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| | Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems Issue 1, Vol. 9, 2026 RESEARCH ARTICLE <h2 style="margin: 0;">The M/FI_Z-Score Matrix: An Original Framework Linking Financial Inclusion to Financial Stability</h2> |
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| Keywords | M/FI_Z-Score Matrix, Financial Inclusion, Financial Stability, Z-Score, Banking Sector, Arab Countries, Financial Access, Financial Depth, Domestic Credit, FinTech. |
| Abstract This study aims to present an innovative analytical framework, known as the M/FI_Z-Score Matrix, to examine the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Arab countries during the period 2011–2021. The analysis is based on key financial inclusion indicators, including the number of ATMs and commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults, the number of borrowers per 1,000 adults, as well as broad money supply (% of GDP) and domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP). The study's findings clearly indicate that the increase or decrease in the financial stability Z-Score is associated with the directions (increase/decrease) and values (positive/negative) of the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators. The results further show that enhancing financial stability requires a balanced management of growth in access, usage, and financial depth indicators, while considering the inverse relationships between certain indicators to ensure a positive effect on overall financial stability. The M/FI_Z-Score Matrix provides a strategic tool for policymakers and financial practitioners by offering practical scenarios to strengthen financial stability while supporting financial inclusion. The findings also emphasize that unbalanced expansion in borrowing or financial services may lead to financial risks, highlighting the critical role of sound financial policies and the adoption of fintech applications. | |
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Introduction

In recent years, the global financial system has undergone a rapid transformation driven by profound changes in the world economic structure, along with the emergence of modern financial transaction patterns based on innovation and efficiency. Within this evolving context, financial inclusion has emerged as an advanced concept that has attracted growing attention from researchers and policymakers due to its economic, social, and developmental dimensions.

Financial inclusion gained particular importance following the global financial crisis of 2008, which revealed the limited access of large segments of society to formal financial services. This situation prompted many international organizations and institutions to adopt financial inclusion as a key instrument for promoting economic development and reducing financial

exclusion. By expanding access to financial services, especially for marginalized groups, financial inclusion enhances their integration into the formal economic system.

On the other hand, financial stability represents one of the fundamental pillars of a sound financial system, as it reflects the system's ability to withstand financial shocks, manage risks efficiently, and ensure the continuity of its core functions. It also encompasses the capacity to adapt to economic changes and capitalize on available opportunities, making financial stability a strategic objective pursued by countries worldwide.

In the context of accelerated digital transformation, a close relationship emerges between financial inclusion and financial stability. Improved access to financial services enhances individuals' ability to manage their financial resources more effectively, thereby supporting financial stability at the individual level and generating positive spillover effects on overall financial stability. Consequently, the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability is considered fundamental within the context of global economies, including those of Arab countries.

Accordingly, this research is structured around the following main themes:

- 1) Financial Inclusion and its indicators;
- 2) Financial Stability and its indicators;
- 3) The relationship between financial inclusion indicators and the Z-Score in Arab countries.

I. Financial Inclusion and its indicators

The concept of financial inclusion has evolved from simply classifying individuals and institutions as included or excluded, to multidimensional definitions and more advanced measures, reflecting the significant role that financial inclusion plays in economic and financial development as well as in financial stability.

• Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion refers to the ability of individuals and businesses to access financial products and services that are useful, affordable, and tailored to their needs—such as payment services, savings accounts, credit, loans, and insurance—provided in a responsible and sustainable manner (World Bank, s.d.).

Improving high levels of financial inclusion, which strives to integrate diverse parts of society in the capitalist financial system while also achieving financial stability and economic growth, would benefit the economic (financial and banking), social, and political contexts. The program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- ✓ Financial inclusion for marginalized individuals (e.g., women, low-income households, and rural populations);
- ✓ Poverty reduction through affordable financial services and community integration into formal banking;
- ✓ Creating work opportunities to improve economic stability;
- ✓ Providing access to official money to improve residents' living conditions, particularly for the impoverished (Nadine , Nouran, & Andrew , 2023, p. 82);
- ✓ The objective is not only to increase access to financial services, but also to improve financial well-being;
- ✓ It strives to lay the groundwork for sustained and equitable national development (BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS).

• Financial Inclusion Indicators in Arab Countries

Financial inclusion indicators help to illustrate the degree of vitality and activity within the financial sector. Given the diversity and variation of measurement indicators, this section relies on financial inclusion indicators that diagnose the overall condition of the financial sector in Arab countries.

➤ Financial Access Dimension

The financial access dimension (availability and outreach) refers to the ability to access financial services. In this study, the focus will be on demographic outreach to measure this dimension, which is quantified by: the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults.

1. Number of Commercial Bank Branches per 100,000 Adults

Commercial bank branches are retail transaction sites (serving individuals) that operate as commercial banks and provide financial services to clients. These branches are physically separate from the main headquarters but are not legally organized as separate subsidiary companies. (THE WORLD BANK, 2025)

2. Number of ATMs per 100,000 adults

ATMs are computerized devices that allow customers of any financial institution to conduct financial transactions in any public place (THE WORLD BANK, 2025)

➤ Dimension of financial services usage

The dimension of financial services usage refers to the extent to which these services are utilized, measured through a set of indicators. The focus will be on an important indicator: the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults.

1. Number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults

The number of borrowers from commercial banks refers to the figure reported for resident clients, including non-financial institutions (public and private) and households that have obtained loans from commercial banks or other banks operating as commercial banks. For many countries, the data cover the total number of loan accounts due to the lack of information on individual loan account holders (THE WORLD BANK, 2025).

➤ Financial depth dimension

Shaw (1973) indicates that financial depth refers to the improvement or increase in the total financial services designed for all levels of society. It also refers to the rise in the ratio of money supply to gross domestic product or other price indicators. Ultimately, financial depth assumes that the greater the liquidity available in the economy, the more opportunities exist for sustainable growth and continuity (Moses, 2013, p. 2). In this dimension, two indicators will be used: broad money supply (% of GDP) and domestic credit provided to the private sector (% of GDP).

1. Broad money supply (% of GDP)

Broad money supply (% of GDP) is the total of currency outside banks, demand deposits excluding those of the central government, time deposits, and savings deposits (THE WORLD BANK, 2025).

2. Domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)

Domestic credit to the private sector refers to the financial resources provided by financial institutions to the private sector (households and companies), including loans, purchases of non-equity securities, trade credits, and other accounts receivable (THE WORLD BANK, 2025)

II. Financial Stability and its indicators

Financial stability is a key element for economic growth and sustainability, reflecting the ability of banks and financial institutions to withstand shocks and risks. The Z-Score is commonly used as a quantitative tool to assess this stability, measuring the financial safety of banks through the relationship between profits, capital, and asset volatility.

• Financial Stability

A financial system is regarded as stable when it is capable of absorbing internal imbalances and unexpected negative shocks. In such a stable state, the system relies on self-correcting mechanisms to mitigate these disturbances, preventing them from causing significant harm to the real economy or to other financial institutions. Thus, the importance of financial stability is often most apparent when it is lacking (BANK OF KOREA, s.d.).

Some scholars highlight that the importance of financial stability rests on two main aspects:

- ✓ The financial system is essential for the economy as it facilitates financial intermediation, channels funds between savers and borrowers, and ensures the efficient allocation of financial resources, thereby supporting economic growth and development (BANK NEGARA MALASIA, s.d.).
- ✓ The true value of financial stability is often most evident during times of financial turbulence, when its absence can have pronounced adverse effects (THE WORLD BANK, s.d.).

• Financial Stability Indicators in Arab Countries (Z-Score indicator)

Financial stability indicators are highly important because they reflect the stability of macroeconomic financial conditions and help detect accumulated imbalances in the financial sector at an early stage (Nasief, 2026).

The Z-Score is considered an indicator for predicting the likelihood of a company's bankruptcy, commonly referred to as the Altman Z-Score or AZ-Score. This method was developed by Edward Altman, an American financial expert, who created an indicator to assess financial stability. The Altman Z-Score model is an effective tool for identifying financial distress, with the concept of Altman emerging during the Great Depression to develop a formula for predicting corporate defaults in the United States (Tomasetti, 2023).

A study by Samrony Eka Fauzi et al. (2021) indicated that the Altman model outperforms the other three bankruptcy prediction models—Springate, Zmijewski, and Crouver—being recognized as accurate, consistent, and both descriptively and statistically validated (Samrony, 2021, p. 57).

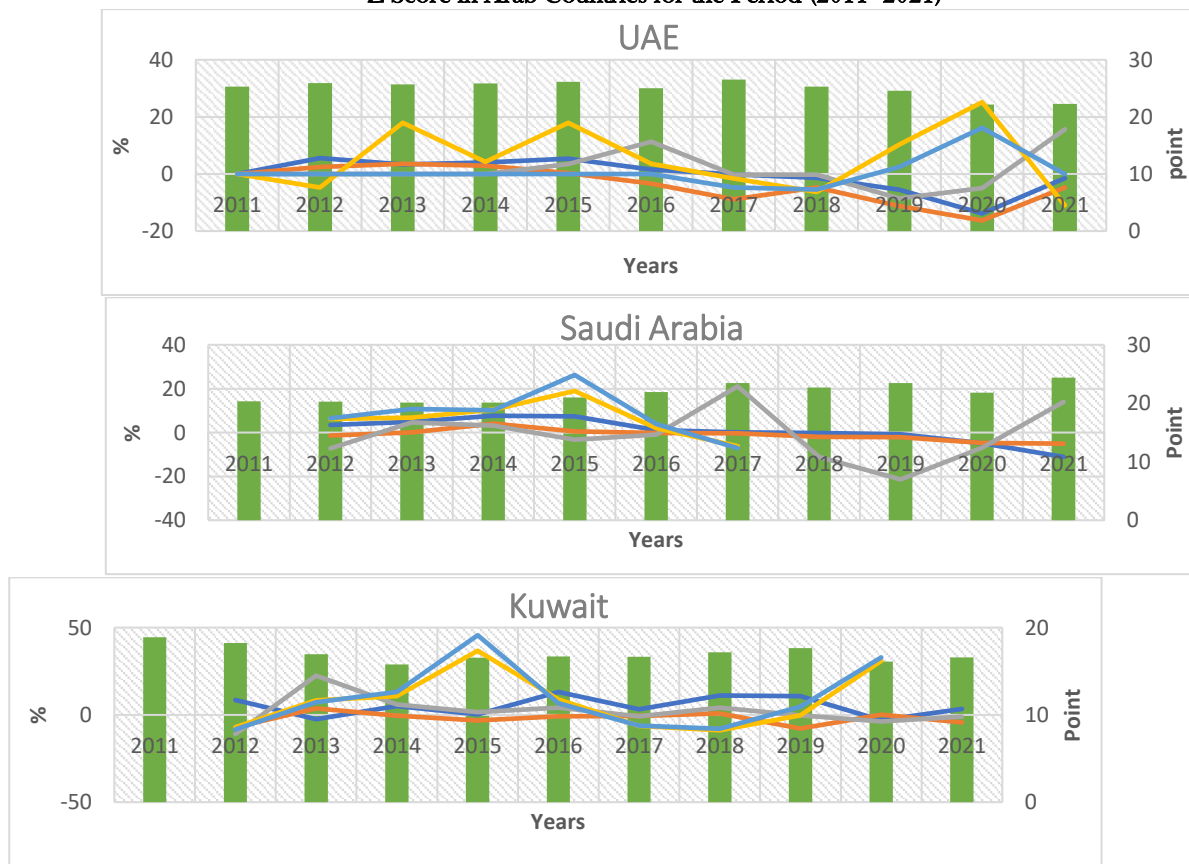
III. The relationship between financial inclusion indicators and the Z-Score in Arab countries

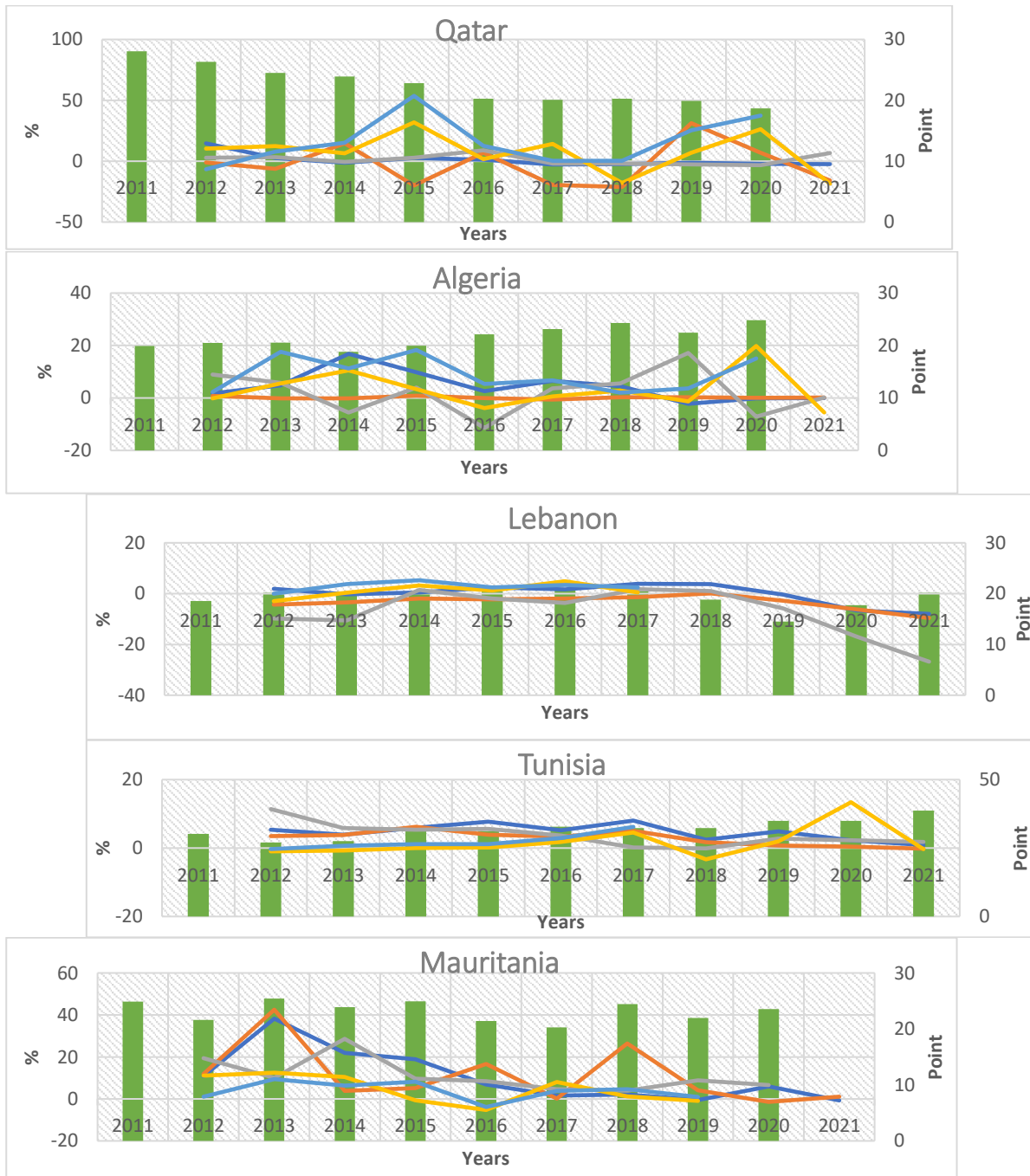
The study will examine the relationship between the growth rates of the financial inclusion indicators under consideration and the Z-Score, in order to determine: when financial inclusion indicators can positively contribute to increasing the Financial Stability Z-Score? as well as to summarize and analyze these results.

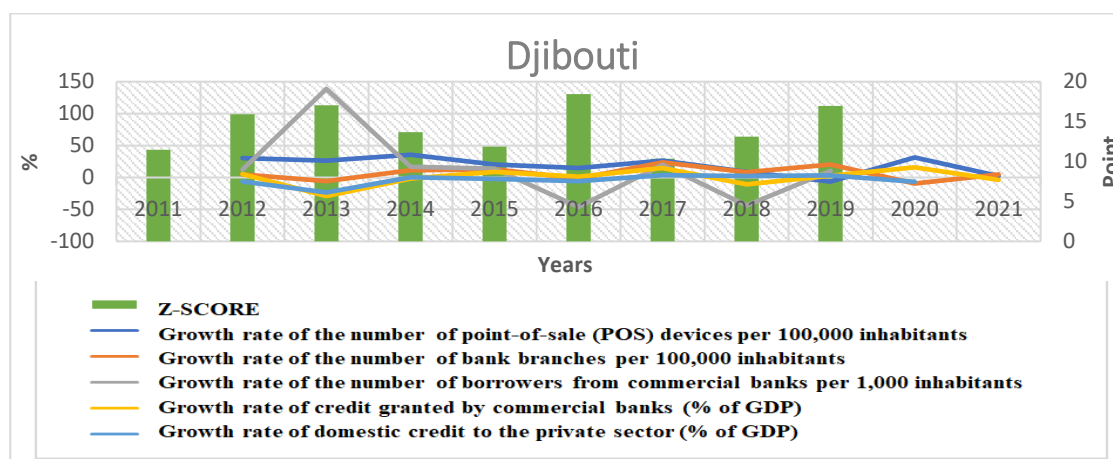
• The relationship between the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators and the Z-Score index

We aim to examine the relationship between the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators and the Z-Score by identifying the direction of movement of the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators (increase/decrease) and their values (positive/negative), and how these contribute to increases or decreases in the Z-Score.

Fig.1. The Relationship between the Growth Rates of Financial Inclusion Indicators and the Z-Score in Arab Countries for the Period (2011–2021)







Source: Prepared by the researcher using Excel, based on the data provided in Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

Through Figure (1), we can observe the cases that lead to an increase or decrease in the Financial Stability Indicator (Z-Score) and the cases of conflicting results, as follows:

✓ **Increase in the Financial Stability Indicator (Z-Score)**

- Case of a decrease in the growth rate of the financial access dimension (growth rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults and growth rate of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults) with negative values, along with a decrease in the growth rate of bank borrowers per 1,000 adults, representing the usage dimension with negative values, and a decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension (growth rate of broad money (% of GDP) and growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)) with positive values. This was observed in Qatar, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia in 2017, 2015, and 2016, respectively;
- Case of an increase in the growth rate of the financial access dimension with positive values (or a decrease in the growth rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults with
- positive values and a decrease in the growth rate of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults with negative values), along with an increase in the growth rate of bank borrowers per 1,000 adults with positive values, and a decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with negative values. This was observed in Kuwait in 2018, Djibouti in 2013, and Saudi Arabia in 2017;
- Case of an increase in the growth rate of one of the financial access dimension variables with negative values, while the growth rate of the other variable is positive, along with a decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with negative values, and an increase in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Qatar in 2019, Algeria in 2020, and Lebanon in 2016;
- Case of a decrease in the growth rate of the financial access dimension with positive values (or a decrease in the growth rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults with positive values and a decrease in the growth rate of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults with negative values), along with a decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with negative values, and a decrease in the growth rate of one of the financial depth variables with negative values while the other variable has positive values. This was observed in Algeria in 2016 and in Djibouti in 2016 and 2018;
- Case of a decrease in the growth rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults with positive values and an increase in the growth rate of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults with positive values, along with an increase in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive values, and an increase in the growth rate of one financial depth variable with positive values while the other variable decreases positively (Allahverdiyeva, 2026). This was observed in Algeria in 2015 and 2018.

✓ **Decrease in the Financial Stability Indicator (Z-Score)**

- Case of a decrease in the growth rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults with positive or negative values, and an increase in the growth rate of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults with positive or negative values, along with a decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive or negative values (or an increase with negative values), and a decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with negative values. This was observed in Kuwait in 2017, Mauritania in 2016, and the UAE in 2018;
- Case of a decrease in the growth rate of the financial access dimension with negative values, along with a decrease or increase in the growth rate of the usage dimension with negative values, and an increase in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in the UAE in 2019 and 2020;

– Case of a decrease in the growth rate of the financial access dimension, along with an increase in the growth rate of the usage dimension and a decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Mauritania in 2014;

– Case of an increase in the growth rate of the financial access dimension with positive values (or an increase in ATMs and a decrease in branches with positive values), along with an increase or decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive values, and an increase in the growth rate of broad money with positive values and an increase or decrease in the growth rate of credit with positive values. This was observed in Saudi Arabia in 2013 and 2014, and Tunisia in 2015.

✓ Cases of Conflicting Results

– Case of an increase in the growth rate of the financial access dimension with positive values, along with a decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive values, and an increase in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Tunisia in 2014 and 2017, and Mauritania in 2013;

– Case of an increase in the growth rate of ATMs per 100,000 adults with positive values and a decrease in the growth rate of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults with negative values, along with a decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive values, and an increase in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Kuwait in 2014 and Algeria in 2013;

– Case of a decrease in the growth rate of the financial access dimension with positive values, along with a decrease in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive values, and an increase in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Mauritania in 2017 and Tunisia in 2016;

– Case of a decrease in the growth rate of ATMs with negative values and an increase in the growth rate of bank branches with positive values, along with an increase in the growth rate of the usage dimension with positive values, and a decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Kuwait in 2013 and Djibouti in 2019;

– Case of an increase in the growth rate of ATMs and the usage dimension with positive values, along with an increase in the growth rate of branches with negative values, and a decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Lebanon in 2017 and Kuwait in 2016;

– Case of an increase in the growth rate of ATMs and the usage dimension with positive values, along with a decrease in the growth rate of branches with negative values, and an increase in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with positive values. This was observed in Algeria in 2017 and Qatar in 2015.

• Summary and Analysis of Results

We discuss the main findings obtained from examining the relationship between the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators and the Z-Score for the countries under study, in addition to analyzing these results by identifying cases of Z-Score increases and decreases.

1. Case of Z-Score Increase for Financial Stability

➤ According to the Dimensions of Financial Inclusion

Table.1. Cases of Z-Score Increase According to the Dimensions of Financial Inclusion

| | Financial Access Dimension | | Financial Usage Dimension | | Financial Depth Dimension | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Condition | Value | Condition | Value | Condition | Value |
| An increase in the Z-Score | ↘ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | - |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

From the table, it is evident that both the financial access dimension and the financial depth dimension contribute to increasing the volume of financial services provided. Therefore, their growth rates should move in opposite directions (increase vs. decrease), since excessive provision of financial services can negatively affect a country's financial stability. In cases where both dimensions move in the same direction, they should be represented with opposite signs. Regarding the financial usage dimension, its growth rates should be inversely related to those of the financial depth dimension, either in direction or sign, in order to avoid increasing loan disbursements that could lead to financial crises and thus affect financial stability. It should be noted that the number of borrowers should be reduced when the volume of credit extended to the private sector increases, and vice versa.

➤ According to Financial Inclusion Indicators

Table.2. Cases of Z-Score Increase According to Financial Inclusion Indicators

| Financial Access Dimension | Financial Usage Dimension | Financial Depth Dimension |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

| | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adult | | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | |
|----------------------------|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|
| | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val |
| An increase in the Z-Score | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | - |
| | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↗ | - | ↘ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | + | ↘ | - |
| | ↗ | - | ↗ | + | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↗ | - | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↗ | - | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

From the table, the following observations can be made:

A decrease in the growth rate of the financial depth dimension with a negative value should be followed by an increase in the growth rate of the number of borrowers. This is because a decline in broad money supply leads to higher interest rates, which discourages the private sector from borrowing, thereby reducing the volume of financial services provided and negatively affecting private investment. Conversely, the increase in the growth rate of borrowers, which reached 138.75% in Djibouti in 2013 and 21.06% in Saudi Arabia in 2017, contributed positively to the financial stability indicator.

Alternatively, a decrease in financial depth with a positive value may be followed by either an increase or a decrease in the growth rate of borrowers with negative values. Similarly, a scenario where one of the financial depth variables decreases with a negative value while the other increases with a positive value, followed by a decrease in the growth rate of borrowers, or a positive increase in financial depth with a decrease in the number of borrowers (negative value), can occur. Despite a decline in financial access or any of its variables, it can still contribute to enhancing a country's financial stability.

Regarding positive values of financial inclusion growth rates, they should move in opposite directions. For instance, if the growth rate of broad money supply decreases, it should be followed by an increase in the growth rate of credit, and vice versa. Similarly, the growth rates of the number of ATMs and the number of borrowers should move in opposite directions. Therefore, the inverse relationship in growth directions between broad money supply and credit, and between ATMs and borrowers, along with positive growth in the number of bank branches, has a positive impact on financial stability.

2. Case of Z-Score Decrease for Financial Stability

➤ According to the Dimensions of Financial Inclusion

Table.3. Cases of Z-Score Decrease According to the Dimensions of Financial Inclusion

| | Financial Access Dimension | | Financial Usage Dimension | | Financial Depth Dimension | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Condition | Value | Condition | Value | Condition | Value |
| A decrease in the Z-Score | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | - | ↗ | - | ↗ | + |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

From the table, the following can be observed:

Positive cases and values recorded in the growth rates of financial inclusion dimensions indicate the injection of additional liquidity into the economy and an increase in the volume of financial services provided, which can negatively affect financial stability. Conversely, a decrease in the volume of financial services provided and a reduction in liquidity within the financial access and financial depth dimensions, accompanied by an increase in the growth rate of borrowers—or by increases in the growth rate of financial depth aimed at injecting liquidity into the economy while countries adopt financial technology applications to provide financial services with a reduction in the number of borrowers (positive or negative growth rates of borrowers)—will also negatively impact the country's financial stability.

➤ According to Financial Inclusion Indicators

Table.4. Cases of Z-Score Decrease According to Financial Inclusion Indicators

| | Financial Access Dimension | | | | Financial Usage Dimension | | Financial Depth Dimension | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|
| | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adult | | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | |
| | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val |
| A decrease in the Z-Score | ↘ | + | ↗ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | - |
| | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | - |
| | ↘ | - | ↗ | - | ↗ | - | ↘ | - | ↘ | - |
| | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↘ | + |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

From the table, the following can be observed:

The decrease recorded in the growth rate of financial depth with negative values, followed by a negative decrease—either with negative or positive values—in the number of borrowers, along with increases in branch growth rates (either negative or positive) and a decrease in the number of ATMs (either positive or negative), indicates a rise in interest rates resulting from the decline in the growth rate of broad money supply. This, in turn, slows down private sector investment, negatively affecting financial stability.

Although positive values in the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators were recorded, they negatively impacted the Z-Score. This is due to the absence of the two necessary conditions: the inverse relationship between the growth rate of broad money supply and credit, and the inverse relationship between the growth rates of ATMs and borrowers, combined with positive growth in the number of bank branches

3. Case of Conflicting Results

➤ According to the Dimensions of Financial Inclusion

Table.5. Cases of Conflicting Z-Score Results According to the Dimensions of Financial Inclusion

| | Financial Access Dimension | | Financial Usage Dimension | | Financial Depth Dimension | |
|---|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Condition | Value | Condition | Value | Condition | Value |
| | | | | | | |
| An increase / A decrease in the Z-Score | ↘ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↗ | + |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

From the table, the following can be observed:

Positive increases in financial depth, which inject liquidity into the economy and expand the volume of financial services provided, along with a decrease in the growth rate of borrowers, as well as increases or decreases in the growth rates of financial access with positive values, can lead either to a decrease or an increase in the financial stability indicator. This can be explained by two possibilities:

First possibility:

Case (1): The magnitude of the decrease in the growth rate of financial access in the scenario of an increase in financial stability is greater than the corresponding decrease in the scenario of a decline in financial stability. Additionally, the magnitude of the increase in the growth rate of financial depth in the scenario of increased financial stability is smaller than the corresponding increase in the scenario of decreased financial stability.

Case (2): The magnitude of the decrease in the growth rate of borrowers in the scenario of increased financial stability is greater than that in the scenario of decreased financial stability.

Second possibility:

Other variables may have contributed to the increase or decrease in the financial stability indicator.

➤ According to Financial Inclusion Indicators

Table.6. Cases of Conflicting Z-Score Results According to Financial Inclusion Indicators

| Financial Access Dimension | Financial Usage | Financial Depth Dimension |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|

| | | | | | Dimension | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|
| | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adult | | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | |
| | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val | Cond | Val |
| | An increase / A decrease in the Z-Score | | | | | | | | | |
| | ↗ | + | ↗ | - | ↗ | + | ↘ | + | ↘ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↘ | - | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |
| | ↗ | + | ↘ | - | ↘ | + | ↗ | + | ↗ | + |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on Appendices (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14).

From the table, it is evident that the results observed in the relationship between the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators and the financial stability indicator are attributable to the presence of other variables that contributed to these conflicting outcomes.

Based on the obtained results, a matrix, referred to as **"the M/FI_Z-Score Matrix"**, was developed. This matrix presents the scenarios illustrated in Table (7) that a country may face in the case of increases or decreases in both the country's financial stability indicator and financial inclusion indicators. Each scenario provides the country with potential solutions to help improve its level of financial stability by managing the directions and values of the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators.

Table.7. M/FI_Z-Score Matrix

| Financial Inclusion Indicators | | | |
|---|--|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Increase | Decrease | | |
| Focus on improving the stability of the financial system by avoiding increases in the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators with positive values | Focus on increasing the growth rates of borrowers and bank branches in the case of a negative decrease in financial depth growth, while avoiding negative values in the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators | Decrease | Financial Stability Indicator Z-Score |
| Focus on reducing the growth rates of ATMs and one financial depth dimension while analyzing the directions and values of the controlling variables that align with increases in financial inclusion indicators. Additionally, emphasize the inverse relationship between ATM growth and borrower growth, as well as between broad money growth and credit extended to the private sector, alongside positive growth in the number of bank branches | Focus on reducing the growth rate of borrowers (negative value), reducing one financial depth dimension with a positive value and the other with a negative value, along with reducing the growth rate of financial access positively (or reducing ATM growth positively while reducing commercial bank branch .growth negatively) | Increase | |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the obtained results.

Conclusion

To examine the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability, a matrix called the **M/FI_Z-Score Matrix** was developed. This matrix illustrates the scenarios faced by a country in cases where the Z-Score rises or falls based on the directions (increase/decrease) and signs (positive/negative) of the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators. The growth rates of financial inclusion indicators—including the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults, the number of commercial bank branches per 1,000 adults, the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults, broad money supply (% of GDP), and domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP)—were shown to play an active role in influencing the Z-Score.

study Findings:

- The inverse relationship in the growth rate trends between broad money supply (% of GDP) and domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP), on one hand, and the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults and the number of borrowers per 1,000 adults, on the other hand, combined with positive growth in the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults, has a positive effect on financial stability;
- An increase in the growth rates of financial inclusion dimensions with positive values, or an increase in the growth rate of the number of borrowers combined with a decrease in the growth rate of financial access, along with either a decrease or an increase in the growth rate of financial depth, and a country's shift toward fintech applications to provide financial services while the number of borrowers decreases, will negatively affect financial stability;
- Based on the results of the relationship between the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators and the Z-Score of financial stability, a matrix was developed, called the **M/FI_Z-Score Matrix**, which illustrates the scenarios faced by a country in cases where financial inclusion indicators exert either a positive or negative effect on the financial stability index. Each scenario provides the country with solutions to help improve its level of financial stability by managing the directions and values of the growth rates of financial inclusion indicators.

Recommendations:

- Work on adopting a financial system that supports financial inclusion, which in turn would enhance financial stability in Arab countries;
- Efforts should be made to ensure that the growth rates of financial access and financial depth move in different directions, or have opposite signs when moving in the same direction, and that the growth rates of financial usage are opposite to those of financial depth, either in direction or sign. Additionally, the inverse relationship condition between the growth rates of money supply and credit on one hand, and the number of ATMs and borrowers on the other, should be maintained, along with positive growth in the number of bank branches, in order to positively impact financial stability;
- The number of borrowers should be reduced when credit to the private sector is increased, and vice versa, to avoid negative effects on financial stability;
- The recommendations of the **M/FI_Z-Score Matrix** should be implemented to enhance financial stability in Arab countries;
- Countries with a high level of financial inclusion, as well as Algeria and Lebanon, which have relatively low numbers of commercial bank branches, should work on increasing the density of their branches in order to both enhance their financial inclusion levels and improve their financial stability;
- Excessive expansion of borrowing policies should be avoided, as this increases the financial risks associated with such behavior, negatively affecting financial stability.

Ethical Considerations. This study is based exclusively on secondary data obtained from publicly available and officially published sources, including international financial databases and institutional reports. No primary data collection, human participants, surveys, interviews, or personal or confidential information were involved. Consequently, ethical approval from an institutional review board was not required. The research adheres to accepted principles of academic integrity, transparency, and responsible use of data.

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Appendices

Appendix.1. Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults

| 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 7,59713543 | 7,97604528 | 9,52835141 | 10,7362058 | 11,2684502 | 12,3653182 | 12,7909887 | 12,7477328 | 12,3880991 | 11,9620465 | 11,6709103 | UAE |
| 13,0084197 | 13,5956823 | 13,5773334 | 14,7249862 | 14,5896771 | 14,6748855 | 14,790178 | 15,2743983 | 15,3531535 | 14,8029702 | 15,9354977 | Kuwait |
| 7,38359291 | 7,77764732 | 8,16007163 | 8,3403836 | 8,50439983 | 8,53393601 | 8,55177843 | 8,50523692 | 8,17299777 | 8,17087597 | 8,28207733 | Saudi Arabia |
| 8,49704639 | 10,0879946 | 9,44003433 | 7,19328438 | 9,12332873 | 11,3237114 | 10,5806575 | 13,2272899 | 11,5327577 | 12,3139868 | 12,4330804 | Qatar |
| 5,26224369 | 5,25498194 | 5,25414844 | 5,23780197 | 5,22292875 | 5,25455537 | 5,25719456 | 5,21090988 | 5,21594731 | 5,22553374 | 5,18251887 | Algeria |
| 18,3647509 | 20,3152441 | 21,6558303 | 22,2709417 | 22,2522514 | 22,5628225 | 23,0050154 | 23,5490654 | 23,9995131 | 24,8572178 | 25,9957717 | Lebanon |
| 22,2778782 | 22,3183477 | 22,2308814 | 22,0755586 | 21,7019241 | 20,6607362 | 19,9876975 | 19,2367975 | 18,1119627 | 17,4485904 | 16,864898 | Tunisia |
| 11,3193753 | 11,1965392 | 11,3584317 | 10,9160209 | 8,63853215 | 8,62530738 | 7,39432656 | 7,03356425 | 6,77455777 | 4,75415314 | 4,24725639 | Mauritania |
| 8,94426882 | 8,54277367 | 9,4308141 | 7,84801504 | 7,26128525 | 5,87061172 | 5,98708994 | 5,3176918 | 4,77870477 | 5,05526244 | 4,82738645 | Djibouti |

Source: (THE WORLD BANK, s.d.)

Appendix.2. Number of ATMs per 100,000 adults

| 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 51,6981538 | 52,4852265 | 60,9142465 | 64,4780289 | 65,3668744 | 65,4201444 | 64,3825675 | 61,1159852 | 58,7773085 | 56,8608603 | 53,8617674 | UAE |
| 81,2147286 | 78,5627694 | 81,0700151 | 73,2552663 | 65,9829913 | 63,9336914 | 56,5137003 | 56,3977785 | 53,6632733 | 55,0485453 | 50,7150286 | Kuwait |
| 62,0386801 | 69,8004749 | 73,3357794 | 73,9630126 | 74,1022634 | 74,028377 | 73,2044134 | 68,2001323 | 63,353282 | 60,4236041 | 58,3864122 | Saudi Arabia |
| 52,4050396 | 53,6552703 | 54,8421042 | 55,5504505 | 56,9465449 | 58,5348772 | 57,8559356 | 56,3801504 | 57,0723651 | 55,5963402 | 48,4890134 | Qatar |
| 9,3046331 | 9,31070781 | 9,32770211 | 9,53991893 | 9,12724826 | 8,57084098 | 8,35007733 | 7,606854 | 6,51084079 | 6,20925064 | 6,10017824 | Algeria |
| 33,7176045 | 36,6417396 | 39,254867 | 39,4130571 | 37,9926232 | 36,5778849 | 35,9611367 | 35,1154901 | 34,9502996 | 35,059442 | 34,40159 | Lebanon |
| 33,223337 | 32,9354886 | 32,2065662 | 30,7187784 | 29,9885324 | 27,7610455 | 26,395967 | 24,5047205 | 23,1351092 | 22,2586773 | 21,123588 | Tunisia |
| 10,9386012 | 11,0182504 | 10,402706 | 10,4611867 | 10,2411558 | 10,0762937 | 9,42984342 | 7,93420358 | 6,50888884 | 4,70844013 | 4,24725639 | Mauritania |
| 16,6307498 | 16,23127 | 12,332603 | 13,1787422 | 12,1021421 | 9,57836649 | 8,35041492 | 6,92911356 | 5,10827062 | 4,04420996 | 3,10331986 | Djibouti |

Source: (THE WORLD BANK, s.d.)

Appendix.3. Number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults

| 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| 543,121329 | 469,651622 | 494,180865 | 540,490755 | 541,587239 | 543,087145 | 488,076711 | 471,916152 | - | - | - | UAE |
| 212,840599 | 215,03271 | 223,225302 | 223,933771 | 215,184873 | 216,968984 | 208,317837 | 204,968603 | 193,295838 | 157,815853 | 177,388307 | Kuwait |
| 148,31542 | 130,204186 | 139,890077 | 177,948675 | 200,177768 | 165,348569 | 166,953879 | 172,546818 | 167,335992 | 159,898767 | 172,210638 | Saudi Arabia |
| 234,847691 | 220,278396 | 227,691993 | 233,817917 | 238,500787 | 243,048221 | 223,076729 | 217,124556 | 218,416631 | 211,389233 | 205,551031 | Qatar |
| 46,7864724 | 46,6894767 | 50,2714983 | 42,9026156 | 40,6383003 | 39,1891699 | 44,2419579 | 42,5407938 | 45,0247556 | 42,5768205 | 39,0750264 | Algeria |
| 129,201597 | 176,463998 | 212,269076 | 225,351749 | 223,080419 | 219,250861 | 227,541722 | 232,114704 | 228,877662 | 255,839489 | 283,449125 | Lebanon |
| 250,370847 | 245,98429 | 240,485211 | 233,954741 | 234,181625 | 233,700745 | 225,501603 | 213,574502 | 202,775951 | 191,568807 | 171,977552 | Tunisia |
| - | 95,5618356 | 89,6464818 | 82,3780365 | 79,2522071 | 75,7653994 | 69,8754691 | 63,7154165 | 49,5338763 | 45,0114016 | 37,6739209 | Mauritania |
| 48,1578999 | - | 25,601033 | 23,1590482 | 41,2047682 | 34,4187785 | 63,7719612 | 56,1274312 | 48,093544 | 20,1435358 | 17,9354647 | Djibouti |

Source: (THE WORLD BANK, s.d.)

Appendix.4. Broad money supply (% of GDP)

| 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| 102,549472 | 115,206586 | 92,0588982 | 83,4278792 | 88,9808296 | 90,3667774 | 87,2764379 | 74,0022718 | 70,955381 | 60,1534597 | 63,1430096 | UAE |
| - | 120,643685 | 92,212469 | 92,5123649 | 101,467569 | 108,237749 | 99,3213554 | 72,6380046 | 65,6455597 | 60,6307243 | 65,2512012 | Kuwait |
| - | - | - | - | 70,1022218 | 74,7341281 | 73,2666562 | 61,589197 | 55,7930366 | 52,2390832 | 49,1693807 | Saudi Arabia |
| 93,0392955 | 114,121316 | 90,3061833 | 84,5159363 | 102,887325 | 90,0856779 | 88,5601235 | 67,144459 | 62,9989915 | 56,0311456 | 50,7556355 | Qatar |
| 91,178195 | 96,4980394 | 80,5357665 | 81,5784093 | 79,3287485 | 78,8843691 | 82,0006516 | 79,3094812 | 71,7297314 | 67,9543982 | 68,0615962 | Algeria |
| - | - | - | - | 260,618311 | 259,293191 | 247,24163 | 244,29691 | 236,654964 | 235,819515 | 243,034255 | Lebanon |
| 77,6107613 | 77,8761385 | 68,6809916 | 67,374058 | 69,6659114 | 66,6125821 | 65,4210132 | 65,3029596 | 65,2741105 | 65,7638481 | 66,378122 | Tunisia |
| - | - | 27,8106973 | 28,0750027 | 27,7289327 | 25,6596921 | 27,0867796 | 27,2528617 | 24,6843683 | 21,943175 | 19,748548 | Mauritania |
| 77,2890625 | 80,3686019 | 69,3319899 | 67,5723842 | 75,4763016 | 65,6530205 | 64,8574021 | 59,6503839 | 60,7288711 | 85,7035474 | 81,3791424 | Djibouti |

Source: (THE WORLD BANK, s.d.)

Appendix.5. Credit to the private sector (% of GDP)

| 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | |
|------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| - | 90,790167 | 78,158986 | 76,3249508 | 80,7200408 | 84,7052071 | - | - | - | - | - | UAE |
| - | 126,472604 | 95,1065868 | 90,919086 | 98,6991072 | 105,187145 | 98,5107721 | 67,64079 | 59,7519624 | 55,7432613 | 60,7902325 | Kuwait |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| - | - | - | - | 53,9733527 | 58,1144819 | 55,9167973 | 44,2902349 | 40,2187358 | 36,3391799 | 34,1007294 | Saudi Arabia |
| - | 138,857843 | 100,941606 | 80,4368398 | 80,0817008 | 79,7605886 | 70,8424801 | 46,0968086 | 40,00534 | 37,1284424 | 39,7530263 | Qatar |
| - | 29,6949071 | 25,8064938 | 24,9013665 | 24,4029577 | 22,8758054 | 21,711733 | 18,3519781 | 16,4978911 | 14,0253067 | 13,7159224 | Algeria |
| - | - | - | - | 106,567725 | 103,999348 | 100,566124 | 98,2255476 | 93,3172929 | 89,9553303 | 89,9878566 | Lebanon |
| - | - | - | - | 81,7125991 | 76,9508925 | 74,7917657 | 73,9469004 | 73,1104704 | 72,6067639 | 72,8194981 | Tunisia |
| - | - | 22,2408092 | 22,0411209 | 21,0665655 | 20,2989278 | 21,1155784 | 19,5202998 | 18,3458398 | 16,7663812 | 16,5934474 | Mauritania |
| - | 20,9080274 | 22,3514675 | 21,633222 | 21,1727543 | 20,4371266 | 21,7028461 | 22,1972663 | 22,1639856 | 28,9308988 | 30,908834 | Djibouti |

Source: (THE WORLD BANK, s.d.)

Appendix.6. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in the UAE

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 25,32 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 25,9 | - | -4,73457 | - | 2,4945461 | 5,5681294 | 2012 |
| 25,69 | - | 17,957274 | - | 3,5617032 | 3,3704172 | 2013 |
| 25,85 | - | 4,2940941 | - | 2,9030582 | 3,9788769 | 2014 |
| 26,12 | - | 17,937512 | 3,4244555 | 0,3393221 | 5,3448902 | 2015 |
| 25,04 | - | 3,5408635 | 11,270858 | -3,327894 | 1,6115805 | 2016 |
| 26,55 | -4,704748 | -1,533692 | -0,276181 | -8,870519 | -0,081428 | 2017 |
| 25,32 | -5,444856 | -6,240614 | -0,202457 | -4,723315 | -1,35978 | 2018 |
| 24,59 | 2,4029302 | 10,345485 | -8,568119 | -11,25029 | -5,527127 | 2019 |
| 22,14 | 16,160881 | 25,144433 | -4,963617 | -16,29145 | -13,83752 | 2020 |
| 22,29 | - | -10,98645 | 15,643448 | -4,750598 | -1,499608 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for the UAE

Appendix.7. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Saudi Arabia

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 20,33 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 20,28 | 6,5642303 | 6,2431181 | -7,14931 | -1,342675 | 3,4891541 | 2012 |
| 20,13 | 10,675959 | 6,803246 | 4,6512084 | 0,0259677 | 4,8485653 | 2013 |
| 20,11 | 10,123389 | 10,388681 | 3,1139904 | 4,0650831 | 7,6505119 | 2014 |
| 20,99 | 26,250848 | 18,960239 | -3,241404 | 0,54721 | 7,3376414 | 2015 |
| 21,93 | 3,9302762 | 2,0029192 | -0,961529 | -0,20864 | 1,1255655 | 2016 |
| 23,46 | -7,125813 | -6,197846 | 21,064106 | -0,346103 | 0,0998082 | 2017 |
| 22,7 | - | - | -11,10468 | -1,928604 | -0,187917 | 2018 |
| 23,47 | - | - | -21,3874 | -2,161915 | -0,848036 | 2019 |
| 21,82 | - | - | -6,92393 | -4,686531 | -4,820709 | 2020 |
| 24,37 | - | - | 13,90987 | -5,066499 | -11,11997 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Saudi Arabia

Appendix.8. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Kuwait

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 18,89 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 18,25 | -8,302273 | -7,08106 | -11,03368 | -7,106948 | 8,5448372 | 2012 |
| 16,96 | 7,1913644 | 8,2711124 | 22,48189 | 3,7167088 | -2,516455 | 2013 |
| 15,79 | 13,202625 | 10,651817 | 6,0388081 | -0,512957 | 5,0956735 | 2014 |
| 16,55 | 45,638116 | 36,734697 | 1,6340232 | -3,170144 | 0,2055431 | 2015 |
| 16,71 | 6,7773021 | 8,9773174 | 4,1528595 | -0,779521 | 13,129544 | 2016 |
| 16,66 | -6,16809 | -6,254916 | -0,822289 | -0,580641 | 3,2053521 | 2017 |
| 17,18 | -7,882565 | -8,825681 | 4,0657587 | 0,9274307 | 11,021439 | 2018 |
| 17,64 | 4,6057445 | -0,324169 | -0,316374 | -7,793915 | 10,667832 | 2019 |
| 16,1 | 32,979857 | 30,83229 | -3,6701 | 0,1351438 | -3,092692 | 2020 |
| 16,58 | - | - | -1,019431 | -4,319479 | 3,3755928 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Kuwait

Appendix.9. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Qatar

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 28,05 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 26,32 | -6,602224 | 10,39394 | 2,8402685 | -0,957877 | 14,657602 | 2012 |
| 24,52 | 7,7485008 | 12,435666 | 3,3243882 | -6,344241 | 2,6548958 | 2013 |
| 23,92 | 15,226639 | 6,5802123 | -0,591565 | 14,693209 | -1,212872 | 2014 |
| 22,81 | 53,681963 | 31,89491 | 2,7413634 | -20,00888 | 2,6175615 | 2015 |
| 20,26 | 12,588645 | 1,72262 | 8,9527456 | 7,0227573 | 1,1735039 | 2016 |
| 20,11 | 0,4025951 | 14,210525 | -1,871001 | -19,43164 | -2,71348 | 2017 |
| 20,29 | 0,4434709 | -17,85583 | -1,963461 | -21,15505 | -2,451588 | 2018 |
| 19,9 | 25,49176 | 6,8510712 | -2,619955 | 31,233993 | -1,275141 | 2019 |
| 18,68 | 37,562546 | 26,371542 | -3,255976 | 6,8639614 | -2,164093 | 2020 |
| - | - | -18,47334 | 6,6140371 | -15,77071 | -2,330117 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Qatar

Appendix.10. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Algeria

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------|
|---------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------|

| | sector (% of GDP) | | commercial banks per 1,000 adults | branches per 100,000 adults | 100,000 adults | |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------|
| 19,91 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 20,49 | 2,2556577 | -0,157501 | 8,961719 | 0,8299992 | 1,7880198 | 2012 |
| 20,55 | 17,62945 | 5,5556864 | 5,7494548 | -0,183454 | 4,8571103 | 2013 |
| 18,82 | 11,238327 | 10,567096 | -5,51688 | -0,096578 | 16,833666 | 2014 |
| 19,97 | 18,307318 | 3,3932518 | 3,9989007 | 0,8882266 | 9,7704428 | 2015 |
| 22,14 | 5,36149 | -3,800314 | -11,42081 | -0,050202 | 2,6438516 | 2016 |
| 23,12 | 6,6758407 | 0,56333 | 3,6977827 | -0,60189 | 6,4918634 | 2017 |
| 24,29 | 2,0424112 | 2,8358708 | 5,5718751 | 0,2847679 | 4,5213043 | 2018 |
| 22,44 | 3,63485 | -1,278087 | 17,175836 | 0,3120865 | -2,224514 | 2019 |
| 24,82 | 15,067577 | 19,820104 | -7,125353 | 0,0158635 | -0,182192 | 2020 |
| - | - | -5,512904 | 0,2077463 | 0,1381879 | -0,065244 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Algeria

Appendix.11. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Lebanon

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 18,57 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 20,17 | -0,036145 | -2,96861 | -9,740597 | -4,379766 | 1,912272 | 2012 |
| 19,71 | 3,737369 | 0,3542747 | -10,53857 | -3,450526 | -0,311307 | 2013 |
| 19,99 | 5,2597482 | 3,2291511 | 1,414311 | -1,876903 | 0,4726441 | 2014 |
| 20,47 | 2,382859 | 1,2053856 | -1,970139 | -2,310283 | 2,4081868 | 2015 |
| 20,62 | 3,4138974 | 4,8744061 | -3,643666 | -1,922159 | 1,7150409 | 2016 |
| 20,47 | 2,4696086 | 0,5110506 | 1,7466556 | -1,376472 | 3,8677423 | 2017 |
| 18,8 | - | - | 1,0181665 | 0,0839926 | 3,7387098 | 2018 |
| 14,52 | - | - | -5,805445 | -2,761946 | -0,401365 | 2019 |
| 17,74 | - | - | -16,86778 | -6,190417 | -6,656824 | 2020 |
| 20,19 | - | - | -26,78303 | -9,601131 | -7,980339 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Lebanon

Appendix.12. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Tunisia

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| 30,21 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 27,04 | -0,292139 | -0,925416 | 11,391751 | 3,4609899 | 5,373563 | 2012 |
| 27,52 | 0,693746 | -0,744691 | 5,8501921 | 3,8018677 | 3,9374838 | 2013 |
| 31,45 | 1,1440631 | 0,0441969 | 5,3253612 | 6,2104523 | 5,9200558 | 2014 |
| 31,17 | 1,1425297 | 0,1807783 | 5,584515 | 3,9034564 | 7,7178862 | 2015 |
| 32,76 | 2,886851 | 1,8213857 | 3,6359576 | 3,3672644 | 5,171542 | 2016 |
| 32,31 | 6,1879809 | 4,5837125 | 0,2057675 | 5,0394524 | 8,0237862 | 2017 |
| 32,29 | - | -3,289777 | -0,096884 | 1,7216653 | 2,4350839 | 2018 |
| 34,98 | - | 1,9398173 | 2,7913392 | 0,703596 | 4,8432519 | 2019 |
| 34,96 | - | 13,388198 | 2,28666 | 0,3934453 | 2,2632726 | 2020 |
| 38,68 | - | -0,340768 | 1,7832669 | -0,181328 | 0,8739765 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Tunisia

Appendix.13. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Mauritania

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 24,9 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 21,62 | 1,0421813 | 11,112852 | 19,476287 | 11,934687 | 10,858392 | 2012 |
| 25,43 | 9,4203909 | 12,492236 | 10,047398 | 42,497677 | 38,238751 | 2013 |
| 23,91 | 6,401778 | 10,405344 | 28,629983 | 3,8232235 | 21,897973 | 2014 |
| 24,95 | 8,1724084 | -0,609412 | 9,6680725 | 5,1291534 | 18,850535 | 2015 |
| 21,4 | -3,867527 | -5,268576 | 8,4291817 | 16,647639 | 6,8553657 | 2016 |
| 20,3 | 3,7816663 | 8,0641677 | 4,6021109 | 0,1533253 | 1,6361383 | 2017 |
| 24,45 | 4,6260765 | 1,2480463 | 3,9441545 | 26,364303 | 2,1484973 | 2018 |
| 21,98 | 0,9059806 | -0,941426 | 8,8232805 | 4,0528572 | -0,559026 | 2019 |
| 23,53 | - | - | 6,5985343 | -1,425307 | 5,9171559 | 2020 |
| - | - | - | - | 1,09709 | -0,722884 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Mauritania

Appendix.14. The indicators used to measure the relationship between financial inclusion and financial stability in Djibouti

| Z-Score | Growth rate of domestic credit to the private sector (% of GDP) | Growth rate of broad money supply (% of GDP) | Growth rate of the number of borrowers from commercial banks per 1,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults | Growth rate of the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults | Years |
|---------|---|--|---|--|--|-------|
| 11,46 | - | - | - | - | - | 2011 |
| 15,91 | -6,399255 | 5,3138984 | 12,3112 | 4,7204837 | 30,318824 | 2012 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 17,06 | -23,38992 | -29,14077 | 138,75423 | -5,470689 | 26,310718 | 2013 |
| 13,69 | 0,1501568 | -1,775905 | 16,70471 | 11,278935 | 35,644998 | 2014 |
| 11,86 | -2,227392 | 8,7292282 | 13,619953 | 12,588134 | 20,512023 | 2015 |
| 18,45 | -5,832044 | 1,2267196 | -46,02835 | -1,94549 | 14,705276 | 2016 |
| 10,35 | 3,5994673 | 14,962421 | 19,715952 | 23,688733 | 26,348706 | 2017 |
| 13,12 | 2,1748126 | -10,47205 | -43,79522 | 8,0802472 | 8,8959472 | 2018 |
| 16,97 | 3,3201041 | 2,6040309 | 10,54441 | 20,168145 | -6,420485 | 2019 |
| - | -6,457921 | 15,918499 | - | -9,416371 | 31,612685 | 2020 |
| - | - | -3,831769 | - | 4,699822 | 2,4611744 | 2021 |

Source: Prepared by the researcher based on (TRADING ECONOMICS, 2023) And Appendices (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) for Djibouti