

Arab Society: A COMPENDIUM OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

Issue No. 11



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ESCWA

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)

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A COMPENDIUM OF SOCIAL STATISTICS**

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Acknowledgments

Arab Society: A Compendium of Social Statistics is the latest in a series of biennial compendia of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). It provides a general view of Arab society in the ESCWA region and the changes it has encountered over time. Drawing on data provided mainly from national statistical offices (NSOs), it focuses on issues of population, employment, housing conditions, education, health and culture.

Each issue of the *Compendium* focuses on a single theme. The eleventh issue of the *Compendium* concerns education in ESCWA member countries.

This report is divided into two parts. The first part presents education profiles for 14 of the 17 ESCWA member countries, those who responded to the questionnaire with the most comprehensive data. In the second part, additional areas of social concern are discussed by topic. Not all available indicators are displayed in the body of this publication. A more exhaustive set of tables can be found in the annex as well as on the ESCWA website.

Data were drawn primarily from NSOs of the ESCWA member countries and supplemented

by publicly accessible data from international agencies, such as the International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank. Although efforts were made to present as much of the data received from member countries as possible, inconsistent or otherwise unreliable data from member countries were excluded from this report.

In the hope of widening the audience of this publication, the eleventh issue is intended not only as a reference for policymakers and other officials, but also as a snapshot of trends in the region for readers with an interest in the social climate of Western Asia, such as academics, students, journalists and the general public.

We are grateful to the NSOs for providing us with the necessary data.

This publication was prepared by Marwan Khawaja (population), Sukaina Al-Nasrawi (labour and poverty), Ismail Lubbad (education and country profiles), Zeina Sinno (health), Raffi Shirinian (housing conditions), and Dina Karanoh (culture and country profiles).

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SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

...	Data not available
DTP	Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
GDP	Gross domestic product
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
NSO	National statistical office
PAPFAM	Pan Arab Project for Family Health
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
US\$	United States dollars
WB	The World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

Introduction

Arab Society: A Compendium of Social Statistics is the latest in a series of biennial compendia of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). It provides a broad description of Arab society in the region and how it is changing over time. Drawing on data provided mainly from National Statistical Offices (NSOs), it focuses on population dynamics, employment, education, housing conditions, health, poverty and culture. Other issues of social concern such as crime, justice or social protection have been omitted due to the lack of reliable data.

The report shows that the Arab population in the region continues to grow rapidly and diversify. Population growth rates vary widely, from less than one per cent to over three per cent. The population is young overall, but there is considerable heterogeneity in the age-sex profile of countries in the region owing to varying demographic transitions and the size of migrant labourers as well as refugees in some countries. The proportions of children younger than 15 years range from a low of about 15 per cent in Qatar to a high of over 40 per cent in Palestine and Iraq. With nearly 300 men per 100 women in Qatar alone, the sex ratios for all Gulf countries are large.

Recent estimates indicate a rapid decline of fertility and mortality. Total fertility varies greatly from a below replacement level (below 2.1) in Lebanon and Tunisia to over 5.5 in the Sudan and Yemen. Improvements in the health and survival chances of populations are evident, but the data show clear disparities. Life expectancy at birth ranges from 57-60 years for men and women in the Sudan to 77-81 years in Qatar.

There are an exceptionally large number of migrants in the region and their number has doubled over the past twenty years. Data for 2012 show that about one out of four persons in five out of nine countries in the region was an international migrant. The region also has a large number of refugees and displaced populations, with over 1.5 million refugees in each of Jordan, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Household size varies considerably from a high of approximately seven persons in Yemen to

four in Egypt and Lebanon. With the exception of the Sudan, female headship is generally low.

Recent data show that age at marriage continues to rise, and marriage can no longer be considered universal in some countries. Divorce has been on the rise, nearly doubling in some countries in a mere 10 years.

The data indicate that labour force participation is generally low in the ESCWA region, mainly because of very low rates of participation among women: less than half the rates for working-age men. Overall unemployment among labour force participants varies widely, ranging from three to 30 per cent in Qatar and Iraq respectively. All countries reported higher unemployment for youth than for the working-age population. Public sector employment in some countries, including the Gulf States, represents more than 80 per cent of all employment.

Data on housing conditions are generally sparse, and have been derived from censuses. The majority of countries showed high (50 per cent +) ownership of housing units. The most recent available data show that access to a public electricity network is generally high, with little variation between urban and rural areas in most countries. Availability of public piped water in housing units was generally high, the exceptions being Lebanon, the Sudan and Yemen. Data for urban areas show over 60 per cent availability of sewage networks in most countries.

While overall adult literacy rates have been increasing, current rates vary considerably from some 95 per cent in Qatar and Palestine to less than 65 per cent in Yemen. The absolute difference between adult literacy rates for men and women ranged from 1 per cent in Qatar to about 15 per cent in Yemen. Enrolment in primary schools has been increasing in all countries, and the sex gaps have narrowed in most countries. In about half the countries with data, females have higher enrolment ratios in secondary schools than males. However, wide variations are observed in pupil-teacher ratios: 6.3 pupils per teacher in Kuwait to 19 in Iraq.

Available data show a decrease in maternal mortality in most countries over recent years. The most recent national estimates show rates ranging from 210 in Yemen to five or less in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates per 100,000 births. Skilled health personnel attend almost all births in the majority of countries. Prenatal care varies between the countries, ranging from 47 per cent in Yemen to 100 per cent in Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. However, all countries reported a higher level of prenatal care in urban areas than in rural areas. Access to contraception has increased in most countries, with current rates approaching 60 per cent in some countries. Three countries reported a decrease in DPT and almost all countries showed an increase in measles immunization rates in recent years. A considerably higher percentage of men than women smoke in all the countries where national data are available. Male rates ranged from 18 to 44 per cent, while female rates ranged from 1 to 19 per cent.

In contrast, obesity is higher among women than men in all countries of the region for which data are available. Disability ranges from 0.4 in Qatar to 4.9 per cent in the Sudan. Between 2000 and 2010, per capita expenditure on health increased in all countries.

Egypt, with 57, has the largest number of museums of any ESCWA member State; however, the State of Palestine has the greatest number of museums per capita, reporting 3.4 museums per million residents. The smallest number, of 0.4 museums per million residents, was reported by the Sudan. Between 2005 and 2012, there was a dramatic increase in Internet usage. In 2012, usage rates of greater than 50 per cent were found in eight of the 17 member states, four of which had usage rates of 80 per cent and over. In some countries, including Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, there was an almost tenfold increase in Internet usage.

ESCWA member countries	
Bahrain	Palestine
Egypt	Qatar
Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Jordan	The Sudan
Kuwait	The Syrian Arab Republic
Lebanon	Tunisia
Libya	The United Arab Emirates
Morocco	Yemen
Oman	

PART I
COUNTRY EDUCATION PROFILES



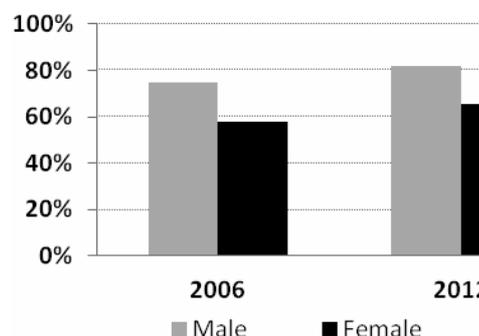
At a Glance	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	102.3%
2. Secondary Education	72.5%
3. Tertiary Education	27.8%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	0.94%
2. Secondary	0.96%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	95.6%
Share of Private Enrolment (2007)	
1. Primary Education	7.8%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy	73.9%
2. Youth Literacy	89.3%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	
1. Primary Education (2010)	27.7%
2. Secondary Education (2009)	12.1%
Expenditure on Education (2008)	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	11.9%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	3.8%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

One in four Egyptian adults (15 years and above) is illiterate

Adult literacy increased in Egypt from 66 per cent in 2006 to 74 per cent in 2012. Female literacy increased from 58 to 66 per cent between 2006 and 2012, while male literacy increased from 75 to 82 per cent in the same period. Male literacy was higher than female literacy by 16 per cent in 2012.

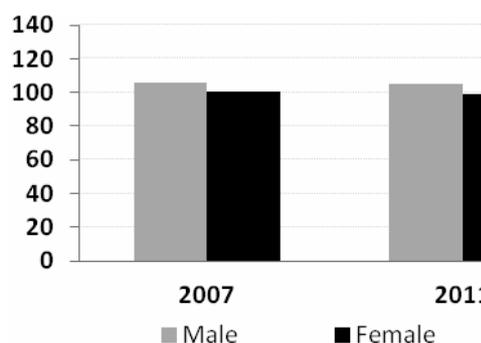
Figure 1.1.1: Adult literacy by sex in Egypt in 2006-2012



Persisting gender gap in enrolment in primary education

In Egypt in 2011 the gross enrolment ratio in primary education was 102 per cent, especially amongst males. Between 2000 and 2011, the net enrolment ratio grew by 5 percent and the gross enrolment ratio increased by 4 per cent. The gap between girls and boys enrolment in primary schools (99 and 105 per cent, respectively) was 6 per cent.

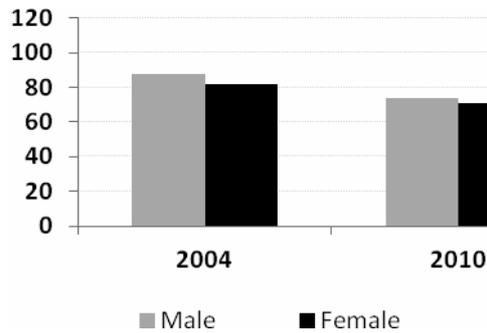
Figure 1.1.2: Gross enrolment ratio by sex for primary education in Egypt



Decreased gender gap in secondary education enrolment

In 2010, approximately 72 per cent of Egyptian schoolchildren were enrolled in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2004, the gross enrolment ratio increased and then decreased between 2009 and 2010. The gross enrolment ratios for boys and girls were similar in 2010.

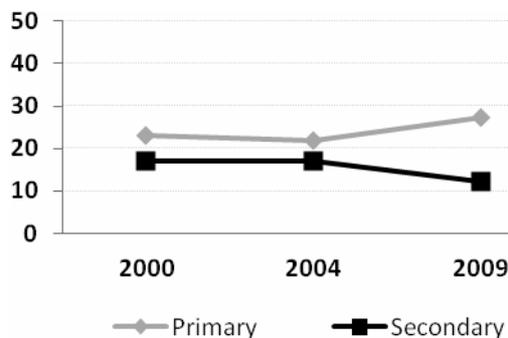
Figure 1.1.3: Gross enrolment ratios in secondary education in Egypt



An increase of pupil-teacher ratios in primary education and a decrease in secondary education

Between 2000 and 2009, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary education increased from 23 pupils per teacher to 27, while the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education decreased from 17 pupils per teacher to 12.

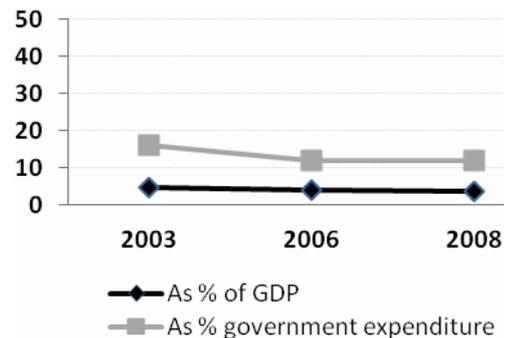
Figure 1.1.4: Pupil-teacher ratio by level of education, 2000-2009



Decreased government expenditure in education

Between 2003 and 2008, the public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained almost stable at approximately four per cent. As a proportion of total expenditure, government expenditure on education decreased by 4 per cent.

Figure 1.1.5: Expenditure on education in Egypt, 2003-2008





At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	111.1%
2. Secondary Education	47.8%
3. Tertiary Education	12.5%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	0.9%
2. Secondary	0.7%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	96.3%
2. Secondary Education	21.8%
Dropout Rate	
1. Primary Education	2.2%
2. Secondary Education	2.5%
Literacy*	
1. Adult Literacy	738.5%
2. Youth Literacy	82.4%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio*	
1. Primary Education (2010)	17.0%
2. Secondary Education (2009)	13.7%

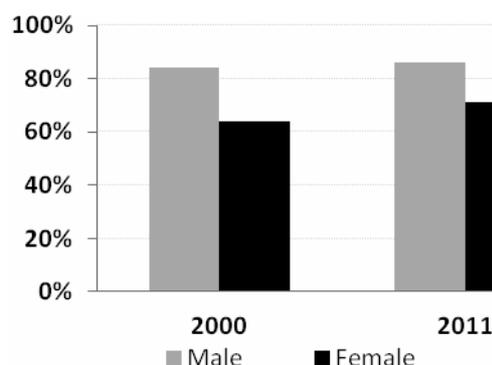
Source: Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT).

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

About one in five Iraqi adults (15 years and above) illiterate in 2011

Between 2000 and 2011, adult literacy increased in Iraq from 74 to 78 per cent. Female literacy increased from 64 to 71 per cent in the same period. In 2011, male literacy was higher than female literacy by 14.8 percentage points.

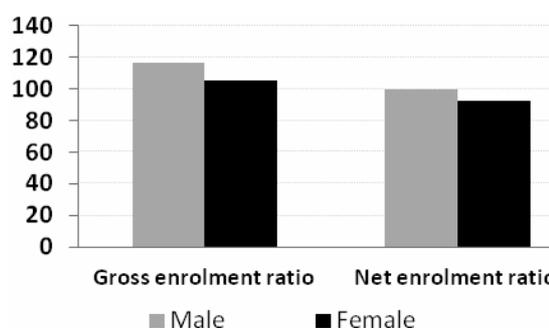
Figure 1.2.1: Adult literacy by sex in Iraq by percentage, 2000-2011



Almost all Iraqi children enrolled in primary education

Both enrolment ratios were relatively high in Iraq in 2011, but particularly among males. Between 2000 and 2011, the net enrolment rate grew by 16 per cent. There was a considerable gap between girls and boys enrolment, at 93 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively.

Figure 1.2.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Iraq, 2011-2012



Secondary education enrolment ratio higher among men than women

In 2011, roughly half of Iraqi youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2000, participation of girls and boys in secondary education has been rising. The gross enrolment ratio for boys continued to exceed the gross enrolment ratio for girls in secondary education in Iraq and in 2011 was 16 percentage points higher.

Figure 1.2.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in percentage in Iraq, 2011/2012

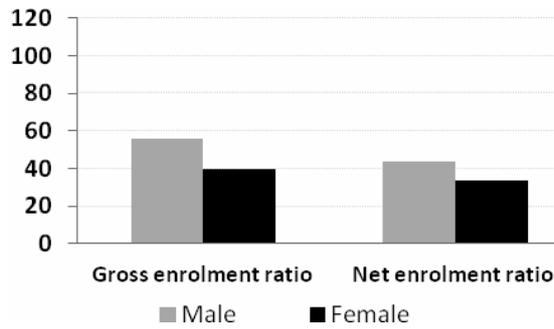
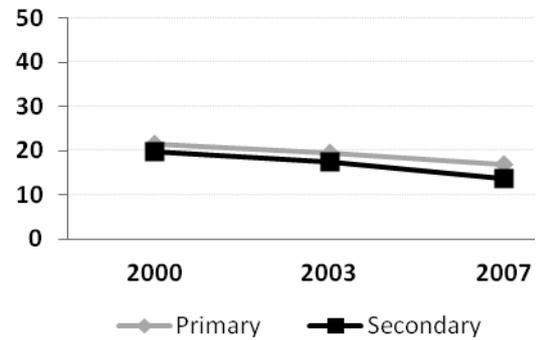


Figure 1.2.4: Pupil-teacher ratio by level of education, 2000-2007



Improved pupil-teacher ratios in primary and secondary education

Since 2000, the pupil-teacher ratio has decreased in both primary and secondary education. In primary education in 2000, it decreased from 21 to 17 pupils per teacher in 2007. In secondary education, it decreased from 20 to 14 pupils per teacher in the same period. Between 2000 and 2007, both curves decreased continuously.



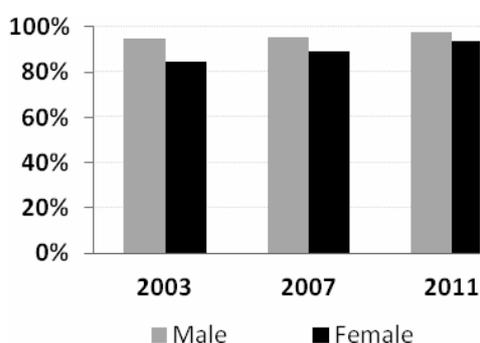
At a Glance (2010-2011)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	92.0%
2. Secondary Education	86.9%
3. Tertiary Education	37.8%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	1.0%
2. Secondary	1.1%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	90.7%
2. Secondary education	85.6%
Share of Private Enrolment	
1. Primary Education	33.1%
2. Secondary Education	18.6%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy	95.9%
2. Youth Literacy	99.1%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Majority of adult literacy in Jordan

Between 2003 and 2011, adult literacy increased from 90 to 96 per cent. Female literacy increased from 85 to 94 per cent in the same period. In 2011, male literacy was four percentage points higher than female literacy.

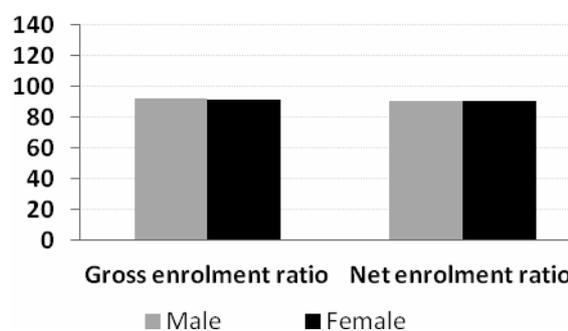
Figure 1.3.1: Adult literacy by sex in Jordan, 2003-2011



Almost universal enrolment in primary education in Jordan

In 2010, both gross and net enrolment was relatively high, especially among females. Between 2000 and 2010, the net enrolment remained stable at 91 per cent, while the gross enrolment ratio decreased by six percentage points. The gap between the enrolment of girls and boys enrolment was small.

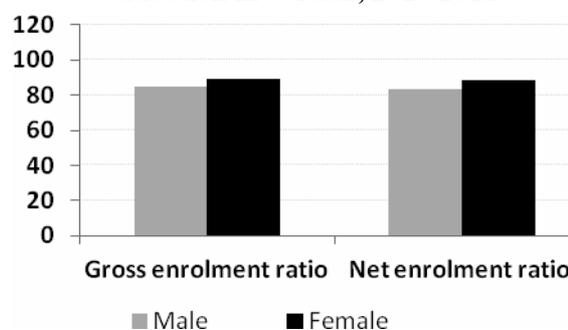
Figure 1.3.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Jordan, 2010-2011



Higher secondary education enrolment among women than men

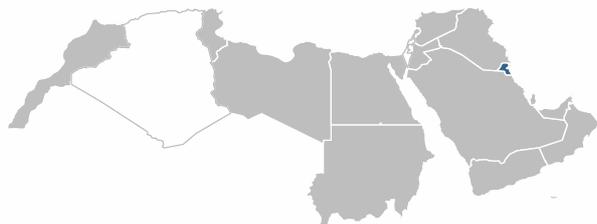
In 2010, more than three quarters of Jordanian youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2000, girls' and boys' participation in secondary education has been rising since 2000. In 2010, the gross enrolment ratio for girls surpassed the gross enrolment ratio for boys in secondary education by five percentage points.

Figure 1.3.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Jordan, 2010/2011



Higher tertiary education enrolment among women than men

Between 2000 and 2011, the gross enrolment ratio rose from 28 to 38 per cent. However, the gross enrolment ratio for women was seven percentage points higher than men in Jordan in 2011.



At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) (2008)*	
1. Primary Education	105.6%
2. Secondary Education	101.0%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)*	
1. Primary (2008)	1.0%
2. Secondary (2008)	1.1%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education (2010)	90.0%
2. Secondary Education (2008)*	89.0%
Share of Private Enrolment*	
1. Primary Education	41.0%
2. Secondary Education	32.6%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy	95.1%
2. Youth Literacy*	98.6%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio*	
1. Primary Education	8.6%
2. Secondary Education	7.8%
Expenditure on Education (2008)*	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	12.9%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	3.8%

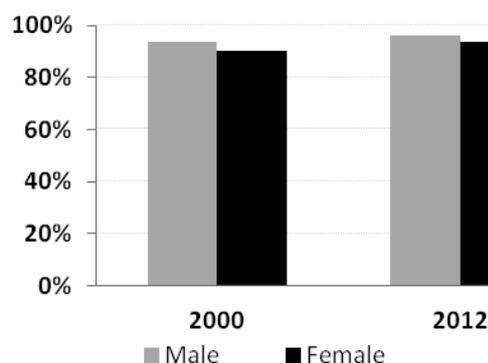
Source: Kuwait Central Statistical Organization.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

The majority of Kuwaiti adults are literate

Between 2004 and 2012, adult literacy increased from 92 to 95 per cent. Female literacy increased from 90 to 94 per cent in the same period. In 2012, male literacy was two percentage points higher than female literacy.

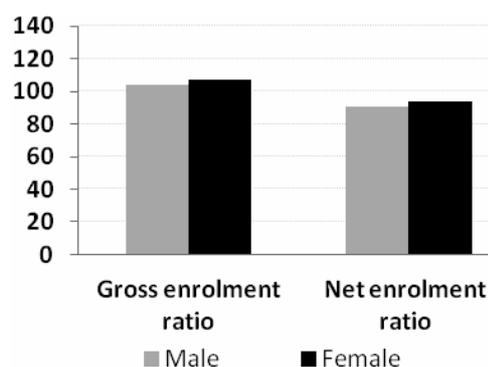
Figure 1.4.1: Adult literacy by sex in Kuwait, 2004-2012



The majority of Kuwaiti boys are enrolled in primary education

In 2008, both the gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high, especially among females. Between 2005 and 2008, the net enrolment rate remained more or less stable, while the gross enrolment ratio decreased by seven percentage points. The gender gap in enrolment (89 per cent for males and 90 per cent for females) was essentially closed.

Figure 1.4.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Kuwait, 2008

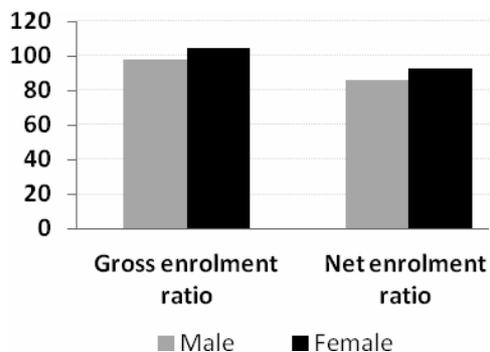


Enrolment in secondary schools higher among women than men

In 2008, most of Kuwaiti youth were enrolled in secondary education. Both gross enrolment and the net enrolment ratio were relatively high, at 101 and 89 per cent, respectively. In 2008, the gross enrolment ratio in

secondary education for girls was six percentage points higher than that for boys.

Figure 1.4.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Kuwait, 2008

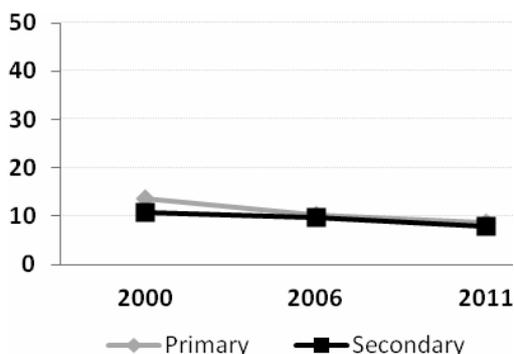


A decrease in pupil-teacher ratios in both primary and secondary education

Between 2000 and 2011, the pupil-teacher ratio decreased from 14 to nine in primary education but remained higher than the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2011, the pupil-teacher ratio decreased from 11 to eight in secondary education.

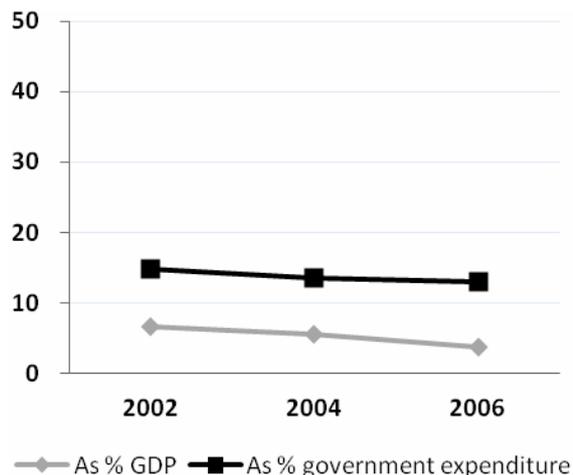
A decrease in government expenditure on education

Figure 1.4.4: Pupil-teacher ratio, 2000-2011



Between 2001 and 2006, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP decreased by three percentage points. Between 2002 and 2006, government expenditure on education decreased by 2 per cent.

Figure 1.4.5: Expenditure on education in Kuwait, 2002-2006





At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) *	
1. Primary Education	107.9%
2. Secondary Education	83.3 %
3. Tertiary Education	57.7%
Gender Parity Index (of GER) *	
1. Primary	0.97%
2. Secondary	1.1%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER) (2009)	
1. Primary Education	98.3%
2. Secondary Education	81.1%
Share of Private Enrolment *	
1. Primary Education	73.7%
2. Secondary Education	61.3%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy (2009)	91.2%
2. Youth Literacy (2007) *	98.7%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio *	
1. Primary Education	14.2%
2. Secondary Education	9.3%
Expenditure on Education *	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	7.1%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	1.6%

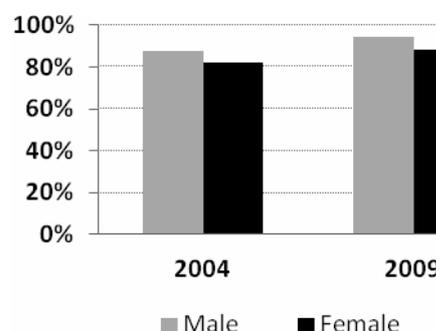
Source: Central Administration for Statistics, Lebanon.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

High literacy in Lebanon

Between 2004 and 2009, adult literacy increased in Lebanon from 85 to 91 per cent. Female literacy increased from 82 to 88 per cent in the same period. In 2009, male literacy was higher than female literacy by six percentage points.

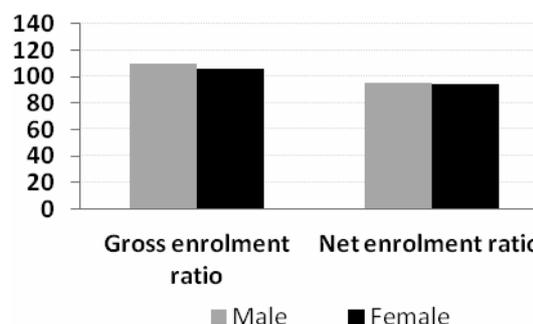
Figure 1.5.1: Adult literacy by sex in Lebanon, 2004-2009



No gender gaps in primary education in Lebanon

Both gross and net enrolment ratios were relatively high in Lebanon in 2011, especially among males. Between 2005 and 2011, the net enrolment ratio grew by eight percentage points, and the gross enrolment ratio grew by seven percentage points. There was a small gap between the enrolment of girls and boys enrolment at 94.4 per cent and 95.5 per cent, respectively.

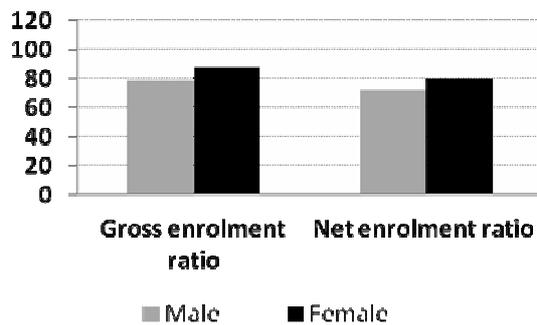
Figure 1.5.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Lebanon, 2011



Higher enrolment in secondary education among women than men

In 2011, more than three quarters of the Lebanese youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2003, the gross enrolment ratio remained almost stable. The gross enrolment ratio for girls continued to dominate the gross enrolment ratio for boys in secondary education and was nine percentage points higher in 2011.

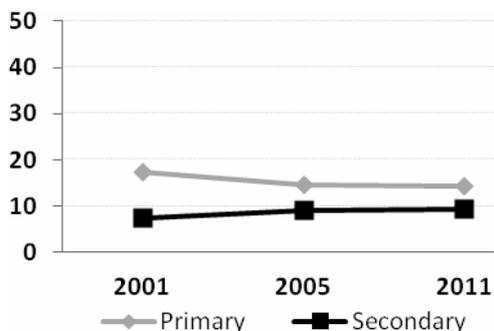
Figure 1.5.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Lebanon, 2011



Higher pupil-teacher ratios in primary education than secondary education

Between 2001 and 2005, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary education decreased from 17 to 15, and then remained stable at about 14 until 2011. In contrast, the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education grew slightly from eight to nine between 2001 and 2005, and then remained stable at about nine until 2011.

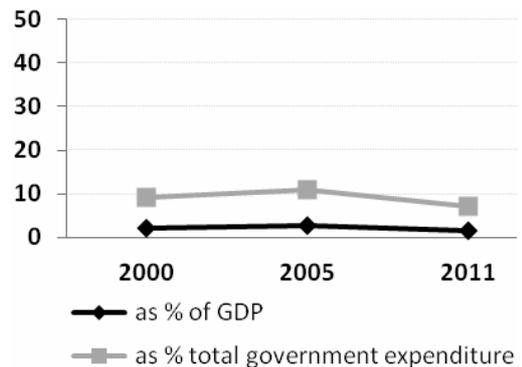
Figure 1.5.4: Pupil-teacher ratio by level of education, 2001-2011



Decreased government expenditure on education

Between 2000 and 2011, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained almost stable. Between 2000 and 2005, government expenditure on education increased from nine to 11 before decreasing to seven until 2011.

Figure 1.5.5: Expenditure on education in Lebanon, 2000-2011





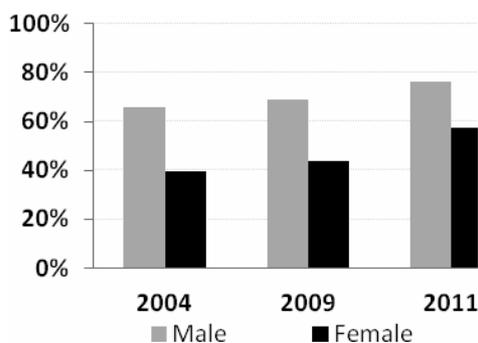
At a Glance (2012-2013)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	114.9%
2. Secondary Education	69.8%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	0.95%
2. Secondary	0.85%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER) (2009)	
1. Primary Education	96.0%
Share of Private Enrolment	
1. Primary Education	12.9%
Literacy (2001)	
1. Adult Literacy	67.1%
2. Youth Literacy	81.5%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	
1. Primary Education	25.8%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

About one in three Moroccan adults (15 years and above) illiterate

Between 2004 and 2011, adult literacy increased from 52 to 67 per cent. Female literacy increased from 40 to 58 per cent in the same period. In 2011, male literacy was 19 percentage points higher than female literacy.

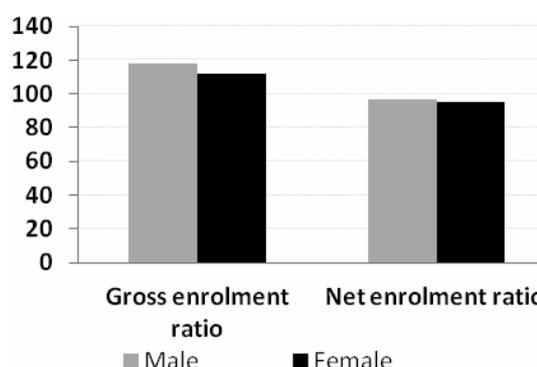
Figure 1.6.1: Adult literacy by sex in Morocco, 2004-2011



No gender gaps in primary enrolment in Morocco

In 2012, both gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high, especially among males. Between 2006 and 2012, the net enrolment rate grew by eight percentage points and the gross enrolment ratio grew by nine percentage points. The gap in enrolment between girls and boys enrolment (95 and 96 per cent, respectively) was very small.

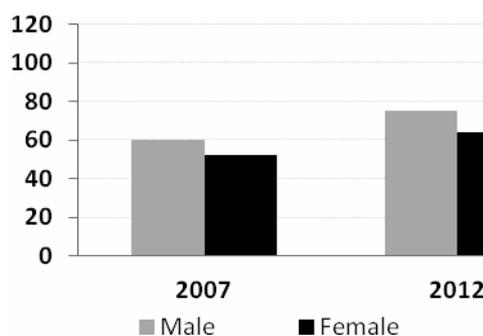
Figure 1.6.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Morocco, 2012



Higher secondary education enrolment ratio among men than women

In 2012, about three quarters of Moroccan youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2000, the gross enrolment ratio has increased. The gross enrolment ratio for boys continued to exceed the gross enrolment ratio for girls in secondary education in Morocco and was 12 percentage points higher in 2012.

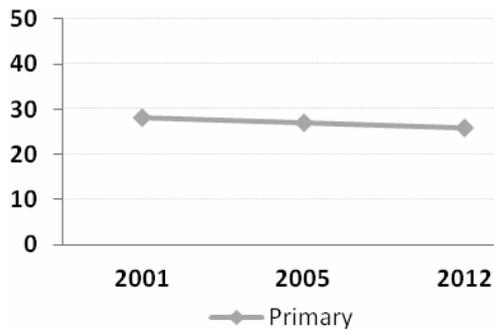
Figure 1.6.3: Gross enrolment ratios in secondary education in Morocco



Decreased pupil-teacher ratios in primary education

Between 2001 and 2012, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary education decreased from 29 to 26.

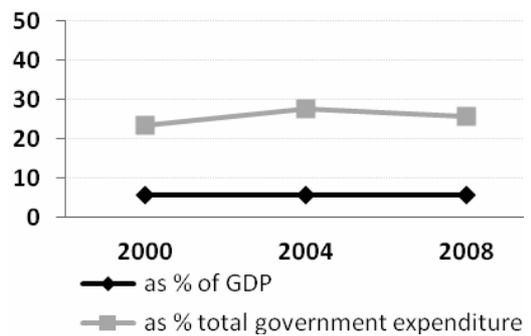
Figure 1.6.4: Pupil-teacher ratio, 2001-2012



Recent decrease in government expenditure on education

Between 2000 and 2009, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained almost stable. Between 2000 and 2004, government expenditure on education increased by 4 per cent and decreased between 2004 and 2008 by 2 per cent.

Figure 1.6.5: Expenditure on education in Morocco, 2000-2008





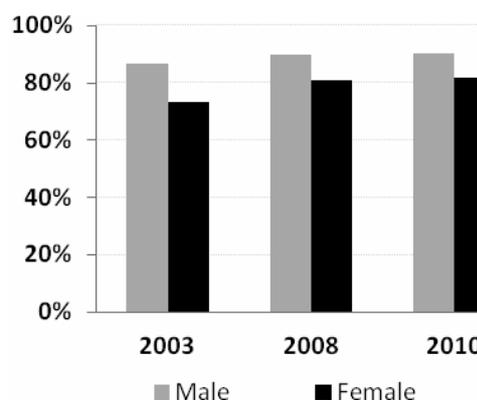
At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	103.8%
2. Secondary Education	104.1%
3. Tertiary Education	28.7%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	0.98%
2. Secondary	0.98%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER) (2009)	
1. Primary Education	96.6%
2. Secondary Education	93.7%
Share of Private Enrolment	
1. Primary Education	17.2%
2. Secondary Education	7.0%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy (2009)	86.9%
2. Youth Literacy (2007)	97.7%
Expenditure on Education	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	31.1%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	4.3%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, (UIS).

Greater increase in female literacy

Between 2003 and 2010, total literacy in Oman increased from 81 to 87 per cent. Even though female literacy increased from 74 to 82 per cent during that period, male literacy exceeded female literacy by eight percentage points.

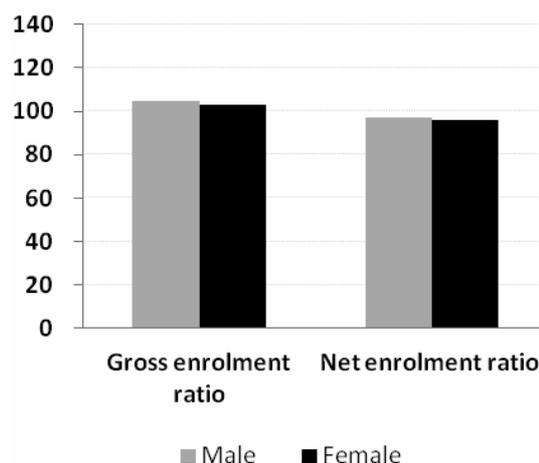
Figure 1.7.1: Literacy rates by sex in Oman, 2003-2010



Majority of Omanis enrolled in primary education

In 2011, both gross and net enrolment ratios were relatively high, particularly among males. Between 2000 and 2011, the net enrolment rate grew by 16 percentage points, and the gross enrolment ratio grew by 13 percentage points. In 2011, the gap between girls and boys enrolment was very small at 96 per cent and 97 per cent, respectively.

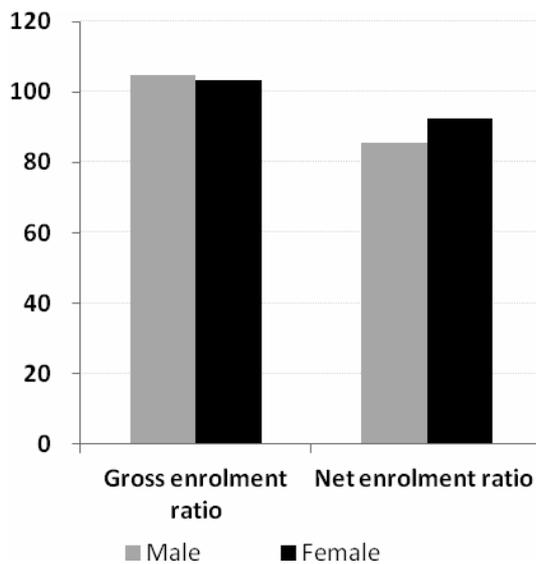
Figure 1.7.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Oman, 2011



Higher secondary education enrolment ratio among men than women

In 2011, most Omani youth were enrolled in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2011, both the gross enrolment ratio and the net enrolment rate increased. The gross enrolment ratio for boys continued to slightly exceed the gross enrolment ratio for girls in secondary education in Oman and in 2011 was 1.6 percentage point higher.

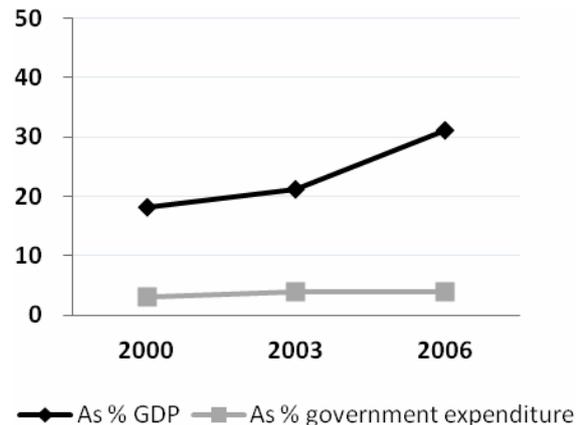
Figure 1.7.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Oman, 2011



Increased government expenditure on education

Between 2000 and 2009, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained almost stable. Between 2000 and 2006, government expenditure on education increased by 13 percentage points.

Figure 1.7.4: Expenditure on education in Oman, 2000-2006





At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	94.4%
2. Secondary Education	76.0%
3. Tertiary Education	40.2%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	1.02%
2. Secondary	1.24%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER) (2009)	
1. Primary Education	92.2%
2. Secondary Education	68.6%
Share of Private Enrolment*	
1. Primary Education	12.2%
2. Secondary Education	5.7%
Dropout Rate (2010)*	
1. Primary Education	0.9%
2. Secondary Education	3.2%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy	95.9%
2. Youth Literacy*	99.3%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	
1. Primary Education	19.2%
2. Secondary Education	13.6%

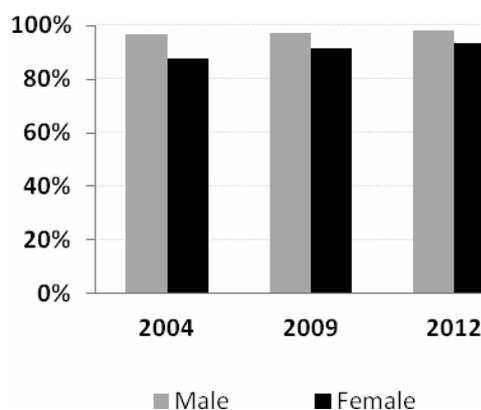
Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Universal literacy among Palestinians

Between 2004 and 2012, total literacy increased in Palestine from 92 to 96 per cent. Female literacy increased from 88 to 94 per cent in the same period. In 2012, male literacy was five percentage points higher than female literacy.

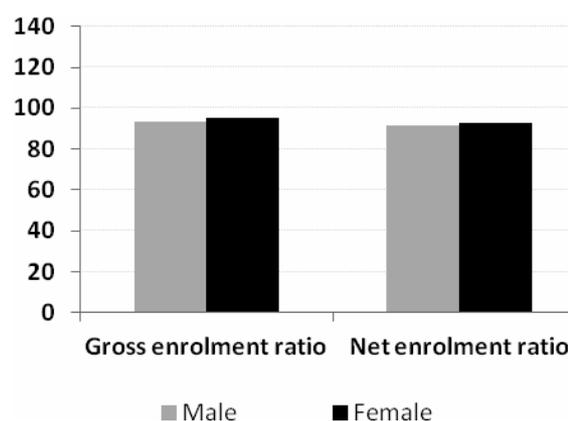
Figure 1.8.1: Literacy rates by sex in Palestine, 2004-2012



Over nine in ten enrolled in primary education

In 2011, both gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high in Palestine, particularly among females. Between 2005 and 2011, the net enrolment rate grew by two percentage points, while the gross enrolment ratio remained stable at 94 per cent. In 2011, there was a small difference between the enrolment of girls and boys, at 93 and 91.4 per cent, respectively.

Figure 1.8.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Palestine, 2011-2012

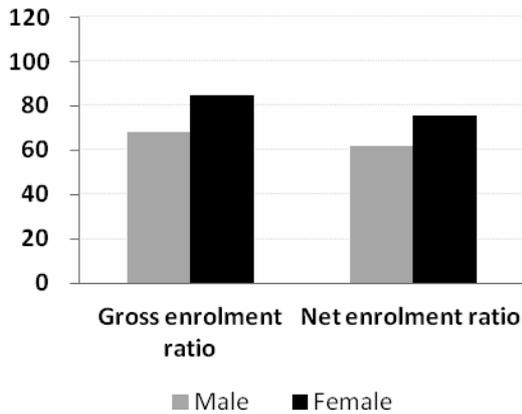


Enrolment in secondary education higher among women than men

In 2011, roughly three quarters of Palestinian youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2000, girls' and boys' participation in secondary education has been

rising steadily. Girls' enrolment rose from 62 to 85 per cent. In 2011, the GER for girls surpassed the GER for boys in secondary education in Palestine by 17 percentage points.

Figure 1.8.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Palestine, 2011/2012



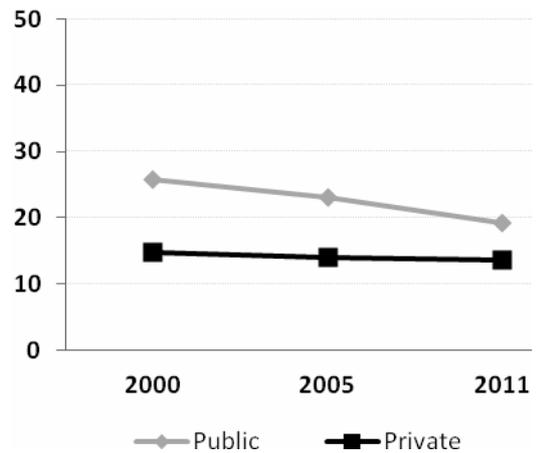
Higher enrolment in tertiary education among men than women

Between 2000 and 2011, the GER in tertiary education rose from 22 to 40 per cent in the same period. However, in 2011 the GER for men was 10 percentage points higher than the GER for women in Palestine. This could be due to early marriage for females, which may prompt them to discontinue their higher education.

Higher pupil-teacher ratios in public primary and secondary schools than private schools

Since 2000, the pupil-teacher ratio has decreased in both public and private schools. Between 2000 and 2011, it decreased from 26 to 19 pupils per teacher in public schools and decreased from 15 to 14 pupils per teacher in private schools.

Figure 1.8.4: Pupil-teacher ratio by sector, 2000-2011





At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	99.3%
2. Secondary Education	96.5%
3. Tertiary Education	11.6%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	1.0%
2. Secondary	1.0%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	91.7%
2. Secondary Education	86.3%
Share of Private Enrolment*	
1. Primary Education	56.7%
2. Secondary Education	39.6%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy	96.7%
2. Youth Literacy*	96.8%
Pupil Teacher Ratio*	
1. Primary Education	11.3%
2. Secondary Education	10.1%
Expenditure on Education	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	7.1%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	2.5%

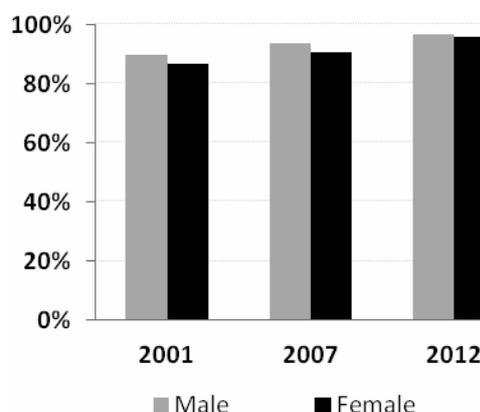
Source: Qatar Statistical Authority.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Almost universal literacy among Qatari adults

Between 2001 and 2012, adult literacy increased in Qatar from 89 to 97 per cent. Female literacy increased from 87 to 96 per cent in the same period. In 2012, male literacy was one percentage point higher than female literacy.

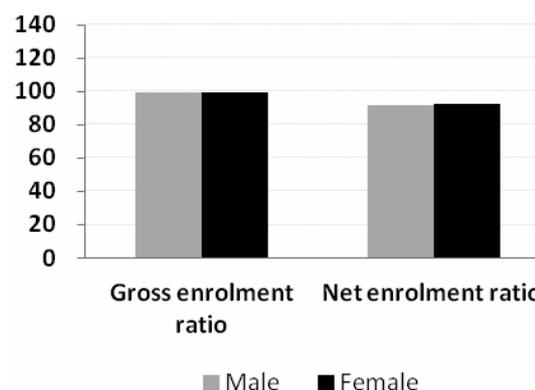
Figure 1.9.1: Adult literacy by sex in Qatar, 2001-2012



Majority of Qataris enrolled in primary education

In 2011, both the gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high in Qatar, especially among females. Between 2000 and 2011, the net enrolment rate grew by nine percentage points, while the gross enrolment ratio grew by six percentage points. In 2011, there was almost no gender gap between girls and boys in enrolment (92 per cent and 91 per cent, respectively).

Figure 1.9.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Qatar, 2011

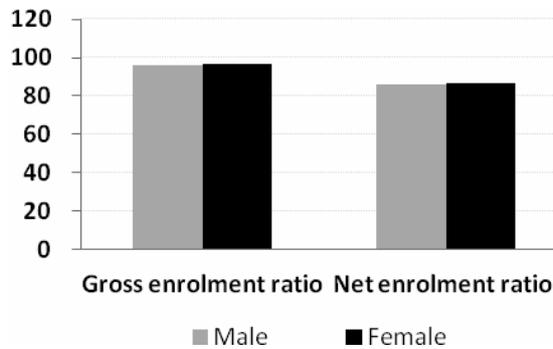


Higher enrolment in secondary education among women than men

In 2011, most Qatari youth were enrolled in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2011, both gross and net enrolments increased. Since

2000, the gross enrolment ratio for girls continued to surpass the gross enrolment ratio for boys in secondary education. In 2011, the gender gap was closed.

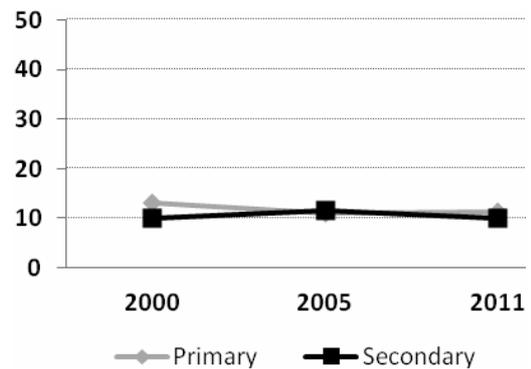
Figure 1.9.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Qatar, 2011



Decreased pupil-teacher ratio in primary education

Between 2000 and 2011, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary education decreased from 13 to 11 but remained higher than the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2011, the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education remained almost stable.

Figure 1.9.4: Pupil-teacher ratio, 2000-2011

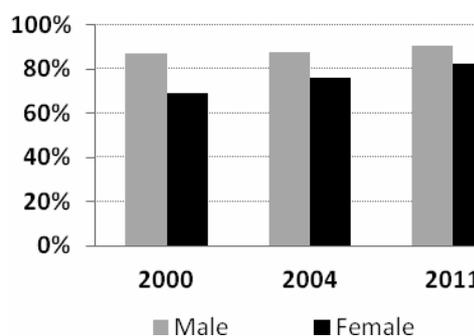


No change in total expenditure on education

Between 2004 and 2008, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained almost stable. In 2008, the expenditure on education reached 7.1 per cent of GDP.



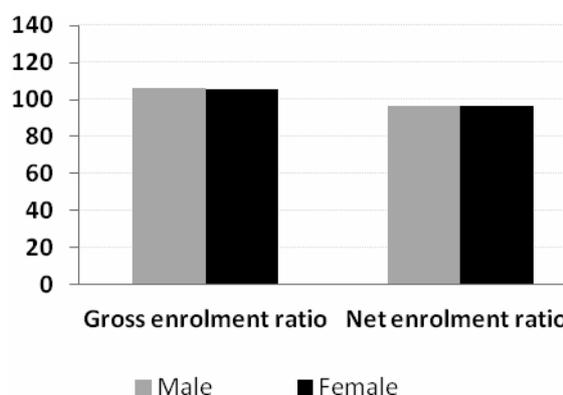
Figure 1.10.1: Adult literacy rates by sex in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2000-2011



Majority of Saudi Arabians enrolled in primary education

In 2011, both the gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high, especially among males. In 2011, there was essentially no longer a gender gap in enrolment.

Figure 1.10.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Saudi Arabia, 2011



Enrolment in secondary education higher among women than men

In 2011, most Saudi Arabian youth were enrolled in secondary education. In the same year, gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate increased. In 2011, the gross enrolment ratio for males was six percentage points higher than that of females in secondary education.

At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	106.1%
2. Secondary Education	103.5%
3. Tertiary Education	41.2%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	1.0%
2. Secondary	0.95%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	96.6%
2. Secondary Education	82.8%
Share of Private Enrolment*	
1. Primary Education	9.7 %
2. Secondary Education (2008)	12.6%
Literacy*	
1. Adult Literacy	87.2%
2. Youth Literacy	98.0%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio*	
1. Primary Education	11.0%
2. Secondary Education	11.3%
Expenditure on Education (2008)*	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	19.3%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	5.6%

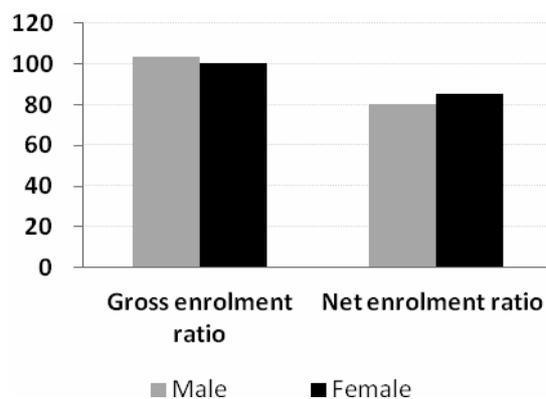
Source: Central Department of Statistics, KSA.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Increased literacy of Saudi adults, especially men

Between 2000 and 2011, adult literacy increased from 79 to 87 per cent. Female literacy increased from 69 per cent to 82 per cent in the same period. In 2011, male literacy was nine percentage points higher than female literacy.

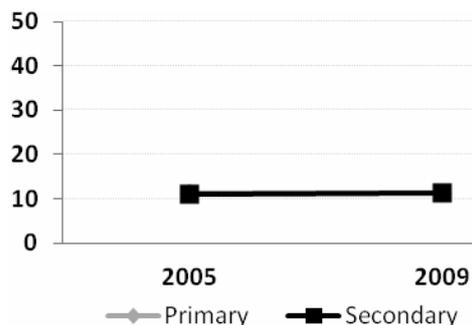
Figure 1.10.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Saudi Arabia, 2011



Similar pupil-teacher ratios in primary and secondary education

The pupil-teacher ratio has remained stable in both primary and secondary education in recent years. In 2009, there were approximately 11 pupils per teacher.

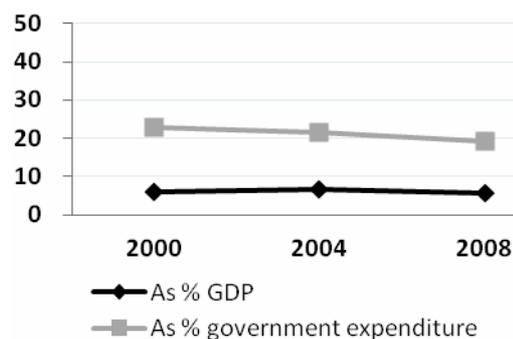
Figure 1.10.4: Pupil-teacher ratio, 2005-2009



Decrease in government expenditure on education

Between 2003 and 2008, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP decreased by 9.2 per cent.

Figure 1.10.5: Expenditure on education in Saudi Arabia, 2000-2008





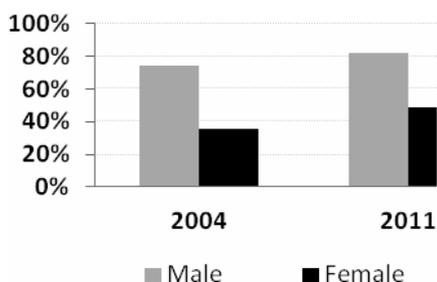
At a Glance (2009-2010)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	72.7%
2. Secondary Education	39.0%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	0.9%
2. Secondary	0.9%
Share of Private Enrolment	
1. Primary Education	4.0%
2. Secondary Education	12.3%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy (2011)	71.9%
2. Youth Literacy (2011)	87.3%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	
1. Primary Education	38.4%
2. Secondary Education	22.2%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Seven in ten Sudanese adults (15 years and above) literate

Between 2000 and 2011, adult literacy increased from 61 to 72 per cent. Female literacy increased from 52 to 63 per cent in the same period. In 2011, male literacy was 18 percentage points higher than female literacy.

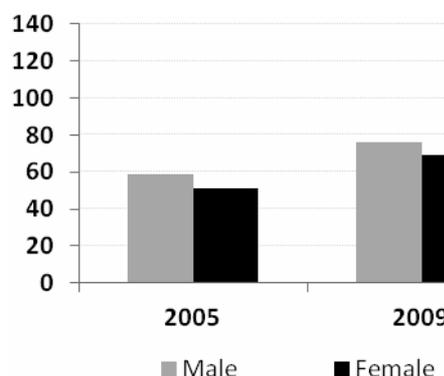
Figure 1.11.1: Adult literacy by sex in the Sudan, 2000-2011



About three quarters of Sudanese enrolled in primary education

In 2009, the gross enrolment ratio in primary education was relatively low in the Sudan, especially among females. The net enrolment ratio was also low, standing at less than half of Sudanese youth. Between 2000 and 2009, the gross enrolment ratio grew by a remarkable 25 percentage points. The gap between girls and boys enrolment (69 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively) remained relatively high.

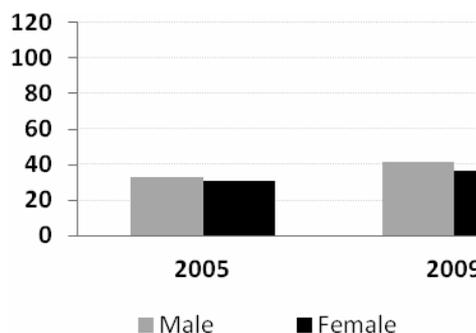
Figure 1.11.2: Gross enrolment ratios for primary education in the Sudan



Higher enrolment among males than females in secondary education

In 2009, less than half of Sudanese youth were enrolled in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2011, the gross enrolment ratio for boys increased from 25 to 40 per cent. The gross enrolment ratio secondary education in the Sudan continued to be higher for boys than for girls and was five percentage points higher in 2009.

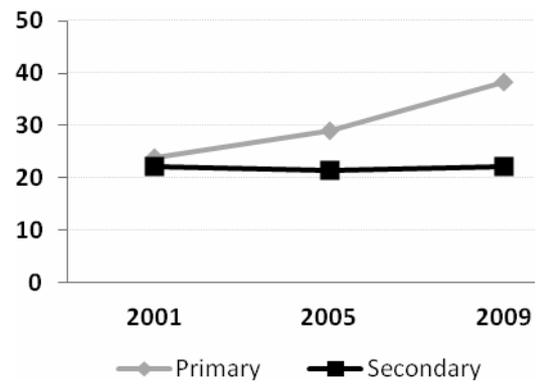
Figure 1.11.3: Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education in the Sudan



Increased pupil-teacher ratios in primary and secondary education

Between 2001 and 2009, the pupil-teacher ratio increased from 24 to 38 in primary education. The pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education remained stable at 22 pupils per teacher at the same period.

Figure 1.11.4: Pupil-teacher ratio, 2001-2009





At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)*	
1. Primary Education	121.5%
2. Secondary Education	73.4%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)*	
1. Primary	1.0%
2. Secondary	1.0%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER) (2009)	
1. Primary Education	96.1%
2. Secondary Education	67.1%
Share of Private Enrolment*	
1. Primary Education	4.2%
2. Secondary Education	4.2%
Literacy	
1. Adult Literacy (2010)	84.4%
2. Youth Literacy*	95.3%
Expenditure on Education (2009)*	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	18.9%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	5.1%

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Syrian Arab Republic.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

A small increase in literacy

Adult literacy in the Syrian Arab Republic increased from 81 per cent in 2004 to 84 per cent in 2011. Female literacy increased from 73 to 78 per cent and in male literacy increased from 88 to 91 per cent in the same period. In 2010, male literacy was 14 percentage points higher than female literacy.

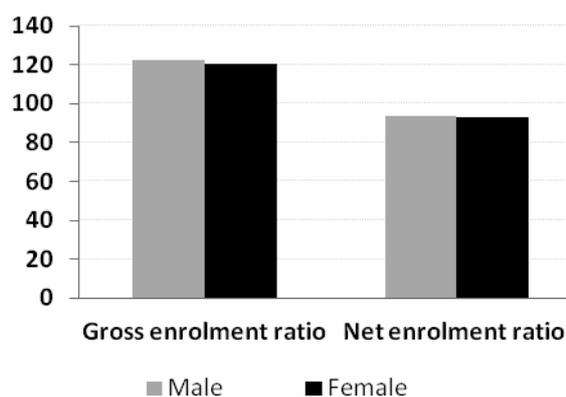
Figure 1.12.1: Adult literacy by sex in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2004 and 2011



Majority of Syrians enrolled in primary education

In 2011, both gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high in the Syrian Arab Republic, especially among males. Between 2006 and 2011, the net enrolment ratio and the gross enrolment ratio grew by 3.8 percentage points and 7.5 percentage points, respectively. In 2011, there was no gap between girls and boys enrolment.

Figure 1.12.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2011



Higher female enrolment in secondary education than male

In 2011, just under three quarters of Syrian youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2000, the gross and the net enrolment have increased. In 2011, the net enrolment ratio for boys and girls in secondary education was equal.

Figure 1.12.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2011

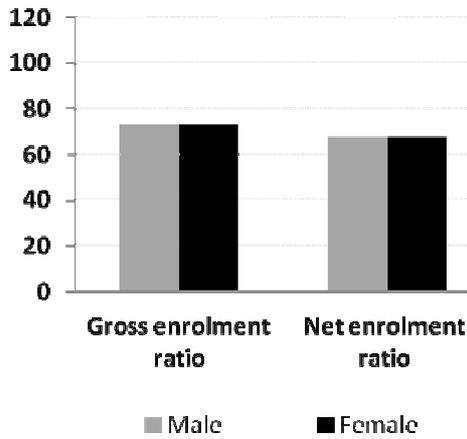
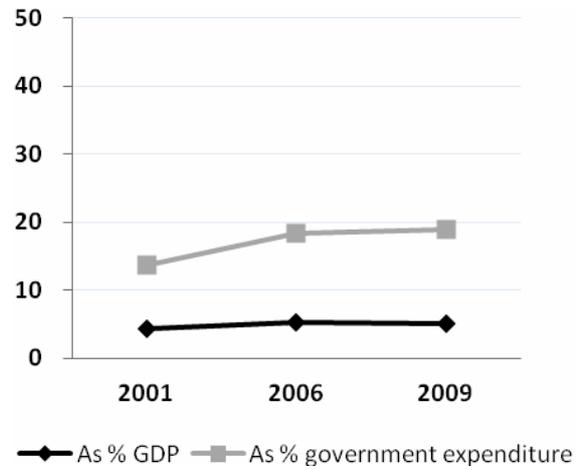


Figure 1.12.4: Expenditure on education in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2001-2009



Increased government expenditure on education

Between 2001 and 2009, expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained more or less stable, while government expenditure on education increased by five per cent.



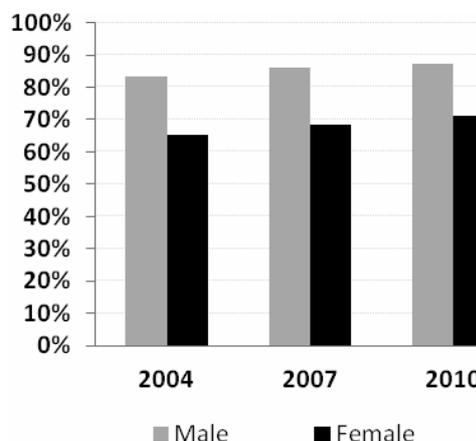
At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	109.9%
2. Secondary Education	92.6%
3. Tertiary Education	37.1%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	1.0%
2. Secondary	1.0%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	99.4%
Share of Private Enrolment	
1. Primary Education	2.4%
2. Secondary Education	4.8%
Literacy (2010)	
1. Adult Literacy	79.1%
2. Youth Literacy	97.2%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	
1. Primary Education	17.4%
2. Secondary Education	13.6%
Expenditure on Education (2009)	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	21.5%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	6.2%

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Eight in ten Tunisian adults (15 years and above) literate

Between 2004 and 2010, adult literacy increased from 74 to 79 per cent. In the same period, female literacy increased from 65 to 71 per cent, with male literacy higher than female literacy by 16 percentage points in 2010.

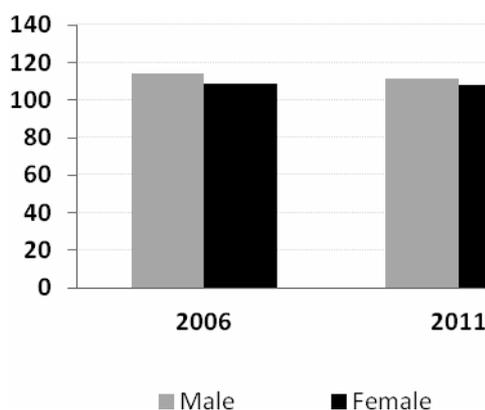
Figure 1.13.1: Adult literacy by sex in Tunisia, 2004-2010



Universal enrolment in primary education

In 2011, the gross enrolment ratio was relatively high in Tunisia, particularly among males. Between 2004 and 2011, the net enrolment rate grew by 1.1 percentage point and the gross enrolment ratio decreased by 2.4 percentage points. In 2011, the gap between the enrolment of girls and boys (108 per cent and 112 per cent, respectively) was four per cent.

Figure 1.13.2: Gross enrolment ratios for primary education in Tunisia

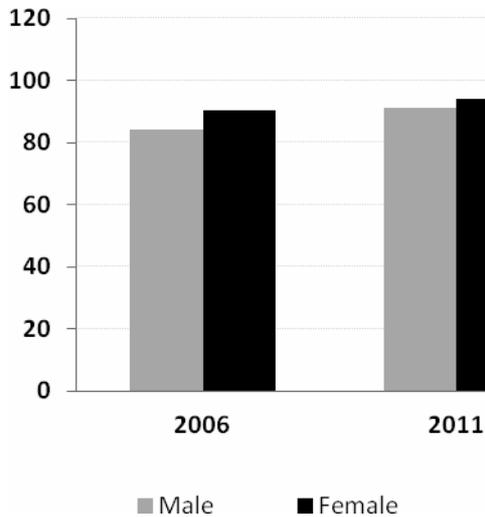


Decreased gender gap in secondary enrolment

In 2011, more than nine out of ten Tunisians were enrolled in secondary education. Between 2000 and 2011, the gross enrolment ratio increased. In 2011, the gross enrolment ratio for

girls in secondary education was three percentage points higher than that of boys.

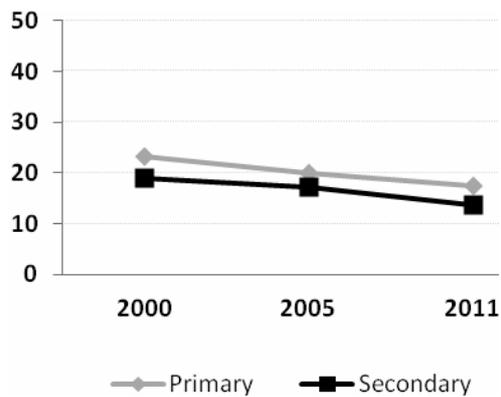
Figure 1.13.3: Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education in Tunisia



Decreased pupil-teacher ratios

Between 2000 and 2011, the pupil-teacher ratio decreased from 23 to 17 in primary education and from 19 to 14 in secondary education.

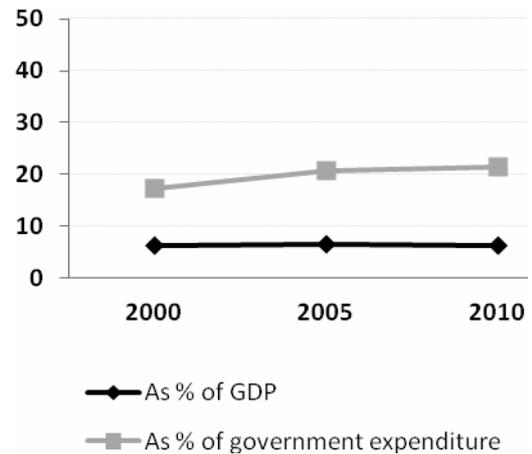
Figure 1.13.4: Pupil-teacher ratio by level of education, 2000-2011



Increased government expenditure on education

Between 2000 and 2010, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP remained more or less stable. During that period, the government expenditure on education increased consistently by four per cent.

Figure 1.13.5: Expenditure on education in Tunisia, 2000-2010





About two thirds of adults literate in Yemen

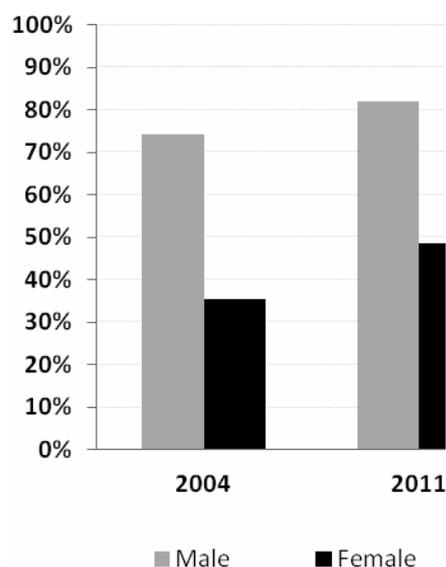
Literacy in Yemen is relatively low compared to other Arab countries. However, between 2004 and 2011, total literacy increased from 55 to 65 per cent. In the same period, female literacy increased from 36 to 49 per cent. In 2011, male literacy was 33 percentage points higher than female literacy.

At a Glance (2011-2012)	
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)	
1. Primary Education	87.3%
2. Secondary Education	36.2%
3. Tertiary Education (2007)*	10.2%
Gender Parity Index (of GER)	
1. Primary	0.8%
2. Secondary	0.7%
Net Enrolment Rate (NER)	
1. Primary Education	81.8%
2. Secondary Education	27.0%
Share of Private Enrolment*	
1. Primary Education	4.8%
2. Secondary Education	4.1%
Dropout Rate	
1. Primary Education	10.0%
2. Secondary Education	7.0%
Literacy*	
1. Adult Literacy	65.3%
2. Youth Literacy	86.4%
Pupil-Teacher Ratio*	
1. Primary Education	30.3%
2. Secondary Education	16.1%
Expenditure on Education (2009)*	
1. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of Total Government Expenditure	16.0%
2. Public Expenditure on Education as a (%) of GDP	5.2%

Source: Yemen Central Statistical Organization.

* UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

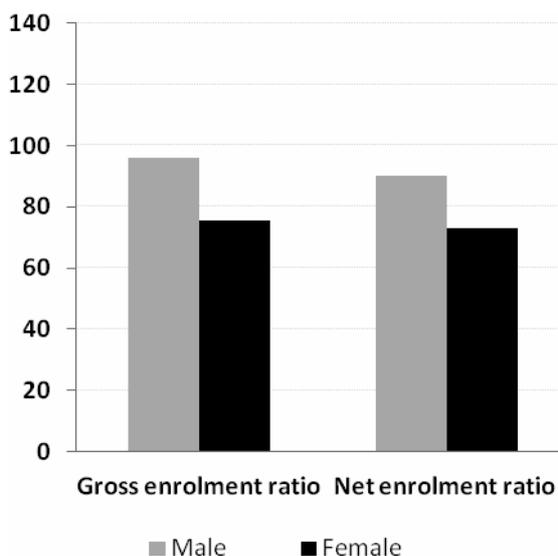
Figure 1.14.1: Adult literacy by sex in Yemen, 2004-2011



Large gender gaps in enrolment

In 2011, both gross enrolment ratio and net enrolment rate were relatively high in Yemen, especially among males. Between 2005 and 2011, the net enrolment rate grew by 15 percentage points and the gross enrolment ratio grew by 13 percentage points. The gap between girls and boys enrolment (77 and 97 per cent, respectively) was considerable.

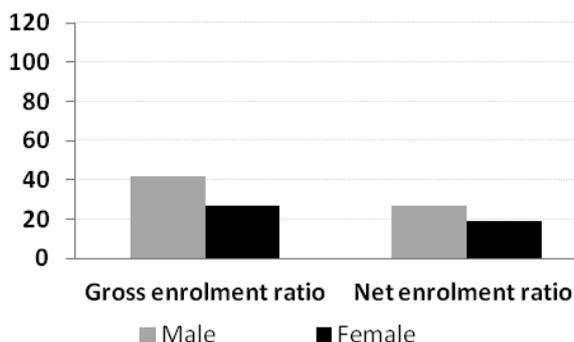
Figure 1.14.2: Enrolment ratios for primary education in Yemen, 2011



Higher secondary education enrolment ratio among men than women

In 2011, less than half of Yemeni youth were enrolled in secondary education. Since 2000, trends in gross enrolment ratios have not been consistent. In 2011, the gross enrolment ratio in secondary education was 13.6 percentage points higher for boys than for girls.

Figure 1.14.3: Enrolment ratio in secondary education in Yemen, 2011



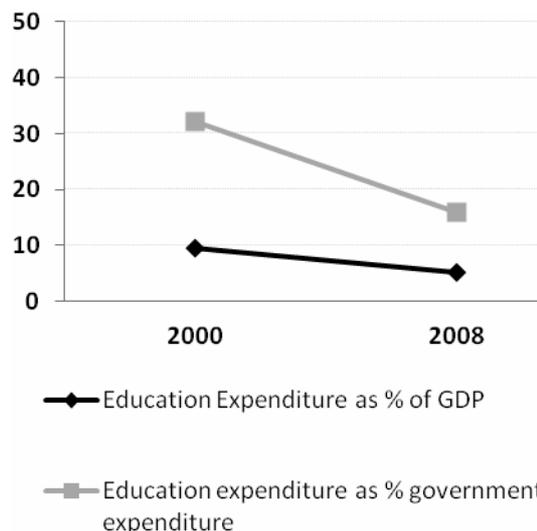
Stable pupil-teacher ratios in primary education

Between 2010 and 2011, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary education remained stable and was higher than the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary education.

Decreased government expenditure on education

Between 2000 and 2008, the expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP decreased slightly. During the same period, government expenditure on education as a percentage of total expenditure decreased more substantially by 15 percentage points.

Figure 1.14.4: Expenditure on education in Yemen, 2000-2008



PART II
SELECTED SOCIAL INDICATORS

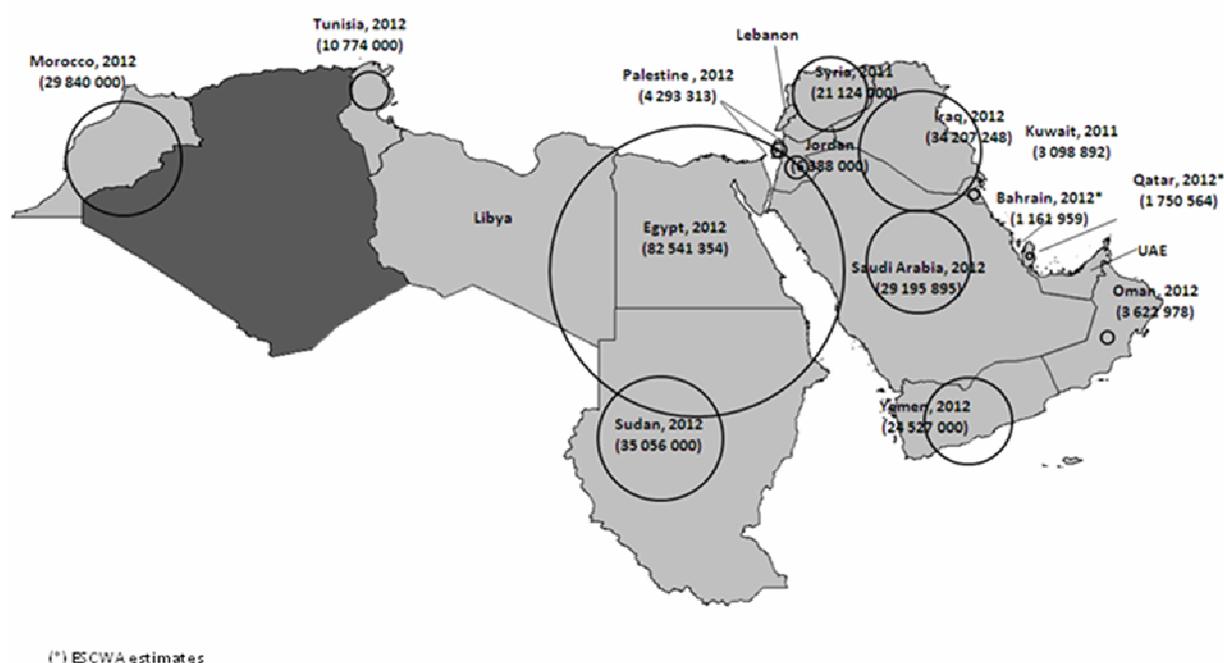
Population

Countries in the Arab region are at different stages of the demographic transition, giving the region diverse demographic features. These differences are due to a wide range of country-specific social, economic, political and cultural factors. The region presently includes countries with markedly different population sizes, age-sex structures, growth rates and population composition. Those features are determined by the speed of change in three main components of demographic change, namely fertility, mortality, and international migration, including labour migration and war-related population displacement. Understanding demographic change is crucial from a policy perspective because it affects almost every aspect of life and has important implications for the

labour market, economic growth, employment, housing and demand for education, health and social services in any country. Reliable data on the size and structure of populations, as well as on components of demographic change, are therefore essential to understanding socioeconomic trends and informing public policy decisions at the national level. Such data are also important for measuring performance against internationally agreed development goals.

Using data mainly from national sources, this section provides a fairly descriptive account of demographic structure and change in various Arab countries in the region.

Figure 2.1.1: Population size by country, according to 2010 estimates



A growing population

Demographic transitions in the Arab region are believed to follow the standard pattern of rapid decline in mortality from the mid-1960s, as a result of improved health conditions and socio-economic development, followed by a delayed decline in

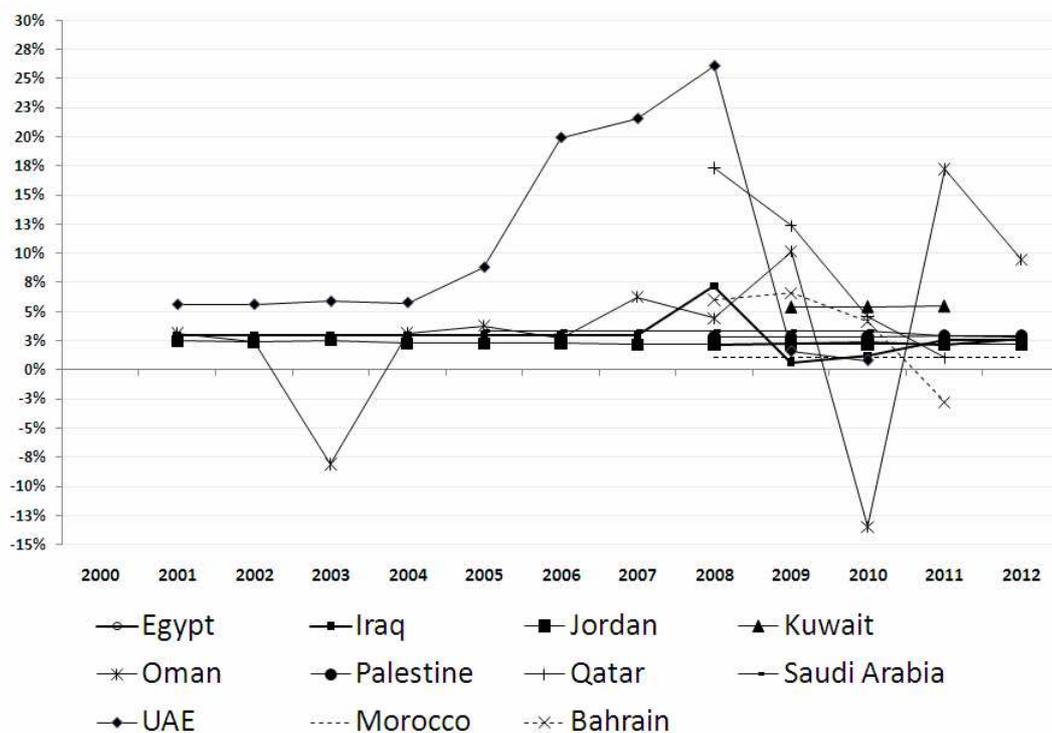
fertility in the mid-1980s. Variations in the speed of transition across countries, coupled with several peculiar migration patterns, have resulted in a rather polarized demographic profile and considerable variations in population growth rates across countries.

According to United Nations estimates, ESCWA member countries are currently experiencing a population growth rate of 2.1 per cent, well above the world average (United Nations 2012). At that rate of growth, the population of the region is expected to double in size in approximately 35 years. However, population estimates obtained from 15 national statistical offices for the period between 2000 and 2012 imply large disparities in population growth rates between countries (figure 2.1.2). According to recent estimates, Arab States can generally be grouped into three different demographic 'regimes'. The first group, which comprises a number of Gulf countries, has fairly high population growth rates of about 3 per cent or

more per annum. The second group comprises countries with ongoing demographic transitions and growth rates of 2.5 per cent or more, including Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine. The last group comprises countries at advanced transitional stage with fairly low growth rates, including Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia. Trends in growth rates over time show wide fluctuations in the Gulf countries, largely as a result of changes in international migration.

Therefore, although population growth rates have been declining in the ESCWA region, the population will, to a varying degree, continue to grow rapidly over the next few decades.

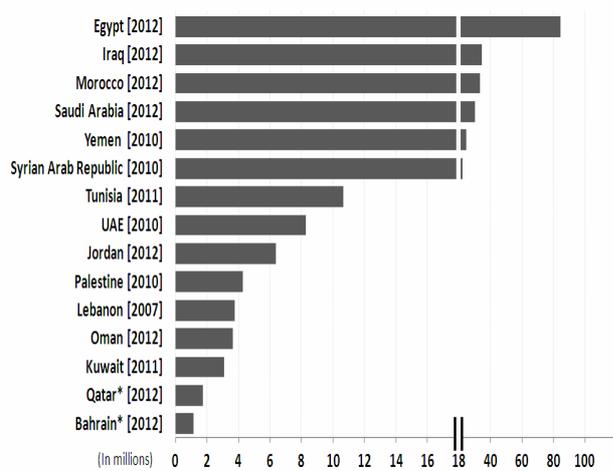
Figure 2.1.2: Annual population growth rate, 2000-2010



Population size varies considerably

In 2012, population estimates for 12 countries showed that population size varies considerably across countries, ranging from 83 million in Egypt to less than two million (nationals) in Bahrain and Qatar (figure 2.1.3). These estimates, particularly in the Gulf countries, are affected by the presence of large migrant (non-citizen) populations.

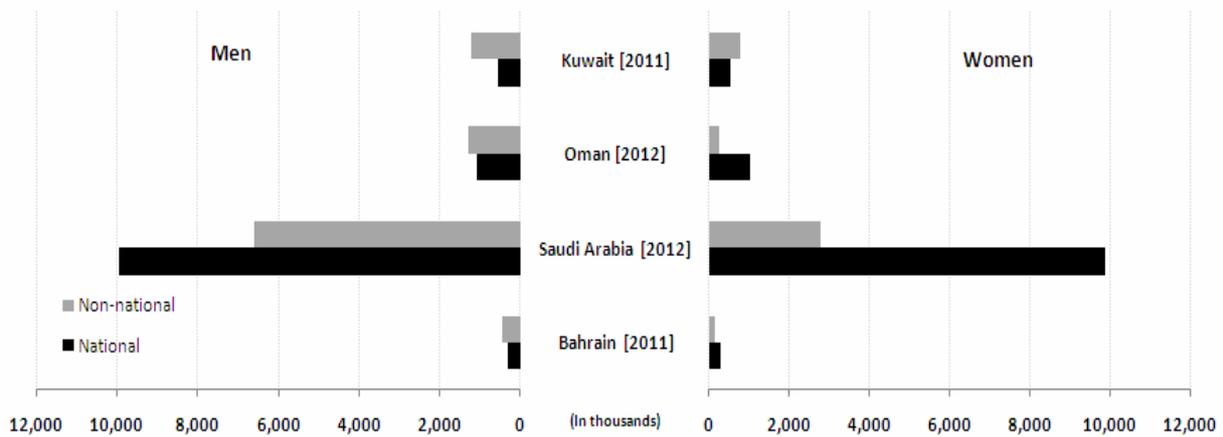
Figure 2.1.3: Population size by country, 2010 estimates



(*) ESCWA estimates

Figure 2.1.4 displays the population size of four countries in the Gulf by nationality and sex. As shown in the figure, all four countries have significant migrant populations, with three having a larger number of non-nationals than nationals. Also evident in the figure is the disproportionate number of men among the non-national populations in each country.

Figure 2.1.4: Population size by nationality and sex, 2010 estimates



The presence of non-nationals, the majority of whom are male and of working-age, affects the age-sex structure of every country in the Gulf. Such age- and sex-distorted population structures are most visible in an age pyramid. Figures 2.1.5 and 2.1.6 contrast the age pyramid of Kuwait, a country with significant migrant labourers, with that of Egypt, a country undergoing demographic transition with few migrant labourers.

Figure 2.1.5: Population pyramid, Bahrain, 2012 estimates

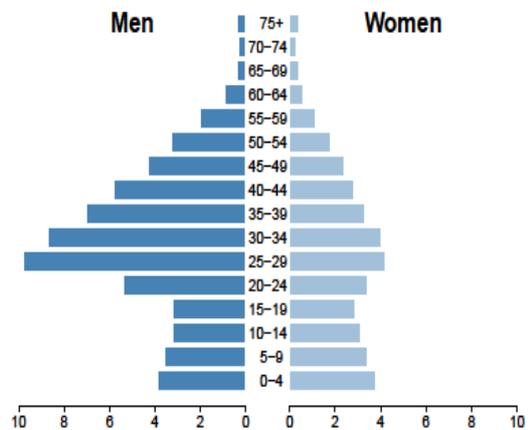
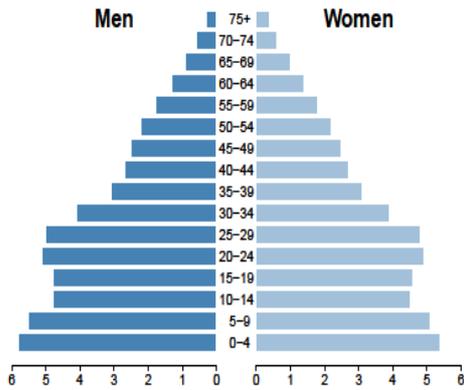


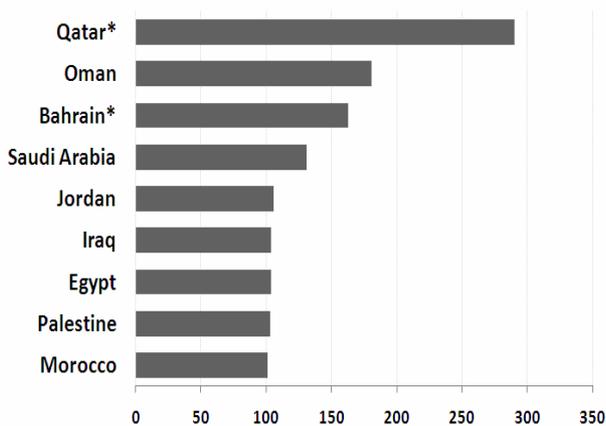
Figure 2.1.6: Population pyramid, Egypt, 2012 estimates



As a result of labour migration, the sex ratios for all Gulf countries are large. In Qatar for example, there are 290 men per 100 women (figure 2.1.7).

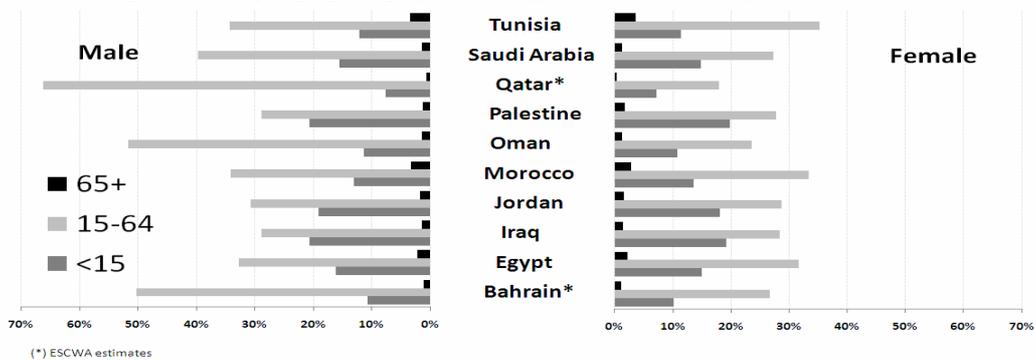
According to United Nations estimates, the region has a relatively young population overall with a median age of 22 years, compared to a world average of 28.5 years (United Nations 2012). However, as shown in figure 2.1.8, due to varying demographic transitions and the size of migrant labour groups in some countries, there is considerable heterogeneity in the age profile of countries in the region. The proportions of children younger than 15 years ranges from a low of approximately 15 per cent in Qatar to a high of about 40 per cent in Iraq and Palestine. In contrast, the working-age population is 84 per cent in Qatar, and 57 per cent in Iraq and Palestine. The proportion of elderly persons is still small in the countries where data was provided, not exceeding 4 per cent of total population. Finally, data clearly shows that the distorted sex distribution of populations in the Gulf countries is due to those in the working-age populations between 15-64 years.

Figure 2.1.7: Sex ratio by country, 2010 estimates/censuses (per 100 males)



(*) ESCWA estimates

Figure 2.1.8: Population by age group (percentage out of total), by sex, 2010 estimates/censuses



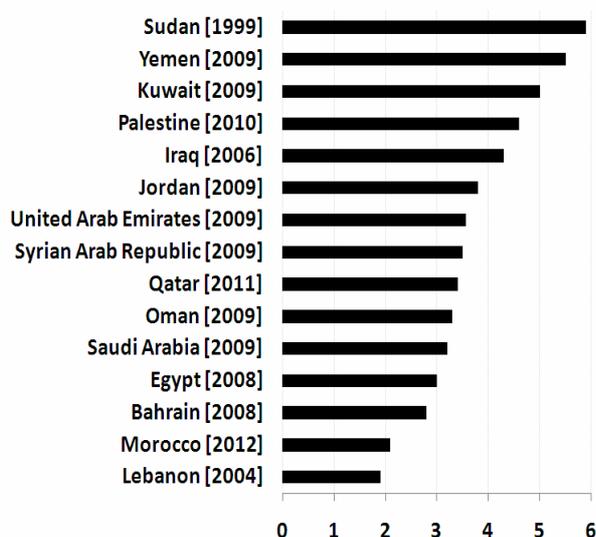
(*) ESCWA estimates

Fast decline in fertility

Most countries in the region have experienced rapid, if delayed, changes in fertility rates over the past few decades, especially since the 1980s. The speed of decline in fertility varied widely across the region, with such countries as Egypt or Jordan showing little or no decline in the past decade. As a result, current estimates of total fertility reveal marked diversity across the region.

Figure 2.1.9 shows the most recent estimates of total fertility (number of children per woman) in 13 Arab countries. Total fertility varies significantly from a below or near replacement level in Morocco, Lebanon, and Tunisia (data not shown) to over five in Yemen and Kuwait. Several countries still have rates of approximately four children per woman. The figures for Gulf countries reported here refer to national populations, excluding immigrants, and therefore tend to be lower than those of the total resident populations.

Figure 2.1.9: Total fertility rates, latest available year (births per women aged 15-49)



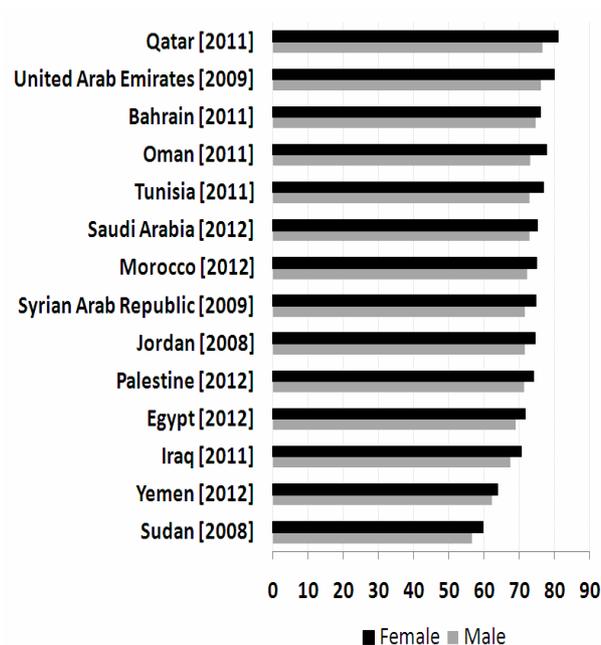
Small female advantage in life expectancy at birth

Over the past few decades, the Arab region has experienced remarkable improvements in population health. According to United Nations estimates, life expectancy at birth has improved by around 20 years since the 1960s (United Nations 2012). However, improvements are not even across

the region and poorer countries still have relatively high mortality rates or low life expectancy at birth. Furthermore, gender disparities in health conditions persist in many countries.

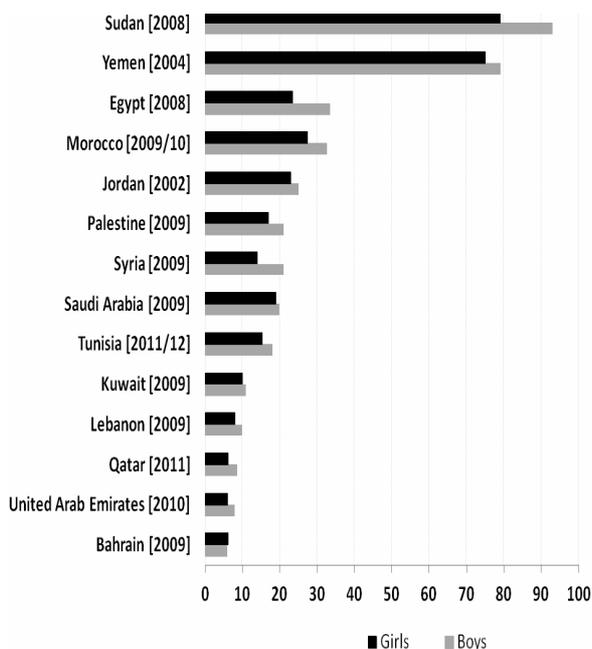
As shown in figure 2.1.10, recent estimates of life expectancy at birth range from 57 and 60 years for men and women, respectively in the Sudan to 77 and 81 years in Qatar for men and women, respectively. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have the highest life expectancies at birth for both men and women. It is interesting to note that such middle-income countries as Morocco, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic have similar levels of life expectancy at birth to some richer Gulf countries. It is also evident from the data that gender differences in life expectancy at birth are generally small, with a difference of only two years or less in Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Such small gender differences in life expectancy may indicate female disadvantages in survival chances. However, trend data from a few countries (not shown) reveal that improvements in life expectancy at birth over the past decade are generally better for females than males.

Figure 2.1.10: Life expectancy at birth for total population, latest years, by sex



Wide variations in infant and child mortality rates are also evident across countries in the region. Infant mortality rates range from over 86 deaths in the Sudan to 10 or less deaths in the Gulf countries, excluding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The rate of nine deaths per 1,000 births reported in Lebanon is surprisingly low when compared to previous estimates (e.g., 2004 Papfam) and could be due to indirect methods of estimation in the MICS survey (figure 2.1.11). Even though sex differentials in mortality are generally too small to be of statistical significance, mortality rates are generally higher among males. The lack of gender difference in infant mortality in Bahrain, and to some extent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, may be indicative of discrimination.

Figure 2.1.11: Infant mortality rates by sex, latest available year (per 1,000 live births)



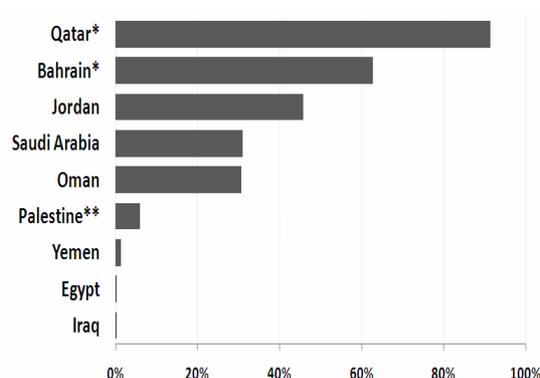
Trend data on infant and child mortality from a few countries indicate continued improvements over time. However, reductions in mortality appear to have stalled in countries with low mortality rates, such as the Gulf States, but also in such countries with relatively high mortality levels as Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

International migrants nearly doubled in 20 years

International migration can have a profound impact on the population age-sex structure of a country, as well as on its economic, social and health conditions. Despite its significance, there is little data or literature on international migration in the Arab region. Here, limited data from international sources are used to highlight the size of migrant and displaced populations and net migratory movements.

The majority of countries in the region have relatively large migrant populations. Data for 2012 reveal that five out of nine countries in the region for which data are available classify at least 25 per cent of their populations as international migrants (figure 2.1.12). In 2010, international migrants constituted more than 90 per cent of the populations of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and over 60 per cent in Bahrain and Kuwait in 2011. Migrants constituted 46 per cent of the population in Jordan and 31 per cent of the populations of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Figure 2.1.12: Proportion of international migrants of total population, 2010

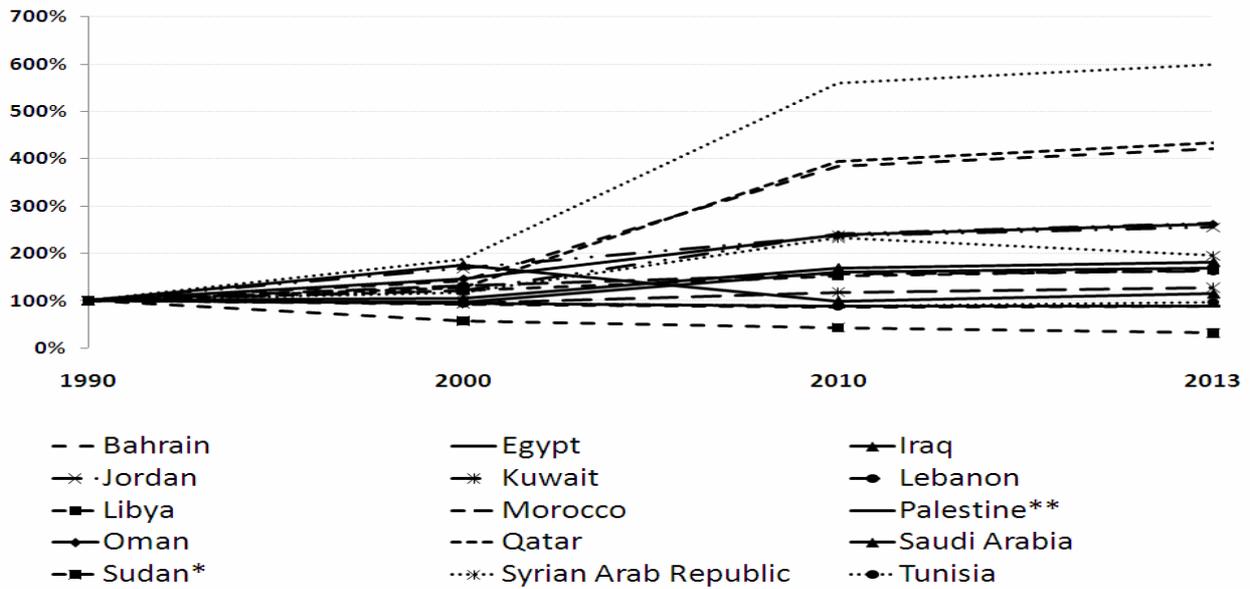


* ESCWA calculated

** Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State

Trends in estimated international migration stocks indicate a substantial increase in international migrants from 1990 to 2013 in 12 out of 17 Arab countries. Between 1990 and 2013, the number of international migrants more than doubled in 6 out of the 17 Arab countries and had more than tripled in three of them, namely Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (figure 1.13).

Figure 2.1.13: International migrant stock at mid-year (percentage of base year 1990)

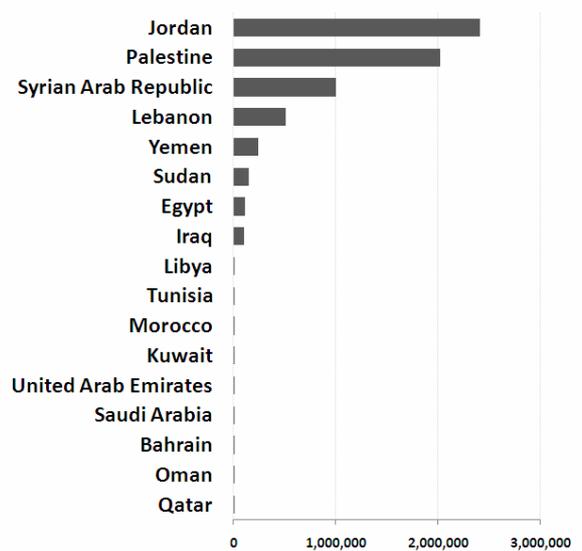


(*) The estimates for 1990 and 2000 refer to Sudan and South Sudan.
 (**) Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.

Estimated net migration rates per 1,000 people were positive for eight of the 17 countries during the period 2010-2015. Oman and Qatar had the highest positive rates, at 59 and 49 migrants per 1,000 people. On the other hand, the Syrian Arab Republic had the highest negative rate at 16 per 1,000 people. Trends in these rates show some fluctuations between 1990 and 2010, but were increasing consistently in the Gulf countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

It is widely known that the Arab region has a relatively large number of refugees and displaced populations, with clear demographic and public policy implications. In fact, the region has the largest number of refugees in the world, with the Palestinians constituting the largest and oldest group of refugees. As shown in figure 2.1.14, Jordan, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic each have over 1.5 million refugees, followed by Lebanon with over half a million.

Figure 2.1.14: Refugees by country/territory of asylum, 2007-2009



Sources: UNHCR and UNRWA.

Smaller households

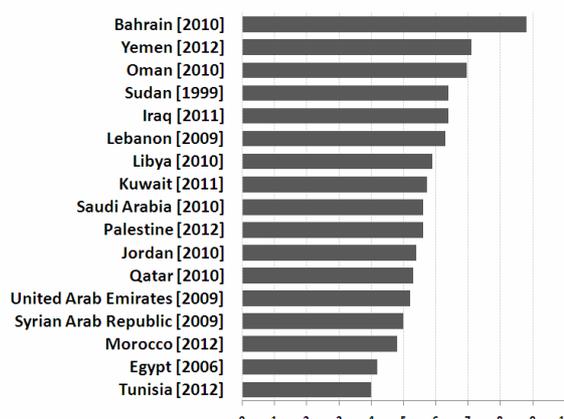
Little is known about recent changes in the Arab family, such as changes in marriage patterns. Changes in family and household formation have important policy implications, particularly on determining housing needs. Traditionally, people

in Arab societies lived in large households, often with extended families spanning more than one generation. However, living arrangements have been changing to varying degrees in many Arab countries as a result of shifts in the age structures of populations and also perhaps to changing social ideals and values.

Despite the availability of recent census data in almost all countries of the region, little is documented about changes in family and household composition, especially in countries undergoing rapid demographic transitions and in those with significant waves of migration. Data on household size for only 14 countries and household headship for only 10 countries were obtained from National Statistical Offices. The data are from recent household surveys and population censuses.

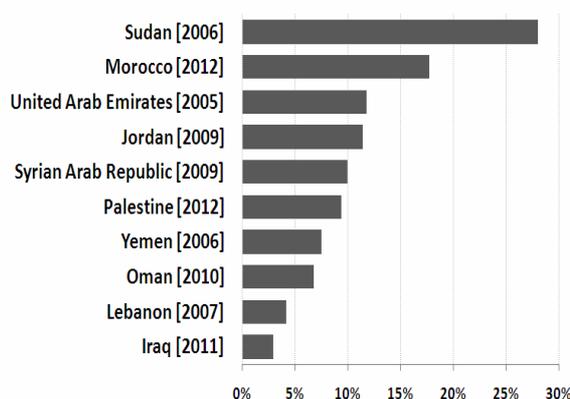
Household size varies considerably from a high of around seven persons in Yemen to around four in Egypt and Lebanon (figure 2.1.15). All countries have average households of at least four persons. The Gulf countries all have relatively large households of over five persons on average, perhaps owing to migrant labour. Although household size is related to fertility rates, the relationship between the two is not consistent across countries. Such other factors as the presence of immigrant or refugee populations, the state of housing markets and preferences for extended living arrangements all help to determine household size in any given population. For example, Qatar has a relatively low fertility rate but a large average household size, similar to that of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Available data on the trends of household sizes in a few countries reveal a consistent, albeit slow reduction in average household sizes, sometimes reaching a reduction of one person per household over approximately 15 years, as has been the case in Palestine.

Figure 2.1.15: Average household size, latest available year



Female household headship varies considerably across countries, ranging from 28 per cent in the Sudan in 2006 to 3 per cent in Iraq in 2011 (figure 2.1.16). However, 6 of the 10 countries with available data show a relatively low rate of 10 per cent or less for female headship.

Figure 2.1.16: Female headed households, latest available year (percentage)

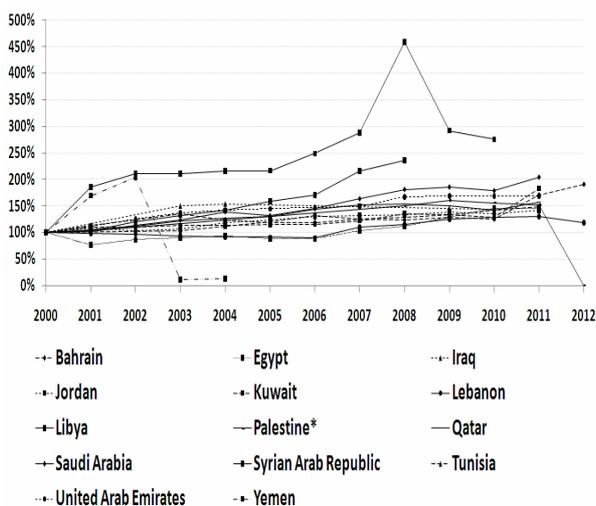


Marriage no longer universal in some countries

The customary pattern of marriage in Arab society can generally be described as early, widespread and polygamous, with a relatively large age gap existing between spouses. However, these features have been changing recently, with trends emerging towards later marriage, monogamy and higher rates of celibacy in several countries. Divorce was relatively rare across the region until recently.

Figure 2.1.17 is a simple index showing yearly changes in the number of registered marriages as compared to the base line year of 2000. As shown in the figure, the number of marriages has increased consistently since 2000 in most countries for which data are available. The Syrian Arab Republic experienced the most dramatic rise in registered marriages, more than quadrupling by 2008. In the same period, the number of registered marriages in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia almost doubled. The number of marriages as a whole remained fairly constant before beginning to rise in 2007 and increasingly sharply in 2010. Recent sharp increases in the number of registered marriages are evident throughout the Gulf countries, with the exception of the United Arab Emirates.

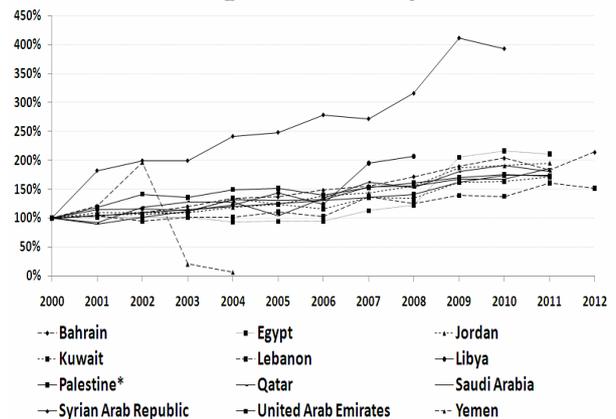
Figure 2.1.17: Registered marriages as a percentage of those registered in the year 2000



* Data for the years 2009 - 2010 include West Bank only and excludes Gaza Strip.

Trends in the rate of registered divorce are fairly similar to those of marriage, but the increase has become more noticeable in several countries since 2007 (figure 2.1.18). The Syrian Arab Republic stands out with a significant rise in the rate of divorce, increasing fourfold by 2008. Between 2000 and 2011/2012, the number of registered divorces more than doubled in Bahrain and Egypt, and nearly doubled in Jordan.

Figure 2.1.18: Registered divorces as a percentage of those registered in the year 2000

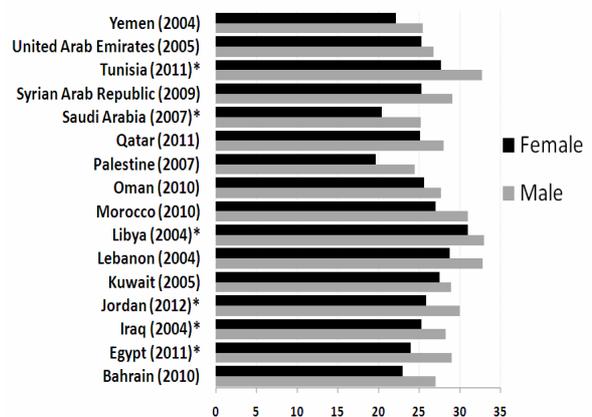


* Data for the years 2009 - 2010 include West Bank only and excludes Gaza Strip.

In all countries in the region, age at first marriage has increased for both men and women. However, recent estimates from 10 countries reveal wide variations in an individual's age at first marriage (figure 2.1.19). Men and women in Tunisia tend to marry later than their counterparts in other countries included in this compendium, at 33 and 28 years, respectively. However, estimates for Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya from 2004/5 were already as high or higher than the highest reported figures for the last two years. On average, men and women in Palestine marry earlier than their Arab counterparts, marrying at 24 years and 19 years respectively in 2007.

On average, men in Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia tend to marry women approximately five years younger, while men in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates tend to marry women of a similar age.

Figure 2.1.19: Mean age at first marriage by sex, latest available estimate



(*) Only nationals

Current data on marital status from 10 countries in the region indicate that marriage is no longer universal in some countries, especially for women. As shown in figure 2.1.20, more than 8 per cent of women never marry by the age of 50 in

Bahrain, Kuwait and Lebanon. In all countries except Lebanon, teenage marriage is still common, particularly in Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Figure 2.1.20: Proportion of ‘never married’ by sex and country

Country	Census Year	<20 years		20-49		50+	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bahrain	2001	99.7	96.5	38.4	27.8	3.6	2.2
	2010	99.5	94.5	62.5	6.3	21.5	10.5
Egypt	1996	97.8	85.2	33.6	13.6	0.8	1.1
	2003	98.4	89.2	36.3	48.8	3.8	1.1
Jordan	2004	99.2	91.6	40.6	28.2	0.9	2.7
Kuwait	2005	99.4	95.0	35.1	39.2	1.2	8.7
Lebanon	2007	99.9	99.1	53.3	40.8	3.7	8.1
Palestine	1997	98.3	76.5	28.2	18.4	1.1	4.9
Qatar	2004	99.0	96.6
Saudi Arabia	2004	98.3	91.3	28.6	21.0	1.6	1.1
Syrian Arab Republic	2006	99.0	85.3	38.8	26.4	1.2	3.4
United Arab Emirates	2005	97.6	93.2	25.9	26.3	1.5	1.9

Women and youth participate in the labour force at categorically lower rates than adult men in the Arab region, often by a wide margin. Adults who participate in the labour force typically face high unemployment rates, which are even higher amongst women and youth populations.

The aim of this section is to provide a snapshot of employment in member countries, using data provided by national statistical offices. Recent data will be presented on labour force participation, unemployment, economic activity, employment status and occupation. Wherever possible, the data will be disaggregated by age and sex. Trends for two time periods, 2001 to 2006 and 2007 to 2012, will be shown. Whenever a comparison between the two periods is considered, the latest available year within each time period is selected.

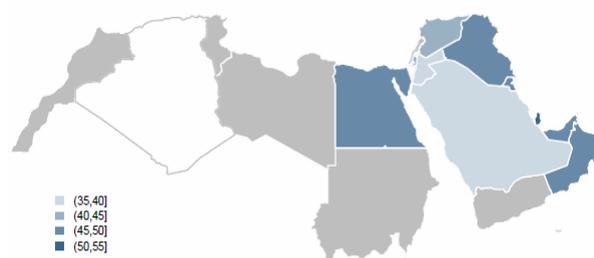
The phrase ‘latest year available’ refers to the latest year for which data are provided for a particular indicator and a particular country. Data on nationals were used in all figures for all countries except Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, which did not provide data disaggregated by nationality.

Labour force participation highest in Qatar, lowest in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Labour force participation is a measure of the percentage of adults who are either working or not working but actively seeking work. Labour force participation is low in the Arab region, mainly because of low participation rates amongst women.

For the latest available years, the lowest labour force participation rate was 39 per cent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012. The highest was 51 per cent in Qatar in 2012, followed closely by 49 per cent in Egypt in 2012. However, the data in figure 2.2.1 may be somewhat deceptive, since overall labour force participation rates varied over a relatively narrow range.

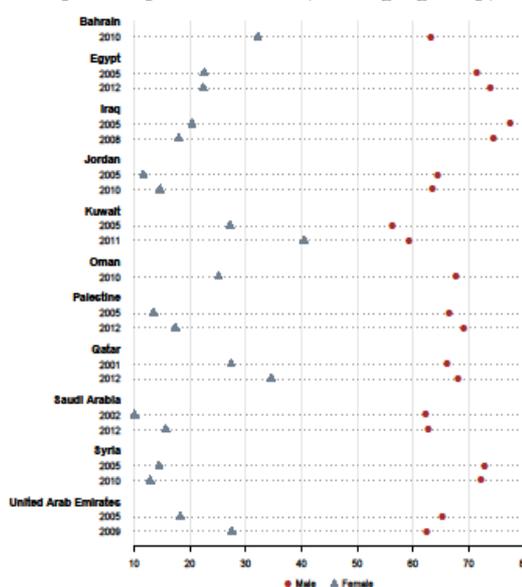
Figure 2.2.1: Labour force participation rates, latest year available



Women’s labour force participation rates less than half of men’s in most countries

With the exception of Kuwait in 2001 and Qatar in 2012, all countries reported labour force participation rates for working-age (15 years and older) women that were less than half the rate for working-age men. In some cases, such as Iraq in 2008, Jordan and Palestine in 2010, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012, working-age men participated in the labour force at over four times the rate of working-age women. In 2010, the rate was five times higher in the Syrian Arab Republic. Between 2007 and 2012, the highest labour force participation rate amongst working-age males was 74 per cent in Egypt in 2012, while the lowest was 59 per cent in Kuwait in 2011. The labour force participation rate for females was highest in Kuwait at 40 per cent in 2011 and lowest in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010 at 13 per cent.

Figure 2.2.2: Male and female labour force participation rates (15+ age group)

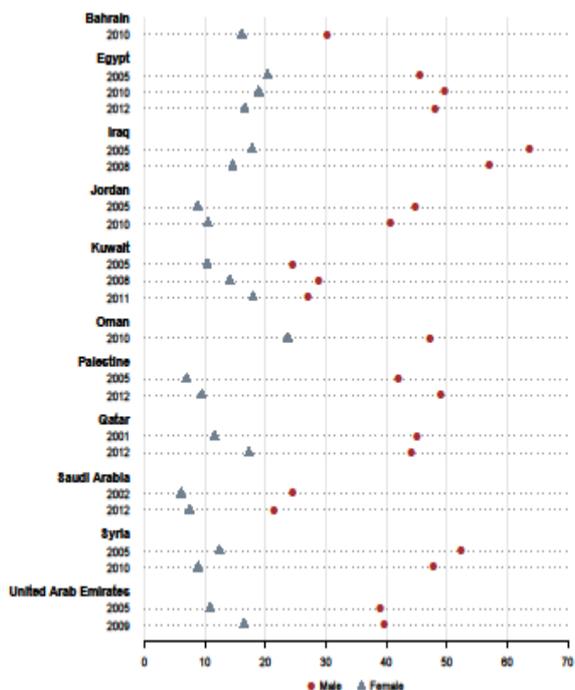


Only 8 per cent of female youth participated in the labour force in 2012

To some extent, lower labour force participation rates are expected among youth because young individuals may be enrolled in school. However, low labour force participation rates do not necessarily correlate to high school enrolment ratios across the region.

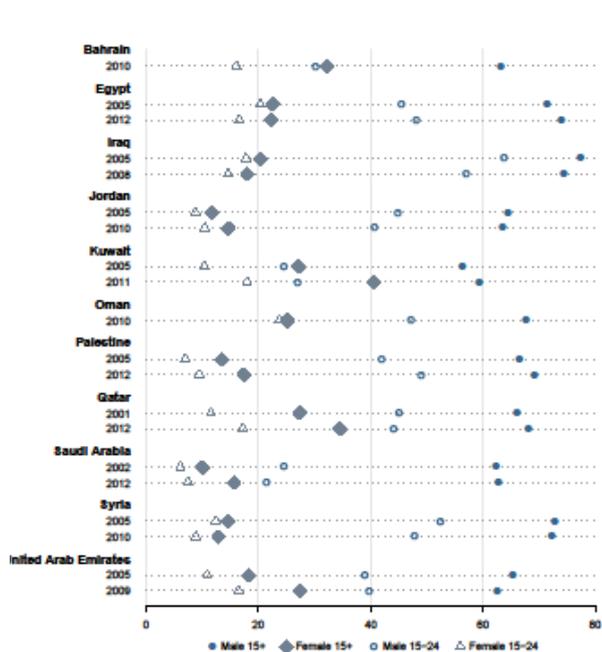
The lowest recorded labour force participation rate in the 2007 to 2012 time period was 8 per cent for females in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012. The highest recorded was 24 per cent in Egypt in 2012 and Oman in 2010. The largest absolute difference between male and female figures was 42 percentage points in Iraq in 2008, followed by 39 percentage points for the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010 and Palestine in 2012. The largest relative difference was recorded in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010, where male youth participated in the labour force at 5.4 times the rate of female youth.

Figure 2.2.3: Male and female labour force participation rates among youth (15-24 age group)



For comparison, youth labour force participation rates and working-age population rates are shown on the same scale in Figure 2.2.4.

Figure 2.2.4: Superimposition of sex-disaggregated labour force participation rates for youth and 15+ age groups



Highest unemployment rate in Iraq, lowest in Qatar

Unemployment, the percentage of those economically active who cannot find work, is perhaps the most often-cited indicator of a country's labour climate. Although it has limitations (for example, unemployment may be low where job quality is also poor), it gives a rough sense of the difficulties faced by the economically active populations in each country.

Among countries that provided data for the 2007 to 2012 time period, Iraq reported the highest overall unemployment rate, of 30 per cent. Palestine, which reported an unemployment rate of 23 per cent in 2012, followed. The lowest unemployment rate was in Qatar, which reported a rate of 3 per cent in 2012, followed by Bahrain at a rate of 4 per cent in 2010.

Figure 2.2.5: Unemployment rates, latest year available

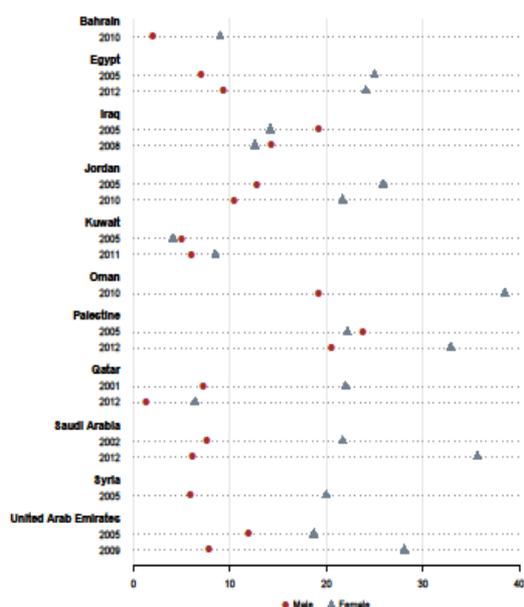


Increased gender gaps in unemployment in all countries except Egypt, Qatar and Yemen

During the 2007 to 2012 time period, all countries reported higher unemployment among women than men. The lowest unemployment rate in working-age populations was 1 per cent for men in Qatar in 2012, followed by 2 per cent for men in Bahrain in 2010 and Egypt in 2012. The highest unemployment rate was 39 per cent for women in Oman in 2010.

Between the two observed time periods, the absolute differences between male and female unemployment rates decreased in Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while the rate increased in other countries that responded to the questionnaire. The relative differences between male and female unemployment rates increased in all countries except Egypt, Qatar and Yemen.

Figure 2.2.6: Male and female unemployment rates (15+ age group)



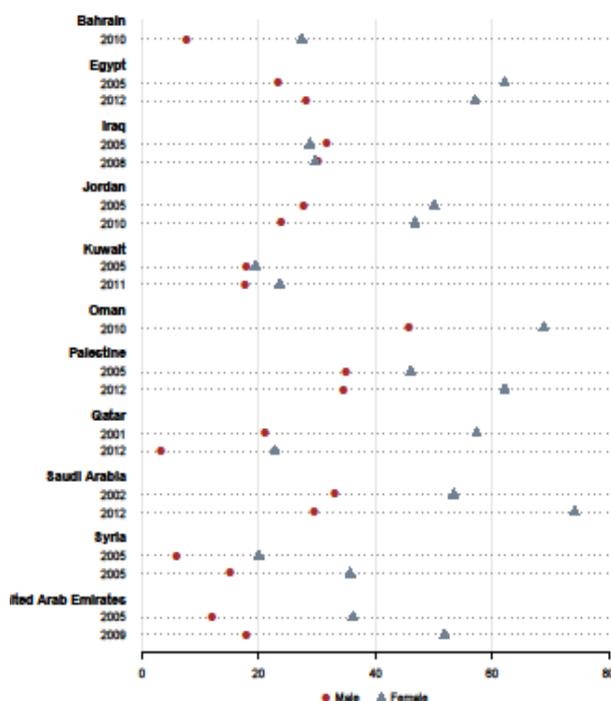
Markedly high unemployment for female youth

The combined difficulty of finding work as a woman and finding work as a youth in the region presents an exceptional challenge.

The most recent data for the majority of the countries show higher unemployment rates for female youth than male youth. Unemployment rates for female youth were over 50 per cent in five out of the ten countries that reported data for the 2007 to 2012 time period. The highest unemployment rate reported during that time period was 74 per cent amongst female youth in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012.

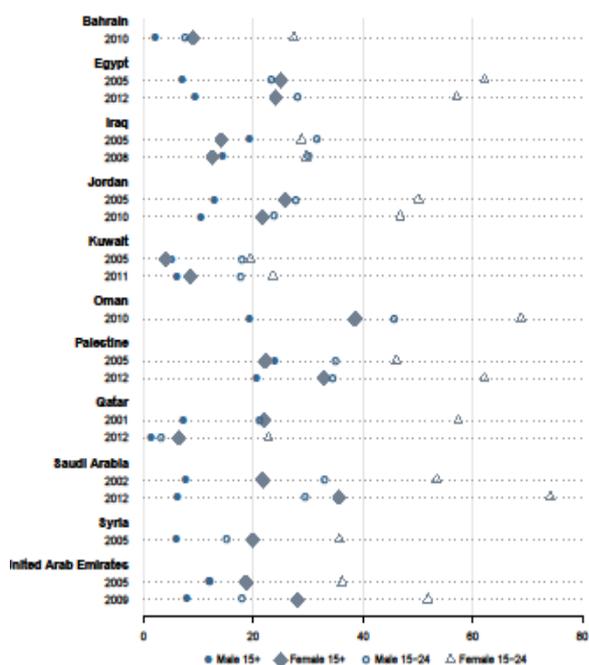
Youth unemployment rates were high: in Qatar in 2012, unemployment was reported at a rate of 3 per cent for males and 23 per cent for females. The latter was the lowest among Gulf countries which reported data for the aforementioned time period.

Figure 2.2.7: Male and female unemployment rates among youth



For comparison, youth labour force participate rates and working-age population rates are shown below on the same scale.

Figure 2.2.8: Superimposition of sex-disaggregated unemployment rates for youth and 15+ age groups

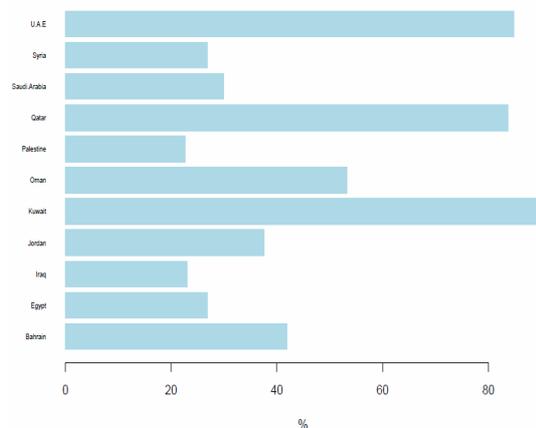


High employment in public sector jobs in the Gulf

In Morocco, 90 per cent of employed workers are in the private sector. This is higher than any other country that reported the total number of nationals and non-nationals working in the private sector for the latest available years. The next highest figure for employment in the private sector was noted in Lebanon at 87 per cent in 2009. The lowest figure was reported in Libya, at 2 per cent in 2006. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the private sector accounted for 73 per cent of employment in 2010, with a higher percentage of total employment of nationals than any other country.

The highest percentages of employment in the public sector were found in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar at 86 per cent in 2011, 85 per cent in 2009 and 84 per cent in 2012, respectively. The lowest percentage was reported in Palestine at 23 per cent in 2012.

Figure 2.2.9: Percentage of employment in the public sector, latest year available. Private, mixed, and other categories not included

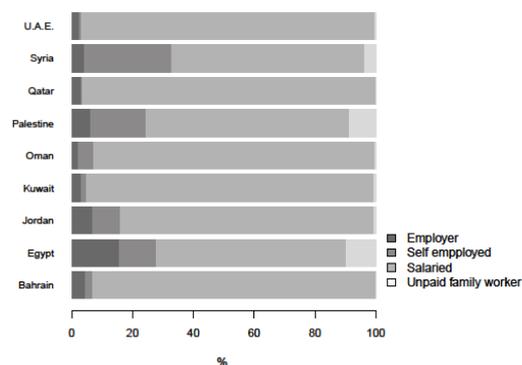


High percentages of self-employed workers in Jordan and Kuwait

Without exception, most workers in the Arab region held salaried jobs in the 2007 to 2012 time period. The only countries that reported non-zero percentages for national unpaid non-family workers were Jordan and Kuwait, which reported 0.2 per cent in 2010 and 4 per cent in 2008, respectively. At 16 per cent, Egypt had the highest percentage of jobs that fell into the ‘employer’ category, while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recorded the lowest with 1.8 per cent in 2012.

The Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine had relatively large percentages of workers who were self-employed, accounting for 29 per cent in 2010 and 18 per cent in 2012, respectively.

Figure 2.2.10: Percentage of employment by status, latest year available



Most female workers in the region are professionals

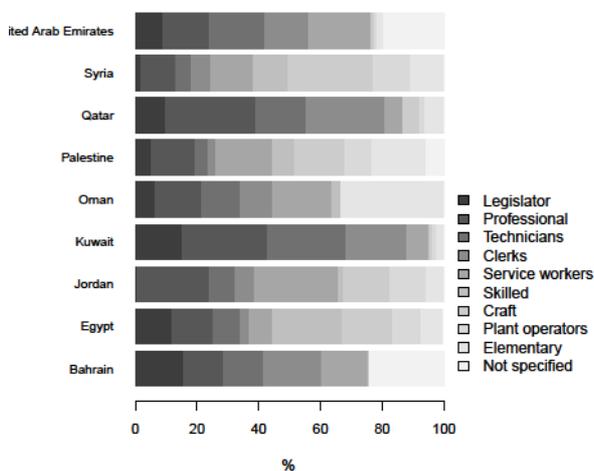
In some countries, certain occupation groups dominated the civilian labour force. In 5 of the 11

countries for which data are available, ‘services and shop and market sales’ occupations were dominant. Those countries were Jordan in 2010, Oman in 2010, Palestine in 2012, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012 and the United Arab Emirates in 2009. ‘Professionals’ was a major category of work in Kuwait in 2011 and Qatar in 2012, constituting 28 and 29 per cent of total employment for civilian nationals, respectively. In 7 of the 11 countries that provided data on the issue, the ‘professionals’ group accounted for the majority of employed female workers. The proportion of female workers in that category was 54 and 51 per cent in Jordan in 2010 and Qatar in 2012, respectively.

The main economic activity in the region is in ‘Services’

The highest percentage of employed workers in the region is in the ‘services’ sector. Out of the ten observed countries, Kuwait’s services sector accounted for 93 per cent of total employment of nationals in 2011. The second highest figure for employment in the ‘services’ sector was recorded by the United Arab Emirates with 92 per cent in 2009. The lowest figure was reported in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at 36 per cent in 2012. The largest absolute difference between male and female figures for this specific indicator was 24 percentage points in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012, followed by 18 percentage points for the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010.

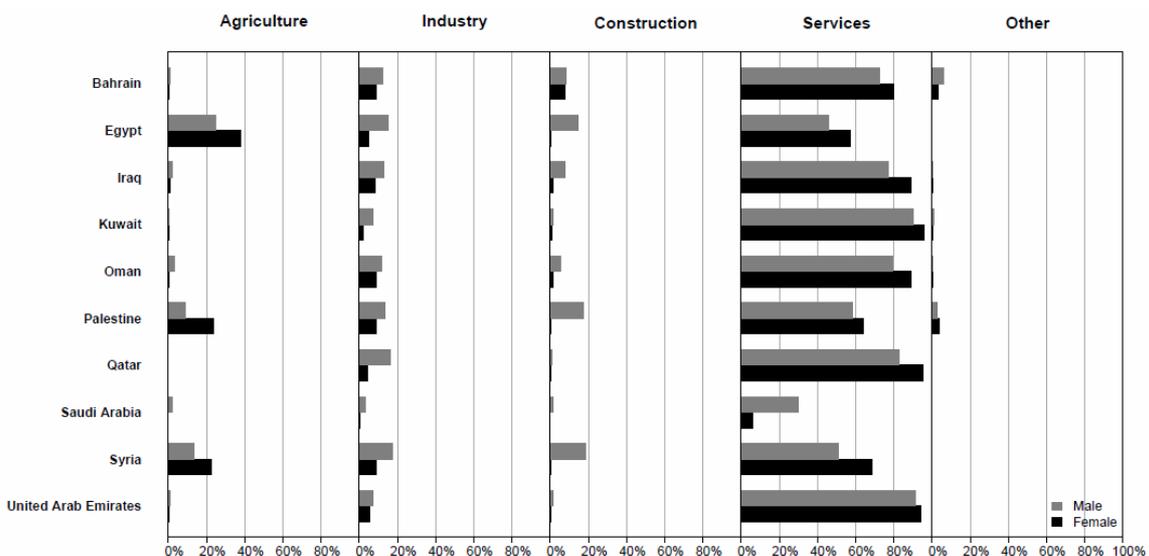
Figure 2.2.11: Main occupations, latest year available.



Not Specified includes Not specified and Armed Forces.

The ‘agriculture’ sector scored the lowest share of the labour force in the region, with the exception of in Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012.

Figure 2.2.12: Sex-disaggregated economic activity, latest year available



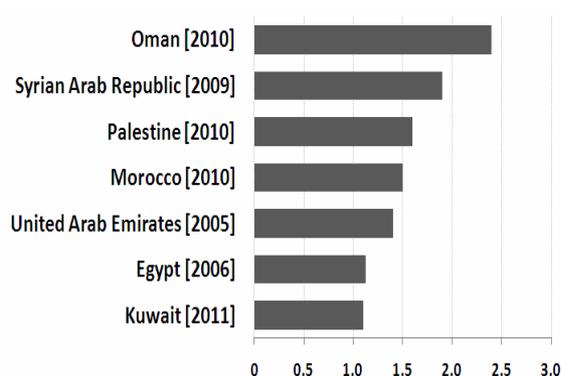
Housing conditions

Decent housing is a both need and a right for families. It has a direct impact on the health and well-being of a population and provides a secure environment for the development of society. Six indicators of housing conditions are used in this section: average number of persons per room, tenure of housing units, existence of flush toilet inside the housing unit, access to public piped water, availability of public sewage network, and source of electricity. The data used here mainly come from national household surveys and the 2000 and 2010 census rounds.

More than one person per room in all countries¹

Only seven countries in the region provided data for the average number of persons per room. According to the data shown in figure 2.3.1, it ranges widely from 1.1 person per room in Kuwait to 2.4 in Oman. Although this indicator is a measure of crowding or density, it should be interpreted with care when used interchangeably with the indicator of crowding. According to the United Nations, housing units with three or more persons per room are considered overcrowded. It should also be noted that crowding generally refers to a person's psychological response to density that evokes feelings of being crowded, having a lack of privacy or an increase in unwanted interactions or psychological distress (Crothers et al 1993, Gove et al 1979, Jazwinski 1998).

Figure 2.3.1: Average number of persons per room by country, latest available year



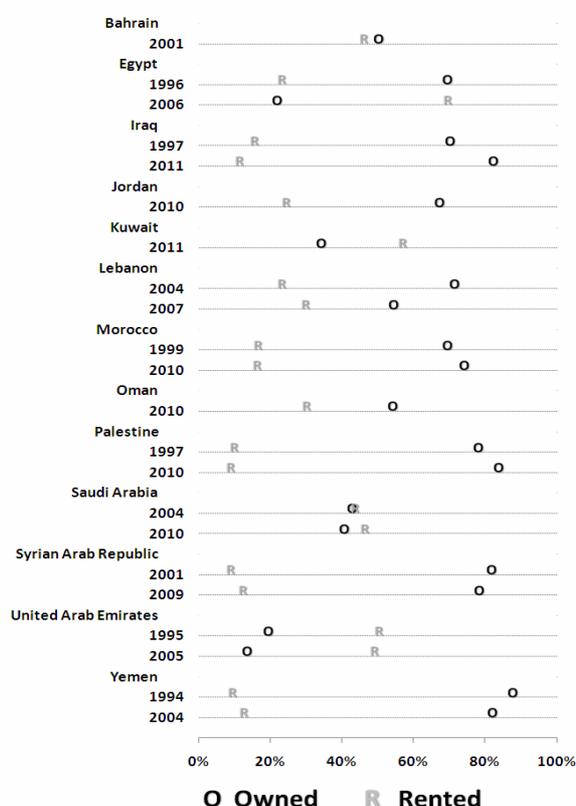
¹ According to Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2, "the Statistical Commission and the Inter-Agency Working Party on Statistics for Social Programmes agreed that dwellings with densities of three or more persons per room should be considered overcrowded under any circumstances".

Dramatic drop in housing unit ownership in Egypt

Two categories of tenure of housing units, owned and rented, are compared across 2000 and 2010 census rounds or surveys falling within the two rounds. The majority of countries showed high ownership of housing units at above 50 per cent, with the exception of the Gulf countries, where the high percentage of rents is attributable to the relatively high number of non-nationals there. The only noticeable difference between the two census rounds are in Egypt, where there was a notable decrease in housing ownership from 69 per cent in 1996 to 22 per cent in 2006.

The highest percentage of housing unit ownership in the 2010 round was in Palestine at 90 per cent, while the lowest was in the United Arab Emirates at 13 per cent. The highest rental percentage was in Egypt at 69 per cent, while the lowest was in the Syrian Arab Republic at 8.5 per cent.

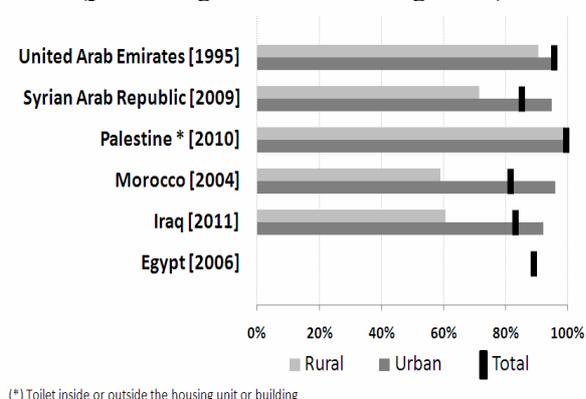
Figure 2.3.2: Tenure of housing unit from the last two censuses or corresponding surveys (percentage of total housing units)



High availability of flush toilets inside the housing unit in urban areas

Only six countries have data for this indicator, which is directly related to population health. Over 90 per cent of housing units or buildings in urban areas have flush toilets, with the highest figure being 100 per cent in Palestine. Figures in rural areas are 60 per cent and above, with the highest figure being in Palestine at 99 per cent and the lowest being in Morocco at 59 per cent.

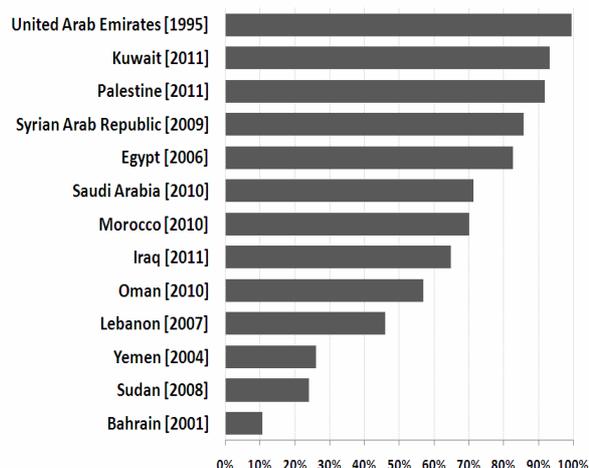
Figure 2.3.3: Existence of flush toilet by country, residence, latest available year (percentage of total housing units)



Wide variations in access to public piped water

Clean and easy access to water has direct positive effects on health, especially for children and older people. Conversely, lack of direct access to piped water increases the risk of bodily injuries incurred while fetching water. Seven out of thirteen countries show more than 70 per cent availability of public piped water. The highest for the latest available data is for the United Arab Emirates at 99.6 per cent and the lowest being for Bahrain at 10.6 per cent. Other sources like bottled water, water tanks, rivers or other types of running water, have relatively high percentages too.

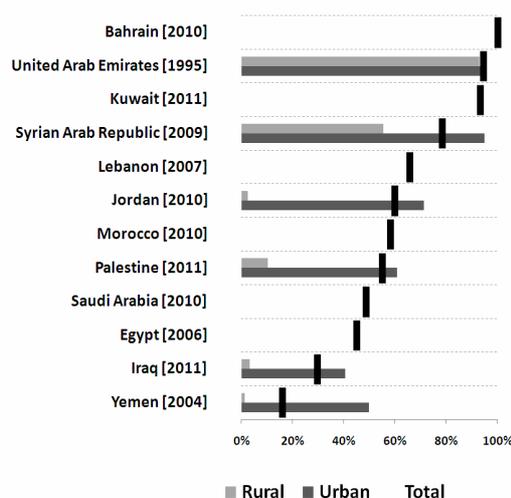
Figure 2.3.4: Availability of public piped water within the housing unit, latest available year (percentage of total housing units)



Wide gap between urban and rural areas in the availability of public sewage network

The gap between urban and rural areas in the availability of public sewage network persists for most countries in the region. The highest proportion of housing units with public sewage network was in Jordan at 97 per cent in 2010. Urban areas have much higher access to public sewage network than rural areas, reaching 100 per cent in Bahrain in 2010.

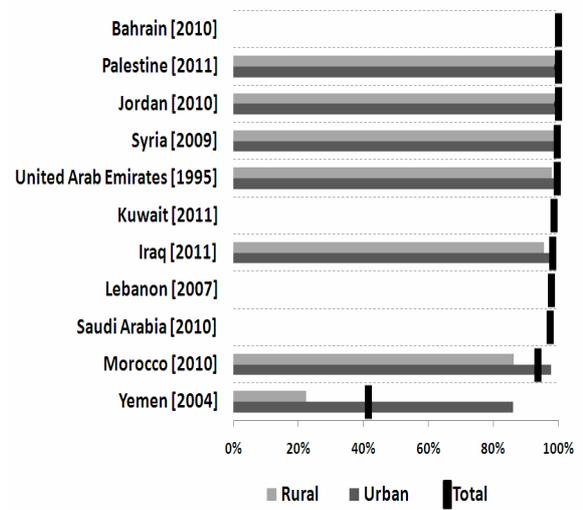
Figure 2.3.5: Availability of public sewage network, latest available year (percentage of total housing units)



High access to electricity from public network in most countries

In the majority of countries, the most recent available data show access to a public electricity network exceeds 94 per cent, with the exception of Yemen, where there was 42 per cent access. Every country showed almost equal percentages for urban and rural areas, again with the exception of Yemen, where there was a large difference between urban (86 per cent) and rural (22 per cent) areas.

Figure 2.3.6: Access to electricity from public network, latest available year (percentage of total housing units)



The attainment of education in a population is widely recognized as an important factor in socio-economic development. Compulsory education has therefore been a major policy goal in virtually all countries across the world. Formal schooling equips people with the skills required by a modern labour market and is directly related to employment and wages. It also contributes to better health and well-being among a population. Data on education are important for designing education policies and plans. As fertility rates are high in Arab countries, the number of pupils increases annually, which necessitates an increase in both human and financial resources for education.

This chapter provides a brief overview of formal education in member countries, using data obtained mainly from National Statistical Offices. It focuses on selected indicators on literacy, enrolment, pupil-teacher ratios and government expenditure on education.

Highest literacy in Palestine and Qatar, lowest literacy in Yemen

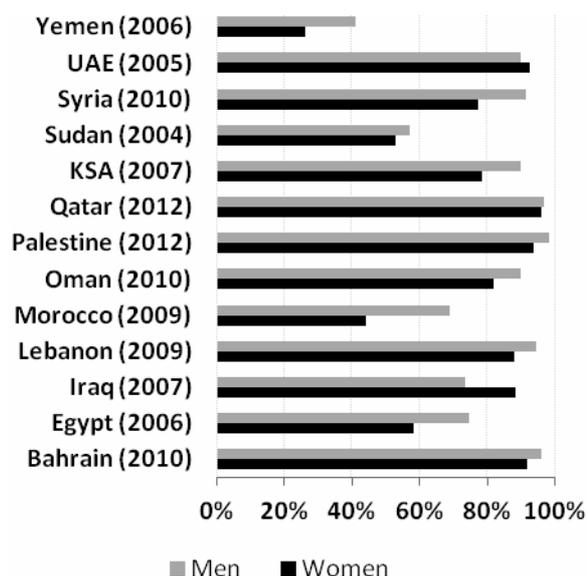
Qatar and Palestine reported the highest overall adult literacy of respondent countries, at 97 per cent and 96 per cent, respectively. The lowest adult literacy rate of 34 per cent was found in Yemen². However, the year of data provided varied; Qatar and Palestine reported data from 2012, while Yemen reported data from 2006.

Wide-ranging gender gaps in literacy

Figure 2.4.1 presents sex-disaggregated literacy for the most recent data provided by countries. The absolute difference between adult literacy for men and women ranged from one percentage point in Qatar to 25 percentage points in Morocco. Kuwait had the second smallest gap in literacy, at two percentage points, while the second largest gap was in Yemen at 15 percentage points.

² According to UNESCO data, the adult literacy rate was 65 per cent for population aged 15 years and above in 2011.

Figure 2.4.1: Adult literacy by sex, latest year



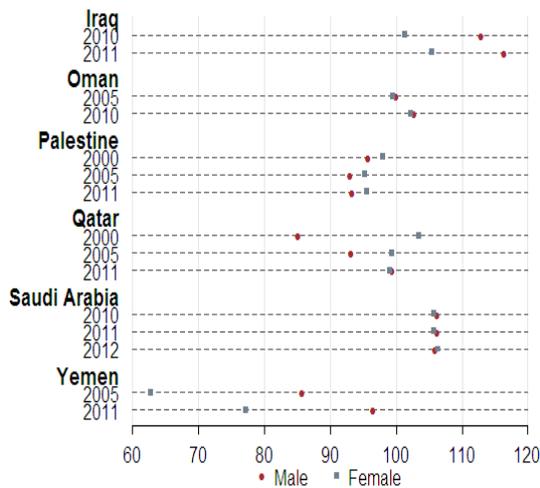
Closing gender gaps in primary school enrolment in most countries

The net enrolment ratio is one of a number of indicators used to measure the quality of education in a country. The net enrolment ratio ranged from 90 per cent to 99 per cent in the reporting countries, with the exception of Yemen. The highest reported net enrolment ratio for primary education was 98 per cent in Lebanon in 2009 and in Oman in 2011, while the lowest was 82 per cent in Yemen in 2011.

All countries reported an increase in the net primary enrolment ratio for both sexes between 2000 and 2011, and all countries except Lebanon, Palestine and Qatar reported higher net enrolment ratios for men than for women.

Figure 2.4.2 shows that the gender gaps in net enrolment ratios narrowed. In 2011, a higher percentage of girls in Yemen and Iraq enrolled in primary education than in 2005. In Qatar, where the female enrolment ratio is higher than the male ratio, the percentage of boys enrolled in primary education increased over the past decade. In 2011, the largest recorded gender gap was in Yemen (90 per cent boys vs. 73 per cent girls), while the smallest gaps were recorded in Lebanon and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at 98.4 per cent vs. 98.3 per cent and 96.6 per cent vs. 96.5 per cent, respectively.

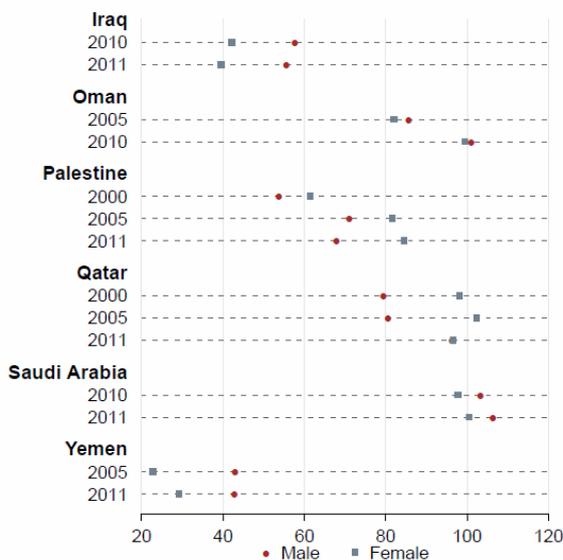
Figure 2.4.2: Primary enrolment ratio by sex



Higher secondary education enrolment among women than men in all countries except Iraq and Yemen

Net enrolment in secondary education increased for both sexes over the past decade. In Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Palestine, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic, the net enrolment ratio for women in secondary education was higher than for men. In Yemen and Iraq, however, the net enrolment ratio for women in secondary education was lower than for men. In 2011, female net enrolment ratio in secondary education was highest in Qatar (87 per cent) followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon (85 per cent), and lowest in Yemen (22 per cent).

Figure 2.4.3: Secondary enrolment ratio by sex



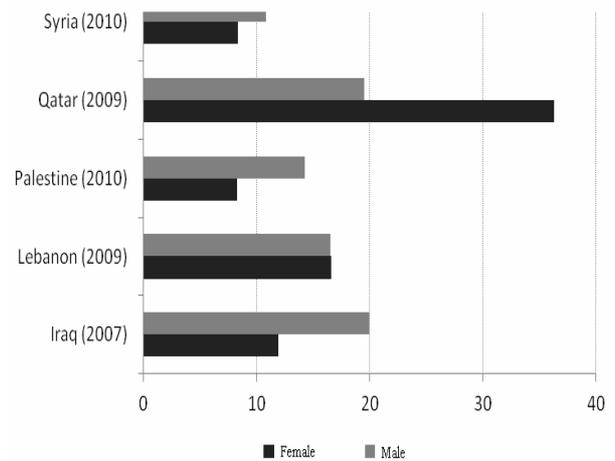
In 2011, the highest enrolment ratio for both sexes in secondary education was 86 per cent in Qatar, while the lowest was 27 per cent in Yemen.

Secondary education enrolment higher among men than women in all countries except Qatar

The proportion of the population with tertiary education increased for both sexes over the past decade in the Arab reporting countries. Figure 2.4.4 shows that the percentage of male population aged 15 years and above is higher than the percentage of female with tertiary education in all reporting countries except Qatar.

The highest percentage for both sexes with tertiary education was 23 per cent in Qatar in 2009, while the lowest was 10 per cent in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010.

Figure 2.4.4: Tertiary education enrolment by sex (per cent), latest year



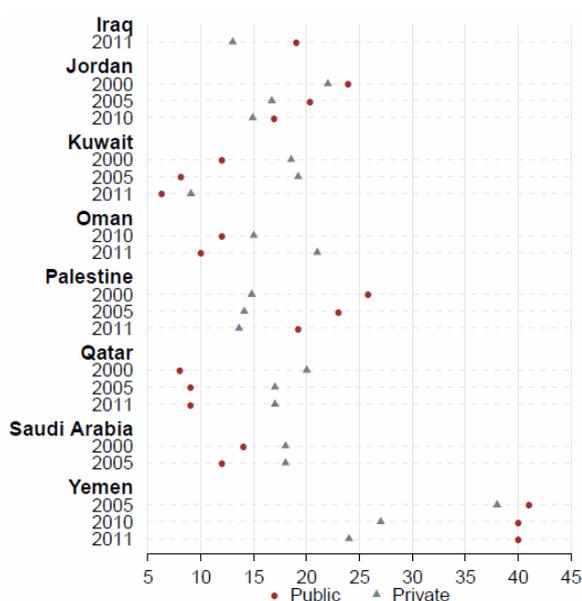
Wide variation in pupil-teacher ratios

According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) definition, the pupil-teacher ratio is the number of pupils per teacher and is an indicator of the quality of education. In crowded classrooms that have a high number of students per teacher, the quality of education may suffer. This is partly because teachers may not be able to dedicate enough time to individual needs in overcrowded classrooms.

Overall, the pupil-teacher ratio in primary education is higher than in secondary education in the reported countries. In 2011, the pupil-teacher

ratio in primary education varied widely from one country to another: six in Kuwait; nine in Qatar; 10 in Oman; 11 in both the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, 17 in Jordan and 19 in Iraq. Since 2000, the pupil-teacher ratio for public schools has decreased in all countries, but particularly in Palestine and Jordan.

Figure 2.4.5: Pupil-teacher ratio by sector



Morocco, Tunisia spent over 20 per cent of public expenditure on education in 2010

Data on education expenditure are available for seven Arab countries from UIS. Figures are reported as a percentage of the total government expenditure and as a percentage of the GDP. Such data give an indication of how a country prioritizes education in relation to its overall allocation of resources.

Figure 2.4.6 shows that the trends of countries expenditure on education differ across countries: between 2000 and 2010, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen reported a decrease in public expenditure on education as a percentage of total government expenditure, while Morocco and Tunisia reported an increase. During this period, expenditure on education in The

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia decreased from 23 per cent to 19 per cent, and in Yemen from 33 to 16 per cent.

In 2010, the highest public expenditure on education as a percentage of the total government expenditure was 26 per cent in Morocco. Tunisia also spent a relatively large amount of its government expenditure (22 per cent) on education in 2010. The lowest percentage in 2010 was 7 per cent in Lebanon and Qatar.

Oman, Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic increased their public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP between 2000 and 2010, while the rest of Arab reported countries reduced it. The highest public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP was 6 per cent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while the lowest was 2 per cent in Lebanon in 2010.

Figure 2.4.6: Public expenditure on education as a per cent of total government expenditure and as a percentage of the GDP

Country	Percentage of total government expenditure		Percentage of total GDP	
	2000	2010	2000	2010
Bahrain	...	12	...	3
Egypt	...	12	...	4
Kuwait	15	..	7	...
Lebanon	9	7	2	2
Morocco	24	26	6	5
Oman	18	...	3	4
Qatar	...	7	2	3
Saudi Arabia	23	19	6	6
Syrian Arab Republic	14	19	4	5
Tunisia	17	22	6	6
United Arab Emirates	22	...	1	...
Yemen	33	16	10	5

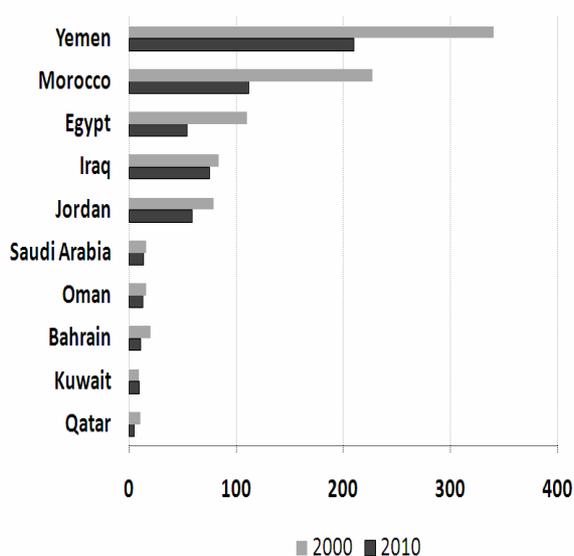
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

The state of health in a population depends on both the quality of health services and the willingness of individuals to make healthy lifestyle choices. This chapter includes three sections: (1) maternal health, (2) lifestyle or health risk factors and (3) health resources.

Decrease in maternal mortality in all member countries

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines maternal mortality ratio (MMR) as the number of deaths of the mother during pregnancy or delivery or within 42 days after delivery, reported per 100,000 births³. Maternal mortality declined in most ESCWA member countries between the years 2000 and 2010. Most notable are decreases in Yemen, the Sudan and Morocco, whose rates fell by 507 (from 654 in 2006 to 147 in 2010), 130 (from 210 in 2008 and 340 in 2000) and 115 deaths (from 112 in 2010 and 227 in 2000), respectively. In 2010, the most recent or latest available national data revealed that the highest MMR of 216 was recorded in the Sudan, followed by 147 in Yemen and 112 in Morocco. The lowest reported ratios were zero in the United Arab Emirates, followed by five in Qatar and 10 in Kuwait.

Figure 2.5.1: Maternal mortality ratios, 2000 and 2010



³ WHO, 2011.

Improvements in births attended by skilled health personnel

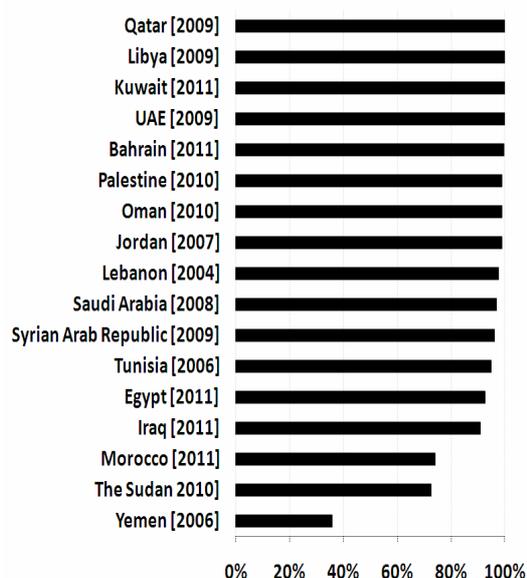
WHO defines a skilled birth attendant as “an accredited health professional – such as a midwife, doctor or nurse – who has been educated and trained to proficiency in the skills needed to manage normal (uncomplicated) pregnancies, childbirth and the immediate postnatal period and in the identification, management and referral of complications in women and newborns”¹.

The most recent data from NSOs show that the percentage of women who received skilled health assistance during delivery ranged from 36 per cent in Yemen to almost 100 per cent in the Gulf countries and Libya. The other countries reported a range between 90 and 97 per cent of births attended by skilled health personnel, except for the Sudan and Morocco that reported 73 and 74 per cent, respectively.

While Yemen reported the lowest percentage, there was a 20 per cent increase from 16 to 36 per cent during the period from 2003 to 2006.

Between 2000 and 2010, there was an improvement in all countries in the percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel.

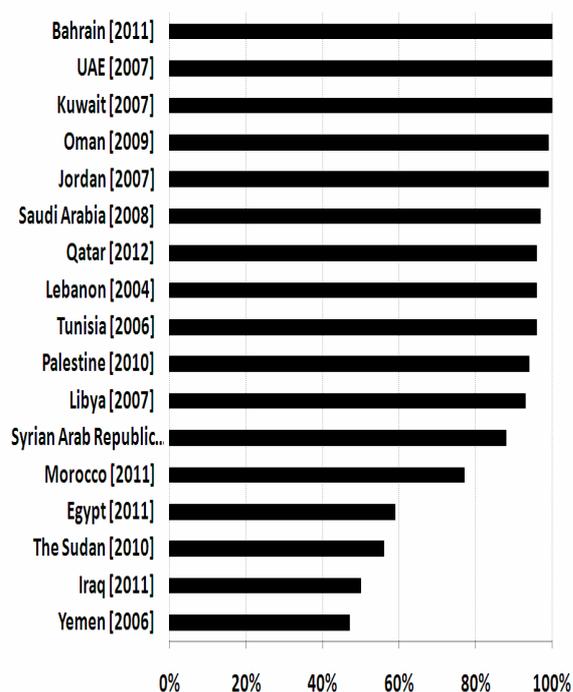
Figure 2.5.2: Per cent of births attended by skilled health professionals, latest available year



Large differences in prenatal care between urban and rural areas

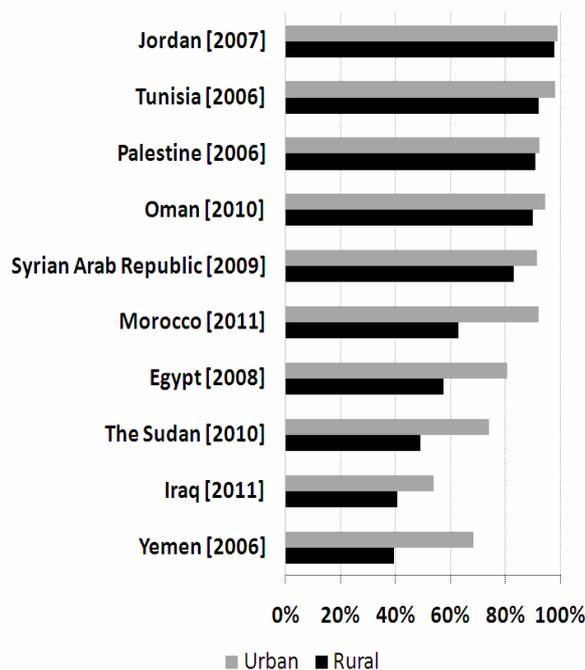
Pregnant women who receive prenatal care are defined as those women who are attended at least four times by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy. The most recent NSO data reveal that the percentage of women receiving prenatal care for at least one visit ranged from 47 per cent in Yemen or 50 per cent in Iraq to 100 per cent in Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Figure 2.5.3: Prenatal care rates, latest available year



Data for the last available year showed large differences in prenatal care between urban and rural areas. The biggest differences were in Morocco (92 per cent in urban and 63 per cent in rural) and Yemen (68 per cent in urban and 39 per cent in rural areas). The same contrast was seen in the Sudan and Egypt, which reported 74 and 81 per cent in urban areas and 49 and 57 per cent in rural areas, respectively.

Figure 2.5.4: Prenatal care rates by area, latest available year



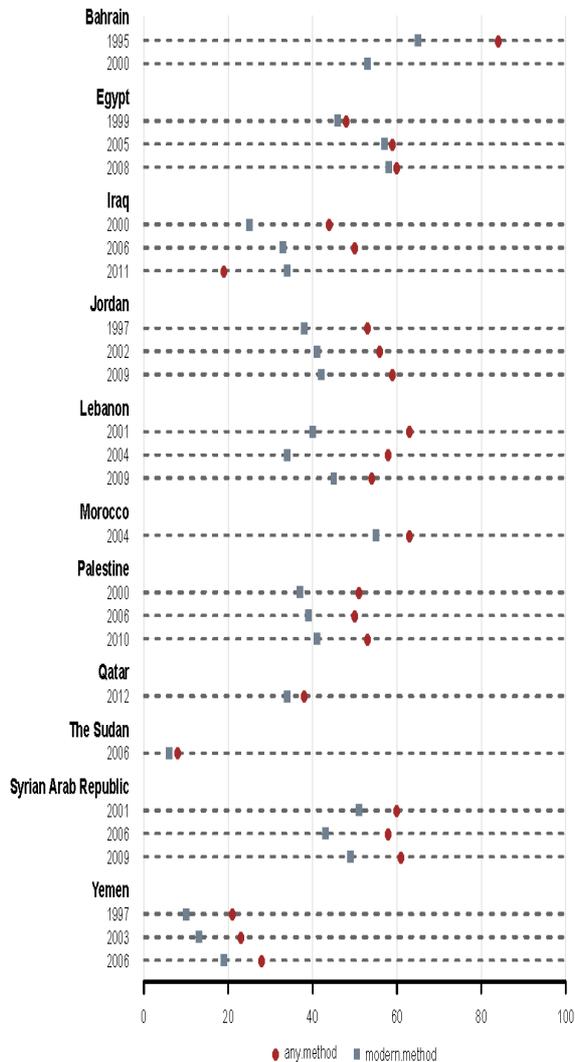
Increase in the use of contraceptives in most countries

The use of contraceptives is becoming more prevalent within the region. The percentage of women who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is currently using, at least one method of contraception has been increasing. Data in the region are usually reported for married women aged 15 to 49 years.

During the latest reported years 2008-2011, the Syrian Arab Republic reported the highest use of any method of contraception at 61 per cent, followed by Egypt and Jordan at 60 and 59 per cent, respectively. However, the highest recorded use of modern contraceptive methods during the same period was in Egypt at 58 per cent, followed by the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon at 49 and 45 per cent, respectively. During the aforementioned time period, most countries reported an increase in the use of contraceptives, although Iraq and Lebanon showed a decrease in the use of any method of contraception compared to an increase in the use of modern methods. In Lebanon, use of any contraceptive method decreased by 25 per cent from 63 percent in 2001 to 54 per cent in 2009, while use of modern methods increased by 5 per cent from 40 in 2001 to

45 per cent in 2009. In Iraq, there was a 25 per cent decrease from 44 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2011, and an increase of 9 per cent in the use of modern means of contraception from 25 per cent in 2000 to 34 per cent in 2011.

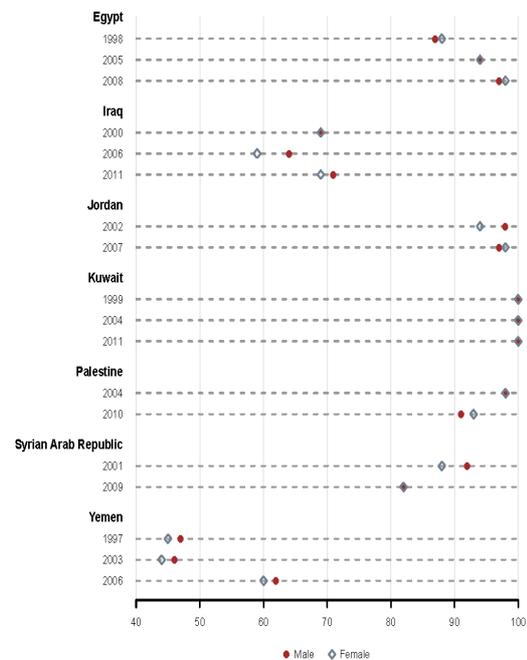
Figure 2.5.5: Per cent of contraceptive use



61 per cent in 2010), followed by Yemen (45 per cent in 2003 and 61 per cent in 2006); the same trend was observed for both boys and girls in Yemen. During the same period, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine showed a decrease in immunization coverage for both boys and girls.

For the latest available year, almost total DPT immunization was reported in the Gulf countries, Egypt and Jordan (rates were between 98 and 100 per cent), followed by Palestine at 92 per cent and the Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, where the rates ranged between 61 and 82 per cent.

Figure 2.5.6: DTP immunization rates by sex. Total provided where sex disaggregation not available



Low DTP immunization rates in the Sudan and Yemen

DTP3 immunization coverage is defined by WHO as the percentage of one-year-olds who have received three doses of the combined Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis vaccine in a given year¹.

Between 2000 and 2010, most of the countries that reported data on DPT immunization showed an increase in coverage. The most notable increase was in the Sudan (42 per cent in 2000 and

Measles immunization rates above 90 per cent in most countries

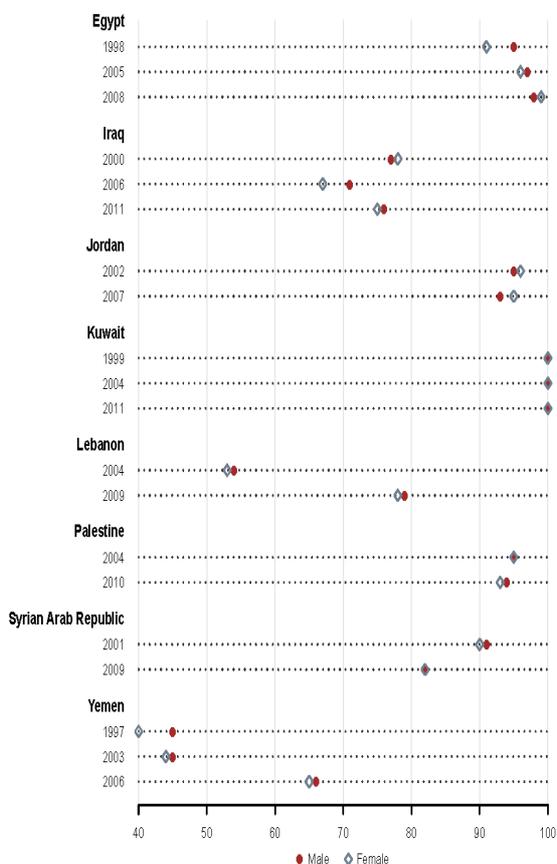
WHO defines measles immunization coverage as “the percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received at least one dose of measles vaccine either any time before the survey or before the age of 12 months”.

Between 2000 and 2010, most countries reported measles immunization rates of over 90 per cent. The exceptions were the Syrian Arab

Republic, Lebanon Iraq, the Sudan, and Yemen, where immunization rates ranged from 65 to 82 per cent.

During the same period, there was an increase in most countries in measles immunization, particularly in Yemen (from 45 to 2003 to 65 in 2006) and in the Sudan (from 52 in 2000 to 70 in 2010). Lebanon reported a decrease from 88 per cent in 2001 to 79 per cent in 2009.

Figure 2.5.7: Measles immunization rates by sex. Total provided where sex disaggregation not available



More men than women smoke

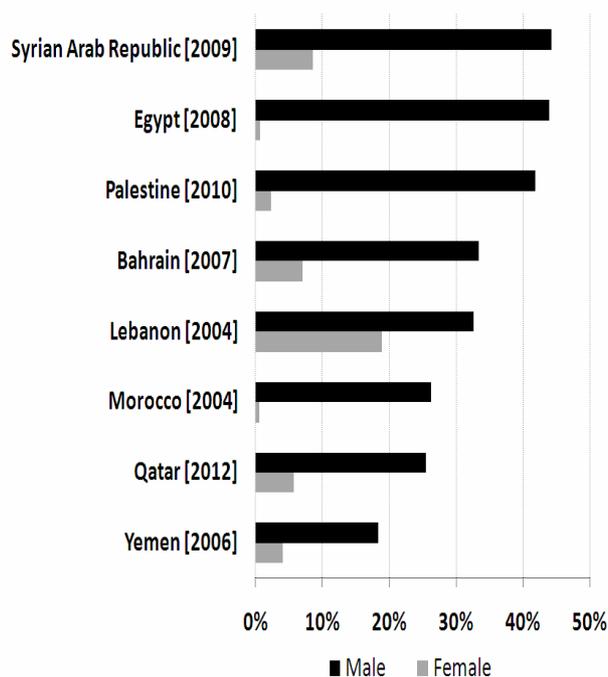
Smoking is a major cause of lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic pulmonary disease and asthma. Research indicates that smoking can reduce life expectancy by seven to eight years.⁴

⁴ [www.nwph.net/nwpho/inequalities/health_wealth_ch20_\(2\).pdf](http://www.nwph.net/nwpho/inequalities/health_wealth_ch20_(2).pdf)

The latest reported national data on smoking status for the total population show that the lowest percentage of population smoking is in Yemen (11 per cent), followed by Bahrain (20 per cent), while the highest percentage of population smoking was in the Syrian Arab Republic (27 per cent) and Lebanon (26 per cent).

Moreover, data reveal a gender difference: more men than women smoke in all the countries with available data. The smallest difference was in Lebanon (33 per cent for men and 19 per cent for women) and the largest difference was in Egypt (44 per cent in men and 1 per cent in women).

Figure 2.5.8: Smoking status by sex, latest available year



More obese women than men in all countries

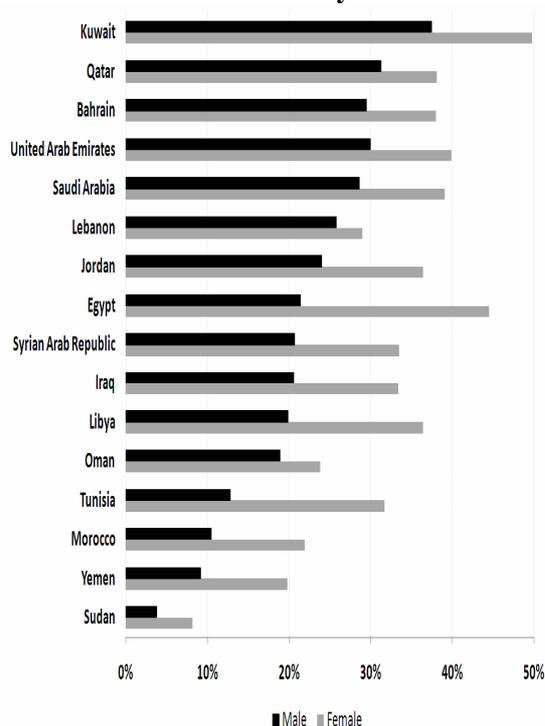
Being overweight can contribute or lead to a range of health conditions, including heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. Obesity is measured using the Body Mass Index (BMI) formula, which is based on an individual's height and weight. A BMI of 25 to 29.9 is considered overweight; a score of 30 or above is considered obese.³

WHO data from 2008 for adults aged more than 20 years show that women tend to be more obese than men. The Sudan and Yemen had the lowest percentages of obesity for both men and women (4.8 per cent and 9.20 per cent,

respectively). Kuwait had the highest rates of obesity for both men (38 per cent) and women (50 per cent).

The biggest difference between women and men was observed in Egypt (45 and 21 per cent, respectively), followed by Tunisia (32 and 13 per cent, respectively). The smallest difference was found in Lebanon (29 per cent for women and 26 per cent for men) and in the Sudan (8 per cent for women and 4 per cent for men).

Figure 2.5.9: Body mass index by sex, latest available year



Gender difference in nutritional status of children

Nutritional status⁵ is a primary determinant of a child's health and well-being; it is assessed by three standard indices of physical growth, which are height-for-age (stunting), weight-for-height (wasting) and weight-for-age (underweight). Stunting children are considered to be too short for their age, perhaps as a result of the failure to receive adequate nutrition over a long period of time or of the effects of recurrent or chronic illness. Wasting, where children are considered too thin for their height, can be indicative of the failure

to receive adequate nutrition. It may be the result of recent episodes of illness or acute food shortages. Underweight children may be underweight for their age because of stunting or wasting, or a combination of both.

National data, where available, showed that the highest percentage of stunted children less than five-years-old was in Yemen (53 per cent), followed by the Sudan (35 per cent). The highest percentage of wasted children was in the Sudan (16 per cent), followed by the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen (12 per cent in each), while the highest percentage of underweight children was in Yemen (46 per cent) and the Sudan (32 per cent). The lowest percentages of stunted children were in Jordan (8 per cent) and Tunisia (9 per cent), while the lowest percentages of wasted children were in Jordan (2 per cent) and Tunisia (3 per cent). The lowest percentages of underweight children were in Jordan (2 per cent) and Tunisia (3 per cent).

For the latest available year, almost all countries showed some gender difference in the three types of nutrition status. For example, boys in Egypt were 4 per cent point more stunted than girls, while in Yemen there was only 1 percentage point difference (52 per cent for boys and 51 per cent for girls).

The highest gender gap for wasting status was 2 per cent in Iraq (9 per cent for boys and 7 per cent for girls). No difference was found in Bahrain, where boys and girls both recorded 5 per cent of wasting status. It is notable that more girls than boys were underweight in Bahrain (14 per cent compared to 9 per cent, respectively). Egypt had the largest gender gap for the reverse trend, with boys two percentage points more underweight than girls at 7 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

⁵ www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FA45/07Chapter07.pdf

Figure 2.5.10: Stunting by sex, latest available year

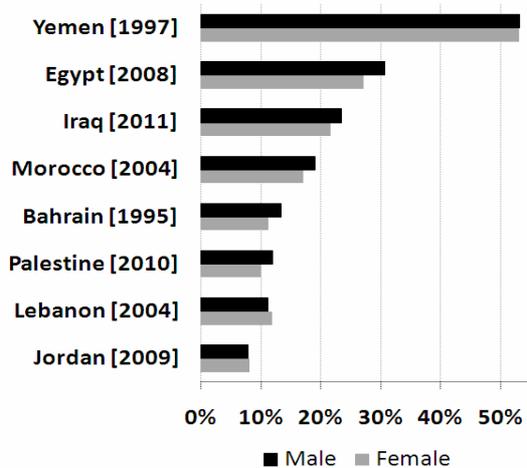


Figure 2.5.11: Wasting by sex, latest available year

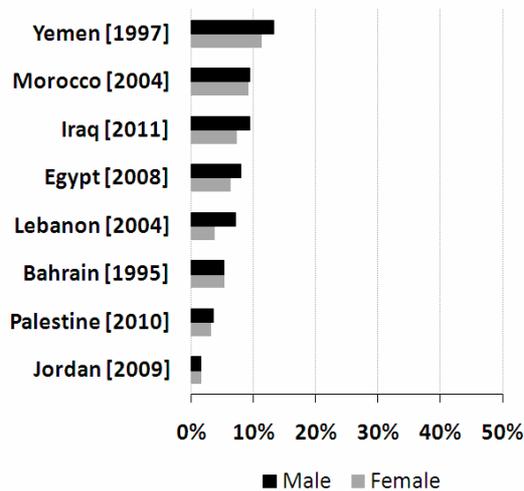
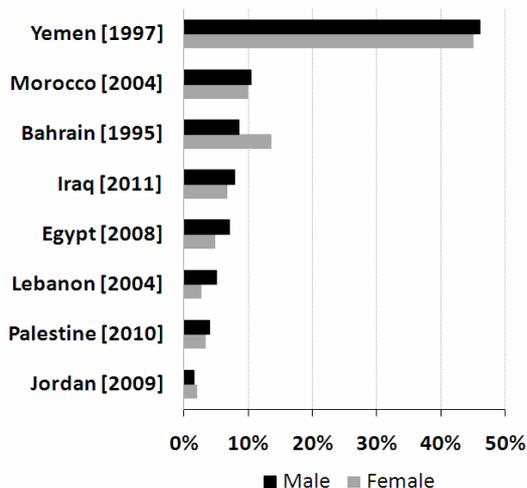


Figure 2.5.12: Underweight by sex, latest available year



Regional variations in spread of infectious diseases

Until relatively recently, there was optimism that the struggle for control over infectious diseases was almost over. But cautious optimism has turned into a fatal complacency that is costing millions of lives every year. Infectious diseases remain the world's leading cause of death, accounting for at least 17 million⁶ deaths each year and one third of annual global mortality.

Such diseases as malaria and tuberculosis are spreading with renewed ferocity.⁷

The latest data reported by the League of Arab States on malaria and tuberculosis under study in this chapter show that Yemen had the highest reported malaria cases per 100,000 population (859), while Palestine had the lowest (0.03). Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon had rates of less than one per 100,000 population.

Data on tuberculosis cases per 100,000 population was highest in Morocco (85) and lowest in The Syrian Arab Republic (0.5) and Palestine (0.8). Oman had also a low rate (3), compared to the other countries with available data.

Disability highest in the Sudan, lowest in Qatar

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) defines disability as an umbrella term for impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions⁸. Disability experience is a complex interaction between the health condition and environmental and personal factors.⁹

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics classifies disability by six major types:¹⁰

- Seeing;
- Hearing;
- Mobility;
- Cognition;

⁶ http://www.biomerieux-diagnostics.com/servlet/srt/bio/clinical-diagnostics/dynPage?node=infectious_diseases_2.

⁷ <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title/dis-cn.htm>.

⁸ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs352/en/>.

⁹ <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442467670>.

¹⁰ http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group/wg_questions.htm.

- Self-care;
- Communication.

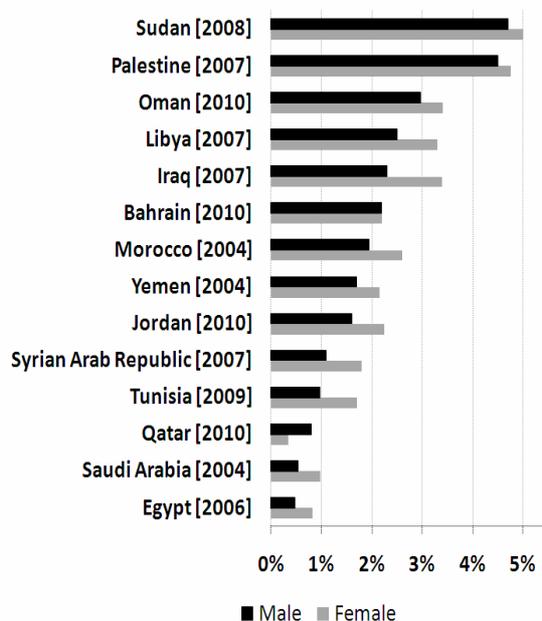
Understanding the numbers and circumstances of people with disabilities can improve efforts to remove disabling barriers and provide services to allow people with disabilities to participate in daily living¹¹.

Latest national data for the Arab region show that the prevalence of disability ranges from 0.4 in Qatar to 4.9 per cent in the Sudan. The data show minimal discrepancies between males and females: disability rates are slightly higher among females, other than in Qatar, where the male rate is 0.8 per cent, while the female rate is 0.3 per cent.

One of the limitations of the reported data on types of disability was that most NSOs do not report types of disabilities present in their respective country, in accordance with either ICF or the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

However, it was noted that the two most prevalent types of disability in almost all member countries were either physical or visual. In fact, physical disabilities were highest in 12 of the 16 countries with data available, while visual disabilities were most prevalent in the remaining four.

Figure 2.5.13: Disability prevalence by sex, latest available year

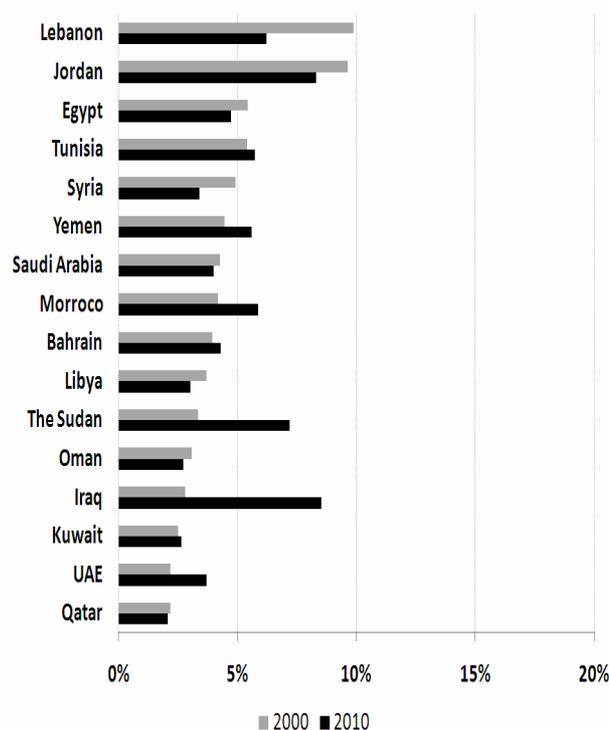


Increase in per capita health expenditure in all countries

Health expenditure¹² is considered as a percentage of GDP, as a share of total government spending and in per capita terms.

Health-care expenditure statistics provide information about the financing of health care in member countries, which is a critical component of health systems. In 2010, WHO reported that expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP ranged from 2.1 per cent in Qatar to 8.5 per cent in Iraq. Jordan (8.3 per cent) and the Sudan (7.2 per cent) also spent relatively large amounts of GDP on health. The lowest proportion of GDP was spent in Qatar, Kuwait and Oman (2.1 per cent, 2.6 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively). Between 2000 and 2010, the highest increase was in Iraq followed by the Sudan, while the largest decreases were in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Figure 2.5.14: Total expenditure on health as per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), 2000 and 2010



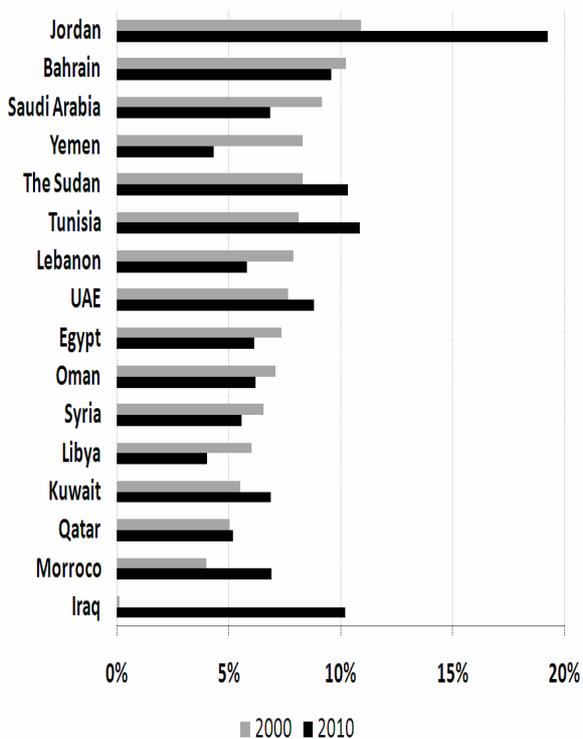
Source: WHO, 2013.

¹¹ www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/chapter_2.pdf.

¹² WHO website (www.who.int).

For 2010, the share of government spending on health ranged from 4 per cent in Libya to 19.3 per cent in Jordan. The Government of Tunisia allocated some 11 per cent of the budget to health. Expenditure in Gulf States ranged between 5 and 10 per cent. The biggest increase in government spending on health since 2000 was in Iraq and Jordan, where spending increased from 0.1 per cent in 2000 to 10.2 per cent in 2010 and from 10.9 per cent in 2000 to 19.3 per cent in 2010, respectively. The biggest decrease was in Yemen, where spending dropped from 8.3 per cent in 2000 to 4.3 per cent in 2010.

Figure 2.5.15: Expenditure on health as percentage of total government expenditure, 2000 and 2010

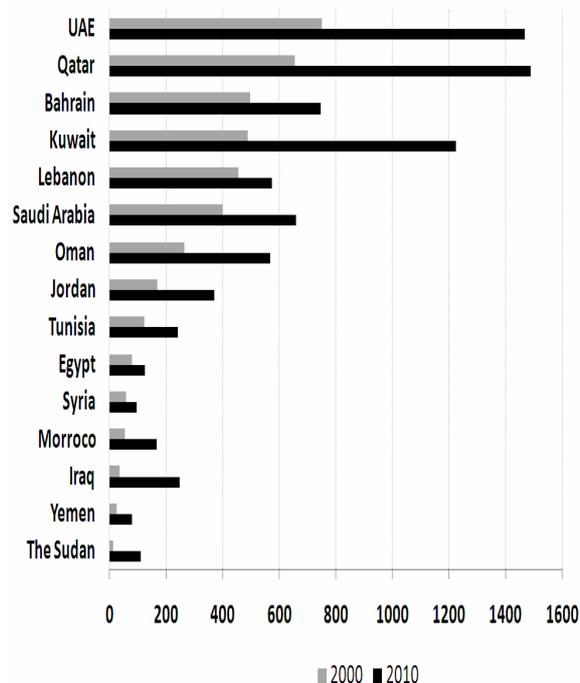


Source: WHO, 2013.

Per capita health expenditure is an important indicator to consider, given that it reflects the financial resources available for each person, independent of the country's economic standing. Between 2000 and 2010, all ESCWA member countries increased their per capita expenditures on health. Figures are recorded in United States dollars, at the average exchange rate. The most noticeable increases were in Qatar, followed by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, while the

smallest increases were in the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt and Yemen.

Figure 2.5.16: Total per capita expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US\$), 2000 and 2010



Source: WHO, 2013.

Many factors, such as the environment and personal circumstances, affect the health of individuals and communities. Some factors to be considered are health care personnel and institutions.

Differences in the density of physicians in the countries

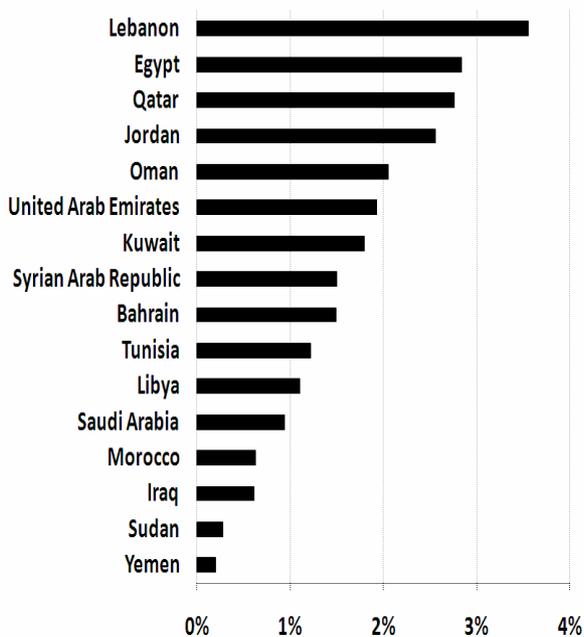
Health human resources, also known as “human resources for health” or “health workforce”, is defined as “all people engaged in actions whose primary intent is to enhance health”¹³ and to protect and improve the health of their communities. They include physicians, nurses and midwives.

Lebanon had the highest rate of physicians per 1,000 population (3.6). In Oman, Egypt, Jordan and Qatar, the rate was between two and less than

¹³ World Health Organization's World Health Report 2006.

three, respectively, while in six countries (Libya, Tunisia, Bahrain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates) the rate was between one and less than two. The countries reporting the lowest rate were Yemen, the Sudan, Iraq, Morocco and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

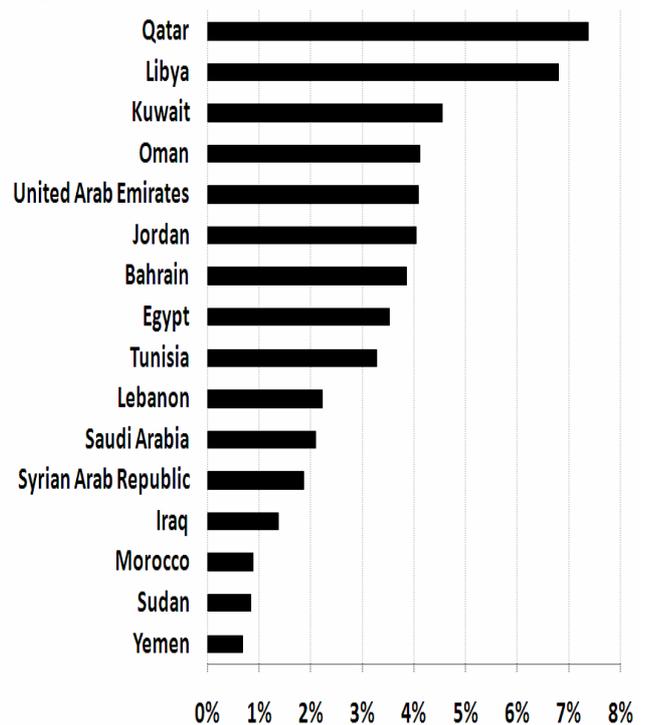
Figure 2.5.17: Physicians density (per 1,000 population), latest available year



Regional difference in the density of nurses and midwives

Qatar had the highest numbers of nurses and midwives per 1,000 population (7.4), followed by Libya (6.8). Four (Jordan Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait) countries had rates between four and five, while Egypt and Bahrain had rates of 3.5 and 3.9, respectively. The remaining countries with available data had rates between 0.7 and 2.7.

Figure 2.5.18: Nurses and midwifery density (per 1,000 population), latest available year



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With nearly half of the population of the least developed countries of the region living in poverty, effective poverty reduction strategies are a priority for many ESCWA countries. Poverty is also a public policy concern in virtually all middle income countries.

The aim of this section is to provide a snapshot of living standards in member countries, using data provided by national statistical offices and the World Bank. Recent data on poverty and inequality using the GINI index and income/consumption share held by the highest and lowest 20 per cent of the population are described. The analysis is based on the national poverty line rather than such international poverty lines as the World Bank \$1 or \$2 a day line. Such lines are typically not adjusted for cost of living or demographic characteristics of households, and may pose problems in comparability across countries.

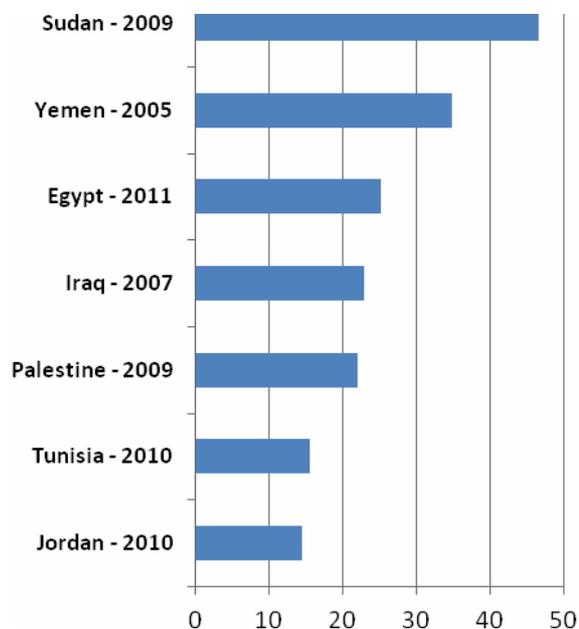
In this chapter, the phrase ‘latest year available’ refers to the latest year for which data are provided for a particular indicator and a particular country. For the GINI index, data for the latest two available years are provided. Data are available for 10 Arab countries, namely Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, The Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, Tunisia, Palestine and Yemen.

Poverty highest in the Sudan, lowest in Jordan

Poverty rates in the Arab region are far lower than in such other regions as South Asia or sub-Saharan Africa. The least developed countries in the Arab region nevertheless witnessed increased proportions of their populations living below the poverty line over the last decade and some, like Yemen and the Sudan, are among the poorest countries in the world.

According to data from the latest available year, Jordan had the lowest percentage of population living below the national poverty line at 14.4 per cent in 2010. It was followed by Tunisia at 15.5 per cent in 2010. In contrast, the Sudan and Yemen had the highest proportions of people living below the national poverty line, at 46.5 per cent in 2009 and 34.8 per cent in 2005, respectively.

Figure 2.6.1: Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (per cent of population)



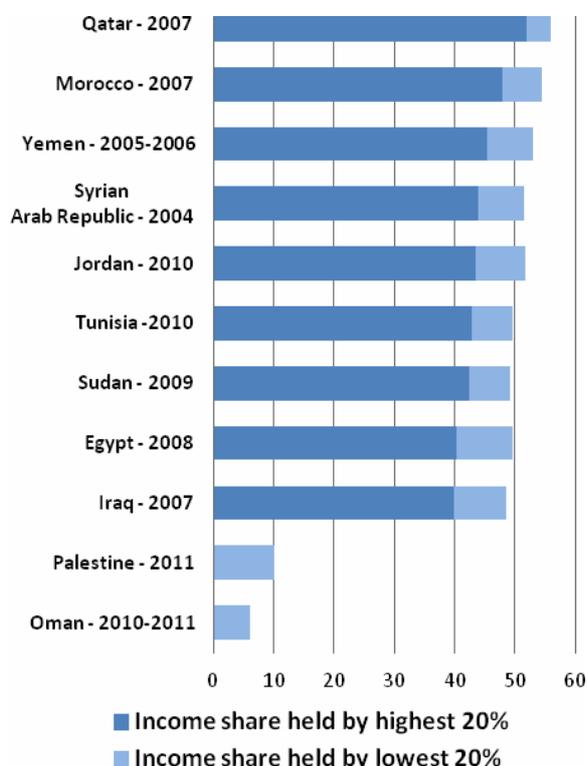
Source: The World Bank, 2013.

Note: The Data Value of Jordan is provided by the NSO.

The poorest 20 per cent of the population had highest share of expenditure in Palestine, lowest in Qatar

The data for the latest available year show that the richest 20 per cent of the population in selected Arab countries accounted for over 40 per cent of total consumption, while the poorest 20 per cent consumed less than 10 per cent. In 2007, the highest total working population's income or consumption by the richest 20 per cent of the population was recorded for Morocco, while the lowest was in Iraq. The highest share of income attributed to the poorest 20 per cent of the population was noted in Palestine in 2011, while the lowest share was in Qatar in 2007. Figure 2.6.2 compares the share of total income earned by the poorest 20 per cent with the richest 20 per cent income groups.

Figure 2.6.2: Income share held by highest and lowest 20 per cent



Source: The World Bank, 2013.

Note: The Data Value of Jordan for the income share held by lowest 20% is provided by the NSO.

Inequality highest in Tunisia, lowest in Egypt

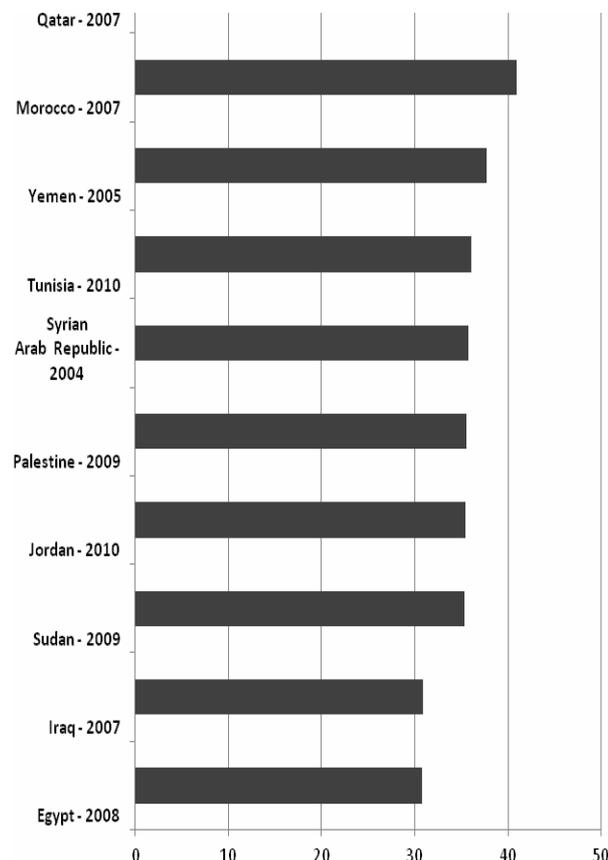
The GINI index is a measure of the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.

When comparing inequality of income or consumption expenditure, it can be concluded that between 2001 and 2010, the most unequal society was Qatar at 41.1 per cent, followed by Morocco at 40.88 per cent for the GINI index in 2007. The most equal society among the countries that provided data was Egypt 30.7 per cent in 2008 and Iraq at 30.8 in 2007.

Figure 2.6.2 shows trends in inequality as measured by changes in the GINI index for the latest two available years. Tunisia experienced the

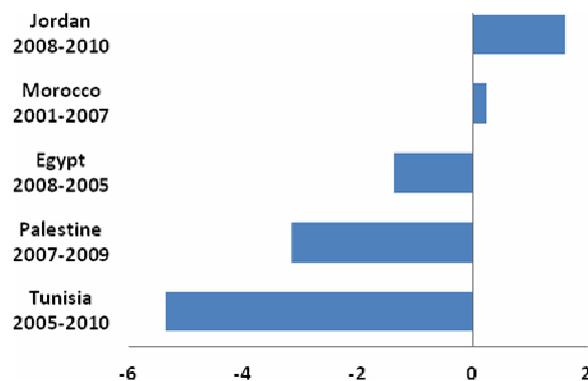
greatest increase in inequality, with the GINI index increasing by 5.36 per cent from 2005 to 2010. Morocco experienced the least change in inequality, with the index decreasing by 0.25 per cent between 2001 and 2007.

Figure 2.6.3: GINI index, latest year available



Source: The World Bank, 2013.

Figure 2.6.4: GINI index, difference between two latest years available



Source: The World Bank, 2013.

Culture

A country's art, history, heritage, music, folklore, food, values and religions all fall under the umbrella of culture. The ESCWA region is home to rich and varied cultures. An in-depth analysis of culture in the region is beyond the scope of this chapter, but it will touch upon a few cultural indicators relevant to the discussion.

A measure of culture will be assessed by investigating the quantity of traffic to museums in recent years. The chapter will also briefly discuss one aspect of more contemporary culture, namely Internet usage. Data on cultural consumption, including participation in the arts at the population level, are lacking for most countries in the region.

Egypt has the greatest number of museums, Palestine the most per capita

Museums keep history alive. They offer visitors a unique and interactive experience, and provide them with an unrivalled wealth of information. Museums also play an important role in local economies by attracting tourists and providing employment for residents.

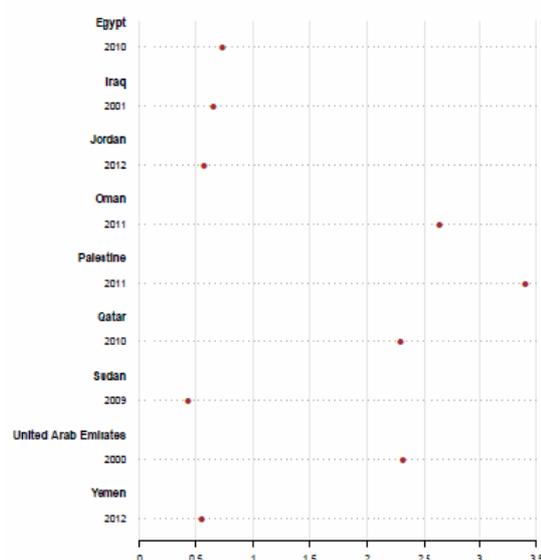
Figure 2.7.1: Number of museums and visitors to museums (visitors are in thousands)

Country	Year	Museums	Visitors
	2010	57	..
Egypt	2010/2011	..	1575
Iraq	2001	16	..
	2000	4	241
	2005	4	354
	2010	4	632
Jordan	2011	4	407
	2012	4	375
	2000	8	110
	2005	8	92
	2010	9	119
Oman	2011	8	108
	2000	10	118
	2005	5	6
Palestine	2011	14	45
	1999	5	57
	2005	5	15
Qatar	2010	4	203
	2006	17	..
Sudan	2009	15	..
United Arab Emirates	2000	7	..
	2005	11	32
	2010	13	193
	2011	13	72
Yemen	2012	13	137

In Palestine, the number of museums has increased in recent years. Decreases were reported in the Sudan, Oman and Qatar. Figures for Jordan and Yemen remained the same.

Egypt had 57 museums in 2010, by far the greatest number of any ESCWA member country. This is perhaps unsurprising, given that Egypt is the most populous Arab country. It is also useful, then, to consider the number of museums scaled by the populations of countries.

Figure 2.7.2: Number of museums per million residents



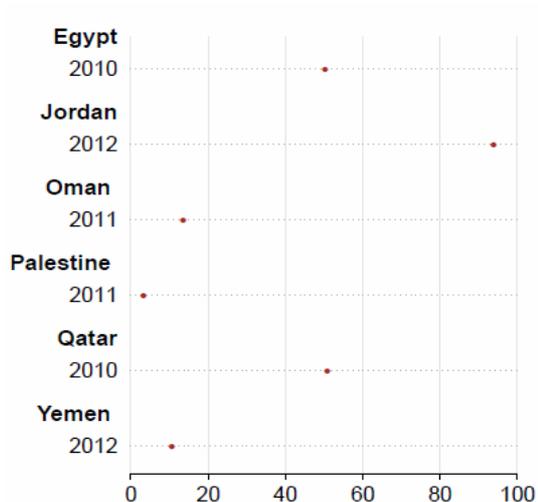
Palestine had the greatest number of museums per capita, reporting 3.4 museums per million residents in 2011. The smallest number reported was 0.4 museums per million residents in the Sudan in 2009.

Highest traffic per museum in Jordan

Egypt eclipsed all other countries in the total number of visitors to museums in 2010/2011, but this figure should once again take into account Egypt's greater size. Another way to look at visitor traffic is to scale it by the number of museums in each country. By this measure, the average number of visitors per museum is highest in Jordan and has increased notably over the past decade, rising from 88.5 in 2005 to 93.75 in 2012. Note that average traffic per museum figures were only provided

when visitor and museum counts were available for the same year.

Figure 2.7.3: Average number of visitors per museum (in thousands)

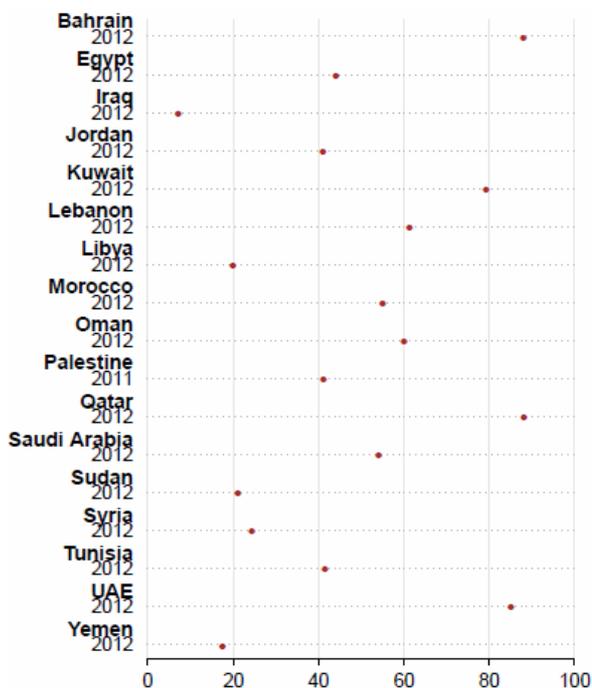


Dramatic increase in Internet use

The Internet has become a major part of modern culture in the ESCWA region. Use of the Internet increased sharply between 2005 and 2012. Some countries, such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, experienced an almost tenfold increase in Internet usage.

In 2012, usage rates of over 50 per cent were found in eight out of the 17 member countries, four of which had usage rates of 80 per cent and over.

Figure 2.7.4: Internet users per 100 inhabitants in 2012



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Arab Society: A Compendium of Social Statistics is the latest in a series of biennial compendiums of the Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Drawing on data provided mainly by national statistical offices, it focuses on issues of population, employment, housing conditions, education, health and culture. The eleventh issue of the *Compendium* pays special attention to education in ESCWA member countries. It presents education profiles for 14 of the 17 ESCWA member countries.

Not all available indicators are displayed in the body of this publication. A more exhaustive set of tables can be found on the ESCWA website. The eleventh issue is intended not only as a reference for policymakers and other officials, but also as a snapshot of trends for readers with an interest in the social climate of the Arab region, including academics, students, journalists and the general public.



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