO was founded in 2014 by Germany-based academics trained in the fields of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Political Science and Social Anthropology. Our work is situated at the nexus of research, consultancy and exchange with a focus on implementing projects in close cooperation and partnership with stakeholders in the Orient.

Mission

CARPO is a Germany-based think tank with a focus on the Orient that works at the nexus of research, consultancy and exchange. Our work is based on the principles of partnership, inclusivity and sustainability. We believe that a prosperous and peaceful future for the region can best be achieved by engaging the creative and resourceful potential of all relevant stakeholders. Therefore, CARPO opens enduring channels for trustful dialogue and interactive knowledge transfer.

Vision

Exploring and initiating sustainable and inclusive partnership with(in) the Orient.

Services

In order to reach our goals and to strengthen cooperation with our partners, CARPO offers a broad range of services:

- Research

CARPO brings together a network of researchers with distinguished expertise on countries of the Orient. We are well connected with researchers and research institutions in the region and familiar with pertinent fields of study. Through continuous presence in international workshops and conferences, our researchers follow and shape the global academic discourse on the region in various disciplines. CARPO offers to establish channels for academic exchange and knowledge transfer between researchers from the region and Europe by organizing conferences and workshops as well as initiatives and working sessions for joint publications.

- Consultancy

CARPO's country experts are specialized on policy-relevant dimensions of social, economic and political dynamics in specific country contexts. Thanks to their expertise and because of their access to influential social and political actors, our experts are able to work with and consult policymakers working in and on the region. CARPO offers in-depth analyses of significant developments, which help to assess current and future dynamics of respective country contexts. Based on these assessments, realistic future scenarios are produced and tangible policy recommendations formulated. CARPO also offers to explore prospects and potentials for entrepreneurial activities in the Orient. Our experts provide risk analyses, concepts for fact-finding missions and need assessments, thereby connecting national and international entrepreneurs.

- Exchange

We are convinced that sustainable people-to-people relations are key to improving relations between Europe and the Orient. By generating exchange platforms for stakeholders to interact, gates for political, intercultural and inter-societal dialogue are opened. Citizen-oriented development – particularly in conflict-prone contexts – can only be fostered effectively by engaging societies and by enabling their participation in shaping the future of their countries. CARPO offers to design exchange projects that connect influential actors such as policymakers, academics and intellectuals, artists, religious figures, musicians or activists from different countries and regions in order to explore potential grounds for cooperation.

Active Projects in 2022

Project	Project Period	Budget	Partners	Funded by
<i>Global Autocratic Collaboration in Times of COVID-19: Game Changer or Business as usual in Sino-Gulf Relations*</i>	02/2021–07/2022	119,000 EUR	University of Erlangen, Institute of Political Science, Chair of Middle East Politics and Society / Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg	Volkswagen Stiftung
<i>Iranian-Saudi Track-II Dialogue Initiative</i>	10/2021–03/2023	260,163 EUR	Stimson Europe (formerly EastWest Institute)	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland / Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
<i>Enhancing the Capacities and Capabilities of Iraq's Institutional Landscape</i>	12/2021–06/2022	249,981 EUR	Stimson Europe	German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development via Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
<i>Tafahum wa Tabadul</i>	12/2021–05/2023	904,430 EUR	Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF)	German Federal Foreign Office
<i>Rethinking Yemen's Economy – Towards a Sustainable Future (RYE 3)</i>	06/2022–05/2025	2,344,614 EUR	DeepRoot Consulting, Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies	European Union / Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen
Virtual event 'Environment & Peacebuilding – Case Studies from Yemen'	07/2022–08/2022	7,800 EUR	–	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
<i>CARPO Podcast: Katar 2022 – Mehr als eine WM</i>	09/2022–11/2022	16,874 EUR	–	German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb)
<i>Enhancing Science Communication for Gender and Development</i>	09/2022–12/2022	39,836 EUR	–	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

* project lead not with CARPO

3 Projects

3.1 Global Autocratic Collaboration in Times of COVID-19: Game Changer or Business as Usual in Sino-Gulf Relations

3.1.1 Summary

There is strong empirical evidence that COVID-19 acts as a booster for processes of global autocratization in which autocratic protagonists present themselves as more effective role models in fighting the pandemic than the 'liberal script' of Western societies. This project aimed to explain these corridors of autocratic collaboration based on the example of Sino-Gulf relations that challenge Europe's and Germany's international alliances and partnerships. The project consisted of two research blocs: Firstly, it dealt with the traveling of autocratic practices and asked how global autocratic collaboration manifests itself in times of crises. Secondly, the project addressed questions of competition for China's favor: How are regional actors competing in terms of their 'special relations' with China? The project was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Project Duration

February 2021 – July 2022

Project Partners

- Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (lead partner)
- Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg

Project Donor

Volkswagen Foundation

3.2 Iran-Saudi Dialogue Initiative (ISDI)

3.2.1 Summary

Since 2015, CARPO has implemented an Iran-Saudi dialogue format in cooperation with the EastWest Institute in Brussels (now Stimson Europe). This initiative entails workshops and publications focusing on the exchange of perspectives on relevant issues between diplomats, policy analysts and security experts from both countries. A first project phase – funded by the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs through the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa) – ran from 2015 to 2018. Throughout this period, numerous workshops on a broad variety of topics were implemented and their insights publicly made available online. In 2019, the initiative entered its second phase and is now jointly funded by the Foreign Ministries of Switzerland and the Netherlands. As in previous years, this initiative continued to bring together distinguished stakeholders from Tehran and Riyadh to exchange viewpoints and assessments on issues of shared interest and concern in the Middle East.

Project Duration

October 2015 – October 2024

Project Partner

Stimson Europe (formerly: EastWest Institute)

Project Donor

- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland
- Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

3.2.2 Events

'Iran – Saudi Dialogue Initiative: Potentials of Cultural Diplomacy and Exchange in Building Bridges', (August 2022, Leuven/Belgium)

Saudi Arabia and Iran have known a contentious relationship over the past decades that fluctuated between proxy-conflict to cautious talks and rapprochement in the past few years. Within this context, cultural relations rarely take place, despite historically strong cultural ties. As part of the ongoing *Iran-Saudi Dialogue Initiative*, Stimson Europe and CARPO hosted a workshop in August 2022 that brought together distinguished Saudi and Iranian experts from the field of literature, media, religious diplomacy and documentary filmmaking, in addition to several European experts, to discuss the challenges and opportunities of cultural diplomacy and cultural exchange between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

3.2.3 Publications

CARPO Brief 23: Cultural Exchange and the Prospects for Inter-Societal Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran

by Mirjam Schmidt and Desirée Custers

In August 2022, CARPO and Stimson Europe hosted a workshop looking into the potential of cultural diplomacy and cultural exchange between Iran and Saudi Arabia. While the two countries share a rich history of cultural relations, their present-day cultural exchange is minimal due to geopolitical differences. But in spite of the many challenges, participants of the workshop emphasized the importance and potentials of cultural diplomacy and exchange to improve bilateral relations. Using case studies, the workshop shed light on four areas to explore avenues of future cultural relations: literature and translation, documentary filmmaking, media and religious diplomacy.

Available online

3.3 Enhancing the Capacities and Capabilities of Iraq's Institutional Landscape

3.3.1 Summary

Severe economic challenges impose enduring hardship on the livelihoods of the Iraqi populations. To help bridge the divide between the state and society and to support the process of socioeconomic development and reform, this project aimed to develop the capacities of relevant Iraqi government stakeholders, private research institutions, think tanks and NGOs to act as an intermediary between state and society. It further assisted project participants to work jointly on a sustainability strategy for the promotion of dialogue and participation in Iraq that would contribute to policy reforms. After a thorough mapping and needs assessment, the implementing organizations defined tailored capacity-development measures and activities for Iraqi partners.

Project Duration

December 2021 – June 2022

Project Partner

Stimson Europe (formerly EastWest Institute)

Project Donor

Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

3.4 Tafahum wa Tabadul – Enhancing Multi-Track Dialogue and Cooperation in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula

3.4.1 Summary

Building on the *Tafahum* project, which was implemented between 2018 and 2021, CARPO and GRCF have once again partnered up to implement the project *Tafahum wa Tabadul – Enhancing Multi-Track Dialogue and Cooperation in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula*. The aim is to generate further understanding (*tafahum*) among regional stakeholders and to foster cooperation (*tabadul*) on common interests in the region. The project, begun in December 2021, is designed as a 3-year initiative and continues to be funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. Officials on the political level (track 1/1.5) will be engaged with the aim of generating a political climate that is more conducive to regional cooperation and to develop a regional ‘Tafahum for Peaceful Coexistence’. Stakeholders on the experts level (track 2) will include economists, environmental scientists and health specialists, and will be brought together to collectively examine the energy-climate-health nexus – a concept that entails economic and ecologic sustainability, as well as regional health resilience. On the societal level (track 3), CARPO and GRCF aim to foster people-to-people mobility in the region through exchange activities in the fields of academia and civic education. With this multi-track approach, this project engages policymakers, economic and scientific circles, as well as civil society in all target countries. While each track will be engaged separately, links and fora for interaction and engagement between the tracks will be established, as both interdependence and the need for interconnectivity is considered relevant and essential for all participants.

Project Duration

December 2021 – May 2023

Project Partner

Gulf Research Center Foundation

Project Donor

Federal Foreign Ministry of Germany

3.4.2 Events

Side-Event at the 'Munich Security Conference', (February 2022, Munich)

Our side-event at the 'Munich Security Conference' (MSC) was an important breakthrough for the *Tafahum wa Tabadul* project, as an elevation of this dialogue initiative to the political level. We convened high-level official representatives from different regional countries relevant to this project alongside representatives from the German Bundestag and the Federal Foreign Office. During this working dinner, regional affairs and the potential for rapprochement were discussed. Furthermore, regional stakeholders discussed with their German counterparts which role Europe could play in supporting rapprochement in the region. It was highlighted during the dinner that opportunities may arise for more openness towards regional dialogue, and that these opportunities must be seized as soon as they emerge. All attendees expressed their willingness to be involved in future activities of the *Tafahum wa Tabadul* project. This political backing provided our initiative with a further boost to broaden the engagement and exchange with regional stakeholders on the political, expert and societal levels.

Societal Level Workshop: 'Regional Networks for Women in Peace and Security: Creating Spaces for Exchange within West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP)', (March 2022, Bonn)

The very first workshop of the *Tafahum wa Tabadul* project took place at CARPO's premises in Bonn. Due to the ongoing travel restrictions, the event was held in a hybrid format. It aimed to discuss concrete ideas for regional networks for Women, Peace and Security (WPS) issues, with a focus on how sustainable exchange can be initiated and advanced within the region. In the context of promoting regional networks for women in the peace and security agenda, the discussion within this working group highlighted the necessity for increased involvement of women in the WAAP region, both within the security sector itself and in debates on security matters overall. While all states in the region have committed to submitting National Action Plans (NAPs) to demonstrate their implementation of UNSCR 1325 on the WPS agenda, many of these NAPs are still incomplete or have not been submitted at all. Various reasons have been cited for this, including an ongoing lack of political will, lack of accountability and other structural obstacles at the state and societal levels. In this context, workshop participants agreed to connect through social media and exchange information about relevant local, regional and international initiatives. Furthermore, this network aims to foster ongoing discussions on how best to contribute to a quantitative and qualitative improvement of the WPS agenda in the WAAP region. It thus represents a newly created space for exchange to take place and develop.

Experts' Level Workshop: 'Climate-Energy-Health-Nexus: Sustainability in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP)'; (May 2022, Bonn)

The first workshop at the so-called expert level took place in Bonn. Due to the pandemic, this event also was conducted in a hybrid format. In total, 19 participants took part in the workshop, some in person and some virtually. Thematically, this workshop was dedicated to the climate-energy-health nexus and to sustainability in the WAAP region. CARPO and GRCF brought together an interdisciplinary group of researchers, entrepreneurs, consultants, environmental scientists, health experts and activists for this purpose. The main objectives of the workshop were twofold: First, to find an appropriate approach to focus on the interconnections of key sustainability issues instead of discussing each issue separately. Second, to critically examine the limitations and possibilities for facilitating stronger collaboration and transnational efforts on these matters. These foci helped to define a conceptual commonality and an understanding (*tafahum*) for further exchange (*tabadul*) and to identify specific entry points for subsequent workshops and activities.

Political Level Workshop: 'Tafahum wa Tabadul – High-Level Policy Dialogue'; (Summer 2022, Switzerland)

Building on the side-event at the MSC2022, we continued to conduct our regional dialogue efforts on the political level. As the first initiative of its kind, *Tafahum wa Tabadul* managed to bring into one room official representatives from all countries relevant to this project to engage in a high-level policy dialogue format. This positive precedent serves as a basis on which to build an enduring regional dialogue track. It became clear during the workshop discussions that a regional 'dialogue momentum' is emerging and needs to be maintained.

'4th Tafahum Annual Conference'; (September 2022, Berlin)

To bring together the various project levels and compile the substantive insights, the 'Tafahum Annual Conference' was once again held in Berlin. Over 40 participants from the project region, as well as prominent European institutions and universities, gathered to discuss cross-cutting themes from the workshops in an expanded forum, and to generate new ideas for the project's future activities. It became especially clear in this annual conference that a confidential setting enables the possibility of very open, yet consistently constructive and in-depth discussions. Stakeholders familiar with the project are primarily invited to the yearly forum, but also a few new participants are added each year to continuously expand the circle of involved stakeholders. The successful execution of the 'Fourth Annual Conference' marked another step towards establishing this annual, region-specific event in the German federal



Participants of the 4th Tafahum Annual Conference

capital Berlin. After a purely virtual conference in 2020 due to the pandemic and a hybrid event in 2021, it was again possible to conduct the annual conference with physical presence in 2022.

Expert Level Workshop: ‘Pollution and the Climate-Energy-Health Nexus – Sustainability in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula’, (October 2022, Kuwait City/Kuwait)

This workshop built on the content of the first ‘Expert Level Workshop’ held in May in Bonn, and now focused on the thematic complex of pollution within the established climate-energy-health nexus framework of the project. The Kuwait University was the host institution in Kuwait for this workshop. The goal was to develop the insights from the first workshop further, and to apply the underlying approach of the climate-energy-health nexus to the topic of pollution, as well as to develop initial points of reference for regional cooperative initiatives related to this complex issue. Furthermore, it was intended to gather suggestions from workshop participants for a substantive contribution from the *Tafahum wa Tabadul* project for the COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. In terms of content, this two-day workshop represented an important step in realizing the envisioned thematic specificity of this project strand, as well as in establishing and further consolidating a network of scientists and experts from the three sectors of energy, environment and health. Per the project’s logic, it was particularly significant to have successfully extended an activity within this project to the project’s region for the first time.

COP 27 Side Event: ‘Climate-Energy-Health-Nexus: An Opportunity for Young Green Entrepreneurship’, (November 2022, Sharm El-Sheikh/Egypt)

During the COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the CARPO/GRCF team successfully organized a side event at the Islamic Development Bank Pavilion under the project umbrella of *Tafahum wa Tabadul*. Two representatives from the

project team and three participants from the region were involved in the panel discussion. The panel focused on the role of young entrepreneurship in the development of sustainable business models in the Middle East region. Insights from the project context, which were briefly introduced, were presented and discussed with the audience present. The objective of this initiative was to create external visibility for this project strand related to the climate-energy-health nexus in an international forum and to contribute substantially to the developing debates on sustainability in the region.

Societal Level Workshop: ‘Enhancing People-to-People Relations in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula through Academia, Education and Capacity Development Programs’, (November 2022, Muscat/Oman)

Just one month after the workshop in Kuwait, the project team succeeded in bringing a second workshop to the project region, this time focusing on people-to-people relations and mobility. The workshop was based on the assumption that enabling personal encounters is a promising starting point for promoting people-to-people relations in West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP). With an intentionally explorative character, the workshop sought to examine which thematic entry points should be taken into account when thinking about how young stakeholders of the WAAP region can be incentivized to travel within the region for educational and capacity-development purposes. The potential roles of universities, research institutes and NGOs focusing on civic education and capacity development were discussed with regard to encouraging stakeholders from this region to broaden their horizons through intraregional travel and exchange. Furthermore, this workshop aimed at networking among actors in the field of political education. The workshop brought together experts from various fields such as media studies, journalism, social sciences and the private sector. Throughout the discussions, the topic of ‘media literacy’ stood out in particular. The participants not only agreed that this was relevant for both media consumers and media creators, but they also discussed how media and information literacy could be promoted and improved in the region.

3.5 Rethinking Yemen's Economy (RYE)

3.5.1 Summary

The *Rethinking Yemen's Economy (RYE)* initiative, which has been ongoing since March 2017, aims to contribute to and support the advancement towards inclusive and sustainable development and peace by seeking to achieve the following: 1) the enabled inclusive engagement of Yemenis in economic peacebuilding; and 2) an improved understanding of crucial policy areas related to economic peacebuilding and development in Yemen. RYE is implemented by DeepRoot Consulting, the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies and CARPO. It is funded by the European Union and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen. June 2022 saw the start of RYE's third project phase.

Project Duration

March 2017 – May 2025

Project Partners

- DeepRoot Consulting
- Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (Sana'a Center)

Project Donors

- European Union
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen

3.5.2 Events

'Development Champions Forum VIII', (28 October – 2 November 2022, Amman/Jordan)

'The Development Champions Forum' (DCF) is at the heart of the *Rethinking Yemen's Economy (RYE)* initiative, bringing together senior Yemeni experts on the economy and development, the Development Champions, to discuss crucial policy matters relevant to these fields in Yemen. 'The 8th Development Champions Forum' focused on two specific topics previously identified by the Development Champions: First, macroeconomic status updates, focusing on the deteriorating performance of the economy. The Development Champions highlighted the scarcity of relevant data and focused on the impact of the latest drone strikes on oil export facilities, amongst others. Second, public-private partnerships (PPPs) in renewable energy provision. Here, relevant presentations by international, regional and local experts were delivered. In addition, local experts shared their experience in increasing access to energy in Yemen, including the provision of energy through solar systems' projects.



Participants of the Development Champions Forum VIII

3.5.3 Publications

All RYE publications are available in English and Arabic.

RYE White Paper 12: Addressing the Crushing Weight of Yemen's Public Debt by the Sana'a Center Economic Unit

For decades prior to the ongoing conflict, Yemen already was vulnerable to recurring budget deficits. The escalation of the ongoing conflict in 2014/15 has had a profoundly negative impact on Yemen's debt position. Large-scale oil exports ceased, leading to a collapse in public revenues, while banks and pension funds stopped purchasing government debt instruments. Management of the public debt became bifurcated between rival central bank administrations in Aden and Sana'a, both of which suspended payments on foreign and domestic debt obligations. Unable to receive interest payments, public debt holders faced a liquidity crisis, leaving banks unable to honor customer obligations and threatening their solvency, while pension funds struggled to support retirees. Based on the input and discussions of the 'Development Champions Forum', this paper outlines the history, characteristics and drivers of Yemen's public debt and presents recommendations for addressing this crisis.

Available online

RYE White Paper 11: The Road Transport Sector in Yemen. Critical Issues and Priority Policies *by Nabil Al-Tairi*

Yemen is predominantly a rural country, with over 70 percent of the population living in 140,000 settlements in impoverished rural areas. Road transport is thus essential for the country's development and overall economic growth. With only 3,744 km of paved rural roads, representing approximately 6.4 percent of all roads in the country, Yemen's neglected road network poses significant development challenges. Next to an overview of the road transport sector in Yemen and of the repercussions of the war on the sector, this RYE White Paper offers recommendations on alleviating these impacts: infrastructure policies for rural and urban roads; policies for road maintenance and repairs that impact commercial traffic; and updating of the institutional structure of the sector.

Available online

RYE White Paper 10: Challenges and Prospects for Electronic Money and Payment Systems in Yemen *by Sana'a Center Economic Unit*

Yemen has a heavily cash-based economy with low levels of financial inclusion. The country's formal banking sector is highly underdeveloped, undercapitalized and concentrated in urban areas, leaving it inaccessible for most Yemenis. Plans by the Central Bank of Yemen to develop and improve electronic interbank transactions and local electronic payment systems, including mobile money services, were interrupted by the onset of the ongoing conflict. This paper examines and provides recommendations on: the existing regulations surrounding the use of e-money in Yemen; attempts to adopt e-money services both before and during the conflict; the major players and state of infrastructure in the sector; and the challenges and prospects facing greater adoption of electronic currency in the country.

Available online

3.6 Research Cooperation on Peacebuilding in Yemen

3.6.1 Summary

This ongoing, intermittently funded initiative seeks to develop the capacities of Yemeni and international researchers and organizations in researching and advising on peacebuilding in Yemen. Within its framework, an ongoing series of publications, each resulting from a Yemeni-international research partnership, on aspects of peacebuilding in Yemen is developed and published. The initiative is implemented on behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union. In 2021/22, this initiative placed a focus on the topic of environmental peacebuilding.

Project Duration

February 2019 – ongoing; 2022: virtual workshop on environmental peacebuilding

Project Donor

Implemented on behalf of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

3.6.2 Events

‘Environment & Peacebuilding – Case Studies from Yemen’, (23 August 2022, virtual event)

On 23 August 2022, CARPO implemented the virtual event “Environment & Peacebuilding – Case Studies from Yemen” on behalf of GIZ with co-financing by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union. The event took place from 14:00 to 16:30 CET and was also designed to launch CARPO Report *The Role of the Environment in Peacebuilding in Yemen* by Bilkis Zabara and Tobias Zumbrägel (see below), which had been implemented and published with the same funding.

In order to give space for recent academic work on the emerging topic of the environment-conflict-peacebuilding nexus in Yemen and to also highlight the respective work of organizations working in this field on the ground, the event was split into two parts: one focusing on the presentation of recent research conducted on the topic, and the second focusing on practical engagements.

In the first panel, Tobias Zumbrägel began with some conceptual background on the topic of environmental peacebuilding and how climate and conflict relate to each other. Bilkis Zabara subsequently presented some of the key environmental challenges in different governorates across Yemen, emphasizing similarities and differences. Hadil Almowafak from the Yemen Policy Center (YPC) then continued by situating Yemen's environmental challenges in a broader political context. And finally, Helen Lackner presented conclusions and recommendations, both from her paper published with Berghof Foundation, and also drawn from CARPO and YPC publications.

In the second panel, focusing on practical experiences on the ground in Yemen working in environment and peacebuilding, Dr. Gawad Al-Wabr (Chairman of Ashraqat Organization for Scientific Research and Sustainable Development), Mohammed Alhakimi (Head of Holm Akhdar) and Shoqi Maktary and Mona Alariqi (Search for Common Ground) highlighted some of the projects their organizations have been implementing at the environment-conflict-peacebuilding nexus in Yemen, the challenges faced and the work that still needs to be done in this field.

3.6.3 Publications

CARPO Report 09: The Role of the Environment in Peacebuilding in Yemen
by Bilkis Zabara and Tobias Zumbrägel

This Report addresses the relationship between violent conflict and environmental governance in Yemen. It translates the concept of environmental peacebuilding to the case of Yemen, where it has not received broader attention in terms of post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. The study compares six different governorates, namely Sana'a, Dhamar, Ibb, Ta'iz, Aden and Hadhramawt; and finds that all governorates face specific threats. If these challenges are not addressed adequately and in a sustainable manner, they can accelerate social conflict and ultimately threaten long-term solutions for peace and stability in the country. To promote the concept of environmental peacebuilding, the Report provides several suggestions for concrete action by international actors working on Yemen.

Available online

3.7 CARPO Podcast: Katar 2022 – Mehr als eine WM [Qatar 2022 – More than a World Cup]

3.7.1 Summary

In November 2022, the most controversial FIFA World Cup of all time began in Qatar. In the run-up to the tournament, the critical discussion surrounding the World Cup gained rapid momentum, especially in Germany and Europe. However, this debate often featured black-and-white thinking, stereotypes and emotions, while nuanced discussion fell by the wayside. Against this backdrop, Mirjam Schmidt and Sebastian Sons created CARPO's very first podcast, which was funded by the Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education).

Together with renowned experts from academia, media, civil society and politics, they presented the podcast series *Katar 2022 – Mehr als eine WM* [Qatar 2022 – *More than a World Cup*] offering a balanced perspective on the World Cup. The goal was to avoid generalization, downplaying or sugar coating; instead, to delve into topics such as labor migration, human rights, sports policy and the significance of football for people in the Gulf states and the Arab world.

The World Cup was much more than just a football tournament hosted by Qatar. It involved power dynamics, competition, influence and a substantial amount of money. Targeting a German-speaking audience, these aspects were critically and controversially discussed, with objectivity and differentiation. The podcast was very well perceived and gained much appraisal in the media, including by outlets such as the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Kicker*.

Project Duration

May 2022 – November 2022

Project Donor

German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb)



3.7.2 Publications

CARPO Podcast, Episode 1: 'Football and the Arab World – protest culture and dictatorships' *with Ronny Blaschke*

In this episode, we talked with sports journalist Ronny Blaschke, who for two decades has delved into the entanglements of football and politics, particularly in autocratic countries of the Middle East. It became clear that football wasn't just a political tool for rulers but also provided opportunities for protest.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 2: 'Football and the Gulf States – between fan culture and sportswashing' *with Leo Wigger and Robert Chatterjee*

In our second episode, we examined why Qatar was hosting a World Cup and spoke with journalists Leo Wigger and Robert Chatterjee from the Middle East-focused magazine *zenith*. They shared their experiences from their trip to Qatar and their exploration of the local football culture.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 3: 'The World Cup and human rights'

with Katja Müller-Fahlbusch

No other international sporting event has spotlighted the exploitative conditions of migrant workers as strongly as the World Cup in Qatar. Katja Müller-Fahlbusch provided insights as a representative of Amnesty International.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 4: 'Sports and football culture in Saudi Arabia and Iran' *with Simon Müller and Christoph Becker*

In the fourth episode, we turned our attention to the sports and football culture in two other Gulf states, Iran and Saudi Arabia. In both nations, sport and politics are tightly intertwined. We spoke with Simon Müller, the CEO and founder of SportsHub KSA, and sports journalist Christoph Becker.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 5: 'A "green" World Cup? Qatar and sustainability'

with Tobias Zumbrägel

In the fifth episode, we chatted with CARPO researcher Tobias Zumbrägel, who extensively researched the environmental policies of the Gulf states and the World Cup in Qatar. Qatar won the World Cup bid partly due to its ambition to host the first carbon-neutral tournament in history. However, these ambitious goals have since been questioned. We debated the reality of the 'green shift' in the Gulf, the feasibility of Qatar's and other Gulf monarchies' environmental goals, and the connection between climate change and the World Cup.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 6: 'Women and sports in the Gulf states'*with Anna Reuß*

Looking at the host country of the 2022 World Cup, not only human rights violations against migrant workers gained particular attention, but also the role of women in Qatari society sparked international controversy. Anna Reuß discussed the status of women in Qatar and other regional countries, as well as whether legal and societal reforms were prompted by the World Cup.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 7: 'Human rights and realpolitik – a political response to the World Cup'*with Lamya Kaddor*

The Russian war on Ukraine made dealing with authoritarian regimes a central topic in Germany's public and political discourse. Amid the need for energy diversification, energy partnerships were established with Qatar and other Gulf monarchies to reduce dependency on Russian gas supplies. The balancing act of reconciling Germany's values-based foreign policy approach with realpolitik interests in collaborating with the Gulf region and developing a sustainable approach to these systems was discussed with Lamya Kaddor from the Green Party.

CARPO Podcast, Episode 8: 'Dealing with the Qatar World Cup – between media and civil society'*with Nicole Selmer and Danyel Reiche*

In the eighth and final episode, we delved into how the World Cup in Qatar is discussed, debated, praised and condemned within Qatar and in German media. We interviewed political scientist Dr. Danyel Reiche, who researched football's role in Qatari politics at Georgetown University for two years. The conversation covered Qatar's criticism of Western viewpoints as well as the state of academia in Qatar. As well, sports journalist Nicole Selmer shared her perspective on German-language coverage of the World Cup, media critiques of Qatar and why boycotting wasn't an option for her and her colleagues at the football magazine *Ballesterer*.

3.8 Enhancing Science Communication for Gender and Development

3.8.1 Summary

The Gender-Development Research & Studies Center (GDRSC) at Sana'a University, Yemen, and CARPO co-implemented this short-term project on science communication for gender and development at the end of 2022. It was supported by the German Academic Exchange Service in the framework of its Ta'ziz Partnership funding line. The objectives of this project were: 1) to initiate and/or intensify the networks and cooperation between higher education partners (GDRSC), German and Yemeni students and civil society stakeholders in the fields of gender and development in Yemen; 2) to contribute to the acquisition of new knowledge and methodological expertise in regard to effective and impactful science communication in the fields of gender and development; and 3) to discuss how such knowledge and expertise can best be integrated into the master course on gender and development taught at GDRSC.

Project Duration

September 2022 – December 2022

Project Partner

Gender-Development Research & Studies Center (GDRSC), Sana'a University, Yemen

Project Donor

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

3.8.2 Events

Workshop: 'Enhancing Science Communication for Gender and Development', (December 2022, Amman/Jordan)

In December 2022, project partners GDRSC and CARPO implemented a joint 3-day workshop in Amman, Jordan to bring together CARPO and GDRSC staff, German and Yemeni students with a civil society background and other representatives of civil society organizations in Yemen to 1) deepen the participants' understanding of science communication and its methodologies in the field of gender and development; 2) assess how the training on science communication methodologies can best be integrated into the training provided at GDRSC's master course on gender and development; and 3) strengthen the networks between CARPO, GDRSC and German and Yemeni civil society

organizations in the fields of gender, development and science communication. The workshop combined theoretical introductions to the topic of science communication and communication for development (C4D) with presentations by Yemeni colleagues on the challenges of doing communication and civil society work in Yemen. In group work, the participants moreover focused on the development of communication strategies regarding gender equality and development. This content-related program was complemented by exercises and other measures focusing on the intercultural exchange dimension of this project, which brought the workshop participants closer together on a personal level.



4 Publications

To make our work available to a broader public, contribute to academic discussions, engage in public debates and influence policy-making processes, CARPO offers a range of publication formats. These publications may result from ongoing projects, summarize project activities or are stand-alone texts dealing with topics and fields in which CARPO is active.

CARPO Briefs

CARPO Briefs offer concise and target group-oriented analyses with clear-cut policy advice. They address decision-makers in politics, economics and society as well as the interested public. This series focuses on specific topics and offers extensive background and action-oriented knowledge.

CARPO Reports

CARPO Reports comprise policy-oriented studies. They offer in-depth analyses of specific topics, provide crucial background knowledge and end with policy recommendations for pertinent stakeholders.

CARPO Studies

CARPO Studies offer a forum for thorough historical and contextual knowledge on the modern Orient. As an interdisciplinary and innovative series, CARPO Studies sets new impulses and opens up new perspectives for an audience interested in the region.

Other

This includes further CARPO publications beyond the categories of Briefs, Reports and Studies, generally resulting from project cooperation.

CARPO Sustainability Series

In 2020, CARPO launched its Sustainability Series with CARPO Study 09: *The Looming Climate Peril. Sustainable Strategies and Environmental Activism in the Middle East and North Africa* by our researcher Tobias Zumbärgel. The CARPO Sustainability Series aims to contribute to the slowly growing but still quite marginal research on sustainability in the Middle East and North Africa. As this region's high vulnerability to the severe effects of climate change and global warming represents one of the greatest challenges of this century, it is imperative to tackle this field from a holistic perspective. Sustainability comprises aspects of social (e.g. justice, equality, participation, state-society relations), environmental (e.g. clean energy, pollution, waste, recycling, biodiversity) and economic sustainability (e.g. business engagement, training, education, diversification). Cross-cutting issues are highly diverse and interconnect a vast array of

disciplines such as anthropology, politics, economics, sociology, environmental studies or history. Accordingly, this series will publish analyses in the form of CARPO Briefs, Reports or Studies by academics and practitioners from various fields to provide multidisciplinary analysis on key themes of sustainability.



15.12.2022

Cultural Exchange and the Prospects for Inter-Societal Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran

by Mirjam Schmidt and Desirée Custers

In August 2022, CARPO and Stimson Europe hosted a workshop looking into the potential of cultural diplomacy and cultural exchange between Iran and Saudi Arabia. While the two countries share a rich history of cultural relations, their present-day cultural exchange is

minimal due to geopolitical differences. But in spite of the many challenges, participants of the workshop emphasized the importance and potentials of cultural diplomacy and exchange to improve bilateral relations. Using case studies, the workshop shed light on four areas to explore for avenues of future cultural relations: literature and translation, documentary filmmaking, media and religious diplomacy.

Available online



08.11.2022

The Role of the Diaspora in Peacebuilding in Yemen. Potentials and Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints

by Marie-Christine Heinze and Ewa K. Strzelecka

On 12 June 2022, FES Yemen and CARPO, in collaboration with the EU-funded *Peace Women* project, convened a one-day workshop in Amman, Jordan. The aim of this workshop was to discuss with researchers, as well as female and male diaspora representatives, the challenges

and constraints as well as the potentials and opportunities of Yemeni diaspora communities to contribute to peace in their home country, and to particularly

highlight the role of female members of the diaspora community in such efforts. This publication is a summary of the most important workshop findings.

Available online



July 2022

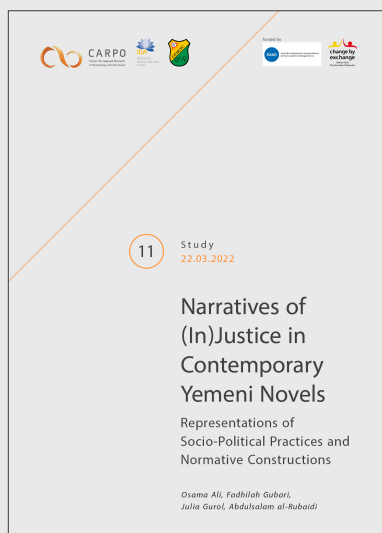
Addressing the Crushing Weight of Yemen's Public Debt

by Sana'a Center Economic Unit

For decades prior to the ongoing conflict, Yemen was vulnerable to recurring budget deficits. The escalation of the ongoing conflict in 2014/15 has had a profoundly negative impact on Yemen's debt position. Large-scale oil exports ceased, leading to a collapse in public revenues, while banks and pension funds stopped purchasing

government debt instruments. Management of the public debt became bifurcated between rival central bank administrations in Aden and Sana'a, both of which suspended payments on foreign and domestic debt obligations. Unable to receive interest payments, public debt holders faced a liquidity crisis, leaving banks unable to honor customer obligations and threatening their solvency, while pension funds have struggled to support retirees. Based on the input and discussions of the 'Development Champions Forum', this paper outlines the history, characteristics and drivers of Yemen's public debt and presents recommendations for addressing this crisis.

Available online



22.03.2022

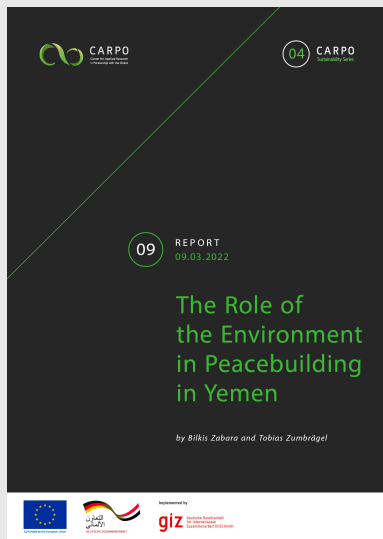
Narratives of (In)Justice in Contemporary Yemeni Novels

by Osama Ali, Fadhilah Gubari, Julia Gurol and Abdulsalam al-Rubaidi

This Study analyzes narratives of (in)justice in contemporary Yemeni novels. Through a lexical field analysis of nine selected contemporary novels, the paper highlights how (in)justice is framed in narrative literature, both in terms of representations of certain socio-political practices and in terms of

normative constructions and the creation of a normative order. It argues that novels represent and discuss the complexities of Yemeni realities, where daily practices and experiences of individuals are entangled with philosophical questions about the meaning of life. It discusses the nexus between the framing of (in)justice and post-conflict reconciliation and provides an original insight into the understanding and constructions of justice and injustice offered to society by Yemeni novelists.

Available online



09.03.2022

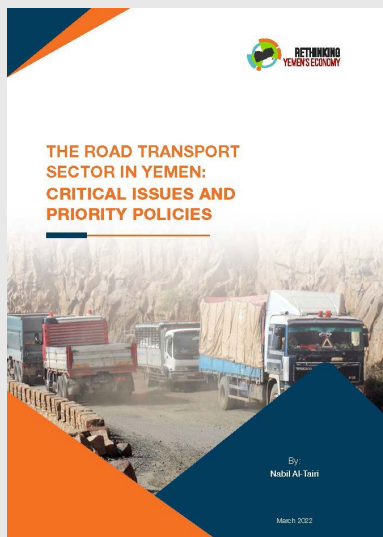
The Role of the Environment in Peacebuilding in Yemen

by Bilkis Zabara and Tobias Zumbärgel

This Report addresses the relationship between violent conflict and environmental governance in Yemen. It translates the concept of environmental peacebuilding to the case of Yemen, where it has not received broader attention in terms of post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. The Report compares six different governorates, namely Sana'a, Dhamar, Ibb, Ta'iz, Aden and Hadhramawt and finds that all governorates face specific threats. If these challenges are not addressed adequately and in a sustainable manner, they can accelerate social conflict and ultimately threaten long-term solutions for peace and stability in the country. To promote the concept of environmental peacebuilding, the Report provides several suggestions for concrete action by international actors working on Yemen.

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Available online



March 2022

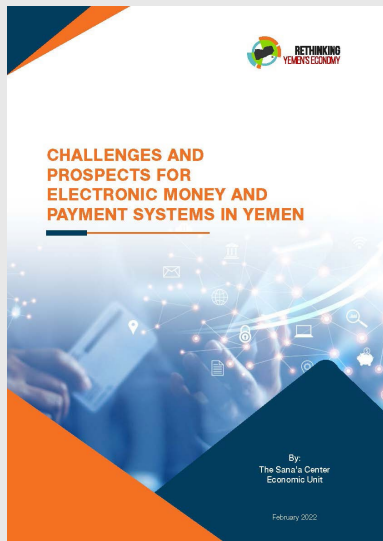
The Road Transport Sector in Yemen. Critical Issues and Priority Policies

by Nabil Al-Tairi

Yemen is predominantly a rural country, with over 70 percent of the population living in 140,000 settlements in impoverished rural areas. Road transport is thus essential for the country's development and overall economic growth. With only 3,744km of paved rural roads,

representing approximately 6.4 percent of all roads in the country, Yemen's neglected road network poses significant development challenges. Next to an overview of the road transport sector in Yemen and of the repercussions of the war on the sector, this RYE White Paper offers recommendations on alleviating these impacts: infrastructure policies for rural and urban roads; policies for road maintenance and repairs that impact commercial traffic; and updating of the institutional structure of the sector.

Available online



February 2022

Challenges and Prospects for Electronic Money and Payment Systems in Yemen

by Sana'a Center Economic Unit

Yemen has a heavily cash-based economy with low levels of financial inclusion. The country's formal banking sector is highly underdeveloped, undercapitalized and concentrated in urban areas, leaving it inaccessible for most Yemenis. Plans by the Central Bank of Yemen to develop and improve electronic interbank

transactions and local electronic payment systems, including mobile money services, were interrupted by the onset of the ongoing conflict. This paper examines and provides recommendations on: the existing regulations surrounding the use of e-money in Yemen; attempts to adopt e-money services both before and during the conflict; the major players and state of infrastructure in the sector; and the challenges and prospects facing greater adoption of electronic currency in the country.

Available online

5 Events

5.1 FES / BICC / CARPO – Workshop: ‘The Proliferation of Precision-Strike Technology and the Future of Warfare in the Middle East: Zooming in on the Yemen War’ (31 May – 01 June 2022, Berlin)

Missiles, drones, precision-guided munition and further military technologies that enable belligerents to attack their enemies from a distance are changing the concepts and practices of warfare. While long-distance warfare was seen for quite some time as a predominantly Western/democratic way of war, the proliferation of the respective technologies and the rapid development of internal arms industries enable autocratic states and even some non-state armed actors to also practice remote warfare. This can best be observed in the conflict-ridden region of the Middle East, and particularly in the Yemen war where Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other members of the Arab coalition have transferred the fighting on the ground to surrogate forces – such as local armed groups, tribes or mercenaries – whom they finance, train and equip. Precision airstrikes have become the primary practice of military intervention. Massive damages to the civilian infrastructure caused in the course of the air campaign have led to severe challenges for Yemeni livelihoods with respect to food security, health care and the education sector. The Houthis (also known as *Ansar Allah*) are also practicing a form of remote warfare, which is technically and strategically supported by Iran. Since the beginning of the current war in 2014/15, the Houthis have used armed drones, ballistic and cruise missiles to attack civilian and military targets in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

In this workshop, we zoomed in on the Yemen war and the changing patterns of warfare observed in order to answer the following questions:

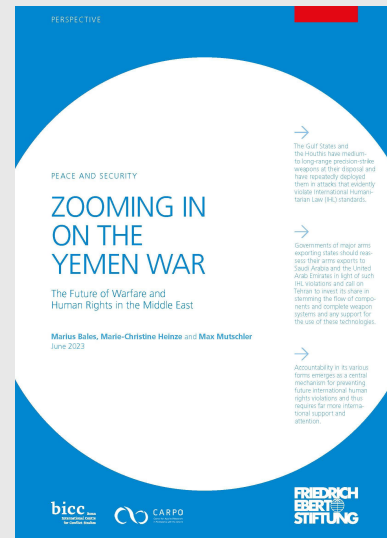
1. How has the proliferation of precision-strike technology changed the concepts and practices of state and non-state warfare of the warring parties?
2. What are the humanitarian consequences of autocratic and non-state precision-strike warfare?
3. Which role have third actors, particularly Western states and Iran, played in the proliferation of these technologies?
4. What are the lessons learned and policy consequences regarding conflict management, international humanitarian law and arms control?

The two-day workshop, held under Chatham House Rule, brought together academics, think tank scholars and the policy community to engage in

discussions about these questions, develop policy options and come up with concrete recommendations for a German and European policy towards the Yemen conflict, as well as lessons learned regards arms control. It resulted in the following publication:

Marius Bales, Marie-Christine Heinze and Max Mutschler (June 2023): *Zooming in on the Yemen War. The Future of Warfare and Human Rights in the Middle East*, FES/BICC/CARPO Perspective.

Available online



5.2 FES / CARPO Workshop: 'The Role of the Diaspora in Peacebuilding in Yemen. Potentials and Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints' (11 June 2022, Amman/Jordan).

Recent research has shown that diasporas have significant influence at the social, economic, cultural and political level in both their countries of origin and their countries of residency. In the context of war-induced migration, diaspora communities are often divided in ways that mirror the conflicts in their homelands. At the same time, numerous studies have documented the successful efforts and relevant role of diasporas as peacebuilders and agents of change. The capacity of diasporas to act and influence homeland politics and social change may ensure the durability of peace and the implementation of values of equality, inclusivity, justice, human rights, freedoms and diversity in their countries of origin. Influential diaspora leaders and exiled activists may increase public representation and bring innovative social knowledge and expertise to the negotiation table, thus improving the legitimacy of the agreements reached and increasing chances for a more inclusive and equitable culture of peace.

In the context of the ongoing war in Yemen, Yemeni diasporas have been growing and their transnational networks expanding. Since the outbreak of war in 2014/2015, many activists, politicians and talented professionals fled the country to continue their activities from abroad. For example, between 2014 and 2019, the number of Yemenis in Europe doubled to over 11,000. Most of them live in Germany and remain deeply connected to Yemen. Statistics show that Yemeni migration is male dominated. However, the prominent participation of female leaders in peace-building activities and transnational

networks has made women stand out. These women, similar to male activists and leaders, are not a homogenous group and may come from different political backgrounds, hold diverse understandings of peace and pursue distinct priorities and political goals. Independently of their differences and diverse perspectives, most of them claim their agency to bring about peace, shape homeland transnational politics and contribute to positive change in Yemen.



The goal of this workshop, which was designed and implemented in collaboration with the *Peace Women* research project, funded by the European Union's *Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program* under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 101024992, was to understand the Yemeni diaspora's potentials and opportunities to contribute to peacebuilding and stabilization in Yemen, but also to address its challenges and constraints. These issues were addressed in the following thematic sessions:

Session 1: Mapping Yemen's diaspora

How is the Yemeni diaspora distributed globally and what are the main host countries? How does the host country environment shape the nature of its Yemeni diaspora community? How does it impact the nature of the diaspora members' activism vis à vis Yemen? What priorities are pursued by different Yemeni groups outside the country? Can gender differences within the diaspora community in a certain country or region be identified, also with a view to gender differences in activism? How do the Yemeni women's transnational networks emerge and endure in exile?

Session 2: The role of social, economic and political remittances in peace and stability in Yemen

What diaspora networks exist that seek to contribute to peace and stability in Yemen? Where are they situated and how are they connected to Yemenis in and outside the country? What objectives do they pursue and what methods do they use to achieve their aims? How have the ongoing war and the peace process shaped and been shaped by the political participation of Yemeni activists in exile? How have these politically and culturally diverse members of the Yemeni transnational communities entered, influenced and negotiated their goals in peace processes? How has Yemeni diaspora mobilization contributed to transnational exchanges of new political, social and economic practices? In what ways is the war-induced Yemeni migration not only a consequence of conflict and state fragility but also contributes to an exacerbation of conflict if the diaspora's needs and aspirations are not effectively addressed? What is the role of the private sector? To what extent are the Yemeni female activists' demands similar or different to those voiced by men in peacebuilding? What role has the transnational community played in building the current Yemeni feminist agenda?

Session 3: Working from exile: challenges, limitations and opportunities

What are the specific potentials and opportunities of the Yemeni diaspora in comparison to Yemenis living in Yemen? How are these potentials and opportunities defined by the host context? What are the challenges and limitations of the Yemeni diaspora in comparison to Yemenis living in Yemen? How are these challenges and limitations shaped by the host context? How can the potentials and opportunities be amplified and the challenges and limitations be mitigated or overcome? Are dichotomies between Yemenis living inside and outside Yemen too simplistic? If so, how can we move beyond simplistic dichotomies and show how the different approaches complement each other? How has social mobility through war-induced migration contributed to transnational flows of information, ideas, activism and financial resources?

Session 4: Potential vectors for transnational dialogue and activism: potentials and opportunities, challenges and constraints of the Yemeni diaspora in supporting peace and stability in Yemen

Group discussion with all workshop participants on the most important workshop findings: What is the added value of the Yemeni diaspora and its transnational networks to peacebuilding and stabilization in Yemen? What are critical points, challenges and constraints? How can the potentials and opportunities

be amplified and the challenges and limitations be mitigated or overcome? How can a greater gender balance and more equal representation in transnational dialogue and activism for peace be achieved?

The results of this workshop are summarized in the following publication:

Marie-Christine Heinze and Ewa Strzelecka (November 2022): *The Role of the Diaspora in Peacebuilding in Yemen. Potentials and Opportunities, Challenges and Constraints*, CARPO Brief 22.

Available online



5.3 CARPO Research Forum 2022: ‘Towards #Knowledge-Justice? Addressing Asymmetries in Global Knowledge Production’ (30 November 2022, virtual event)

If knowledge is an imperial instrument of colonization, then the decolonization of knowledge is one of the most urgent tasks: Global structures of knowledge production are still marked by asymmetries. Once referred to by Quijano as the ‘coloniality of knowledge’, this ‘epistemic violence’ of knowledge production is still present in the 21st century.

Against this backdrop, CARPO’s third virtual ‘Research Forum’ (CRF) investigated and critically discussed the underrepresentation of the so-called Global South in global knowledge production. Among others, it addressed the following questions: Which persisting asymmetries of knowledge production prevail? How can these inequalities in the system of global knowledge production be reduced or even eliminated? And what is the role of different actors from different world regions in this process towards knowledge justice?

Overall, the 2022 CRF aimed at shedding more light on an often under-represented topic and putting the finger on the prevailing asymmetries in global knowledge production. The event provided a platform for discussion by bringing together experts from the Global South and North on this issue. Furthermore, it discussed initiatives to reduce asymmetries in global knowledge production and, in terms of positionality, located the challenges, responsibilities and fields of action for scholars working in the Global North. The event was structured as follows:

15:00–15:10 Introduction

15:10–15:30 Online Keynote: „Knowledge production and epistemic justice: A reflection from the Arab World“

Speaker

Sari Hanafi, Professor of Sociology, Director of Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies and Chair of the Islamic Studies program, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Moderator

Mirjam Schmidt, Project Manager, CARPO

15:45–16:45 Panel Discussion Session: Doing Research in the so-called Global South

Discussants

Yasmeen al-Eryani, Director of Research, Sana'a Center, Yemen

Sarah Wessel, CARPO Associate Fellow and Research Manager, Berlin Center for Global Engagement, Berlin University Alliance, Germany

Sari Hanafi, Professor of Sociology, Director of Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies and Chair of the Islamic Studies program, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Marwan Kraidy, Dean and CEO Northwestern University in Qatar Professor of Communication and Anthony Shadid Chair in Global Media, Politics and Culture Northwestern University

Moderator

Stacey Philbrick Yadav, Associate Professor of International Relations, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, US

16:45–17:00 Concluding Remarks

The final session aims to draw conclusions and summarize ideas compiled during the CRF.

Speaker

Julia Gurol, Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer, Chair for International Relations, Freiburg University, Germany

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