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THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES



New York, 2013

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Introduction

Demographic trends vary greatly between countries within the Arab region,¹ whose population, in 2012, reached a total of 363.3 million. While some countries, such as Egypt, are highly populated, others, such as Comoros, Bahrain and Qatar, have very small populations. Variations in population size and growth rates are a direct consequence of the interplay between mortality and fertility as well as migration. The levels of mortality and fertility vary tremendously between the countries of the region. Low levels of fertility lead to slow population growth and, in such countries as Lebanon and Tunisia, which are already hitting replacement level fertility, to an average annual growth rate for the period 1980-2012 of 1.8 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively; whereas high levels of fertility in such countries as Palestine, Mauritania and Iraq drive high population growth, with annual growth rates standing at an average of 3.2 per cent, 2.8 per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively, for the period 1980-2012. Moreover, the high level of inflows of labour migrants is responsible for the high population growth rates in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in particular, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, with an annual growth rate of 6.9 per cent for the period 1980-2012. Variations also exist between countries of the region in terms of population distribution. While most countries are urbanized, the majority of the population in such countries as the Sudan and Yemen live in rural areas. The age structure of the population also differs between countries in the region: most countries still find themselves in the early stages of demographic transition having youthful populations, while Lebanon and Tunisia are more advanced in this process, with a more pronounced ageing phenomenon.

This paper will examine the trends and levels of key demographic indicators for the Arab region, namely population size, growth rate, distribution, fertility and mortality levels, age structure and international migration. In doing so, the paper will mainly build on data from the World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, as well as other United Nations databases as relevant. The main purpose of the paper is to present policymakers and researchers with a regional reference for selected demographic indicators and their key implications for development.

I. POPULATION SIZE

In 1980, the size of the Arab population was estimated at 167.2 million; over the past three decades, it has more than doubled and, in 2012, reached 363.3 million (see table 1). Parallel thereto, its share in the world population increased from 3.8 to 5.1 per cent for the same period.² Projections show that the population of the Arab region will reach 604 million by 2050 (or 6.3 per cent of the global population), increasing by two-thirds (or 240.7 million) compared to 2012.

Large variations exist, however, in terms of population size between the countries of the region, with Egypt's population of 80.7 million alone making up 22.2 per cent of the population of the region in 2012, followed by Algeria (38.5 million or 10.6 per cent), the Sudan (37.2 million or 10.2 per cent), Iraq (32.8 million or 9.0 per cent), Morocco (32.5 million or 9.0 per cent), Saudi Arabia (28.3 million or 7.8 per cent), Yemen (23.9 million or 6.6 per cent) and the Syrian Arab Republic (21.9 million or 6.0 per cent). These eight countries together make up 81.4 per cent of the region's population, with the first four countries alone contributing 52.0 per cent. The remaining 14 countries constitute 18.6 per cent of the population of the Arab region, with the least populous country being Comoros (718,000 or 0.20 per cent), followed by Djibouti (860,000 or 0.24 per cent), Bahrain (1.3 million or 0.36 per cent), Qatar (2.1 million or 0.56 per cent), Kuwait (3.3 million or 0.89 per cent), Oman (3.3 million or 0.91 per cent) and Mauritania (3.8 million or 1.4 per cent). Projections show that the population of six countries in the region will more than double between

¹ The twenty-two countries within the Arab region are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

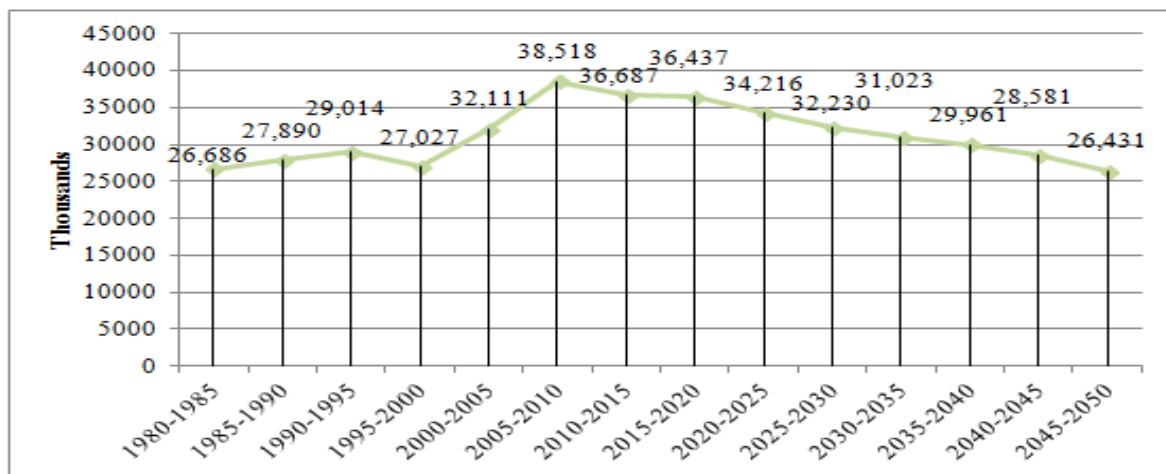
² ESCWA calculations based on data provided in the World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision.

2012 and 2050. These countries are Comoros, Iraq, Mauritania, Somalia, Palestine and the Sudan. However, by 2050, Egypt will still be the most populated country in the region with an estimated 121.8 million inhabitants.

II. POPULATION GROWTH

Over the past three decades, the population of the Arab region grew at an average annual rate of 2.4 per cent compared to a global average rate of 1.5 per cent (see table 1). However, this growth rate is expected to slow down to 1.7 per cent for the period 2012-2025, largely due to declining fertility levels. Yet, it will still remain above the global average, which is expected to stand at 1.0 per cent for that period. Despite the decreasing population growth rates, large increments will continue to be added to the population for some time ahead owing to the population momentum (see figure I).³

Figure I. Population increments

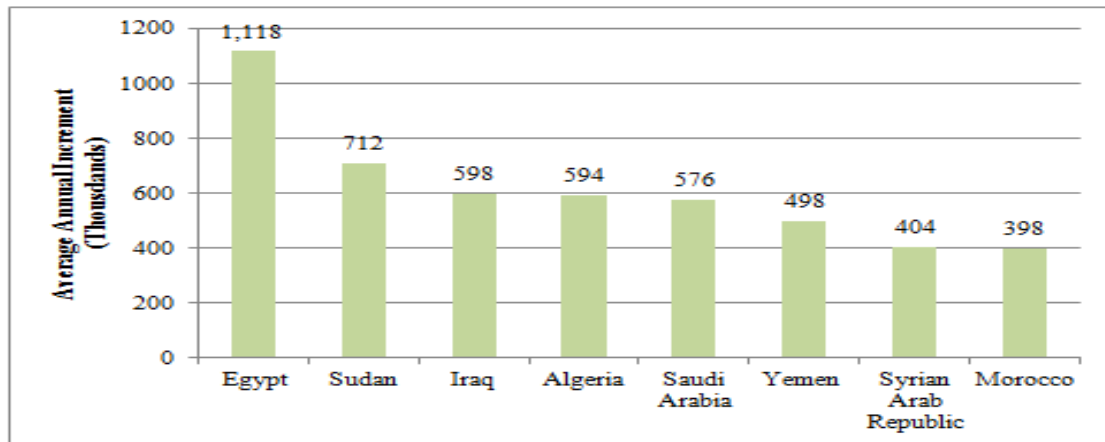


Source: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), based on UN-DESA, 2012.

The annual population growth rate for the Arab region masks vast regional variations. In the period 1980-2012, the average annual growth rate was most pronounced in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, where it stood at 6.9 per cent, Bahrain (4.1 per cent), Jordan and Yemen (3.5 per cent), and Oman and Saudi Arabia (3.3 per cent). The high population growth rate in the countries of the Gulf subregion is mostly due to the high labour migration to those countries. Migration was also responsible for driving much of the population growth in Jordan, notably through the forced return of labour migrants from the GCC countries as a result of the first Gulf War, and the forced migration of Iraqis and, most recently, Syrians as a result of the unrest in their home countries. The average annual growth rate was lowest in Morocco and Somalia (1.6 per cent), Tunisia (1.7 per cent), Egypt and Lebanon (1.8 per cent), and Algeria and Libya (2.1 per cent). Over the mentioned period, the population in the region increased by a total of 196 million people. This is equivalent to an additional 6.1 million persons per year, with Egypt alone contributing 1.1 million persons (or 18.2 per cent) to this annual increment. Figure II below presents the countries that mainly contributed to the population growth in the region for the period 1980-2012.

³ Population momentum is “the tendency for population growth to continue beyond the time that replacement-level fertility has been achieved because of the relatively high concentration of people in the childbearing years” (Population Reference Bureau, Glossary of Demographic Terms, available from: <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Lesson-Plans/Glossary.aspx>).

Figure II. Top contributors to population increase in the Arab region (1980-2012)

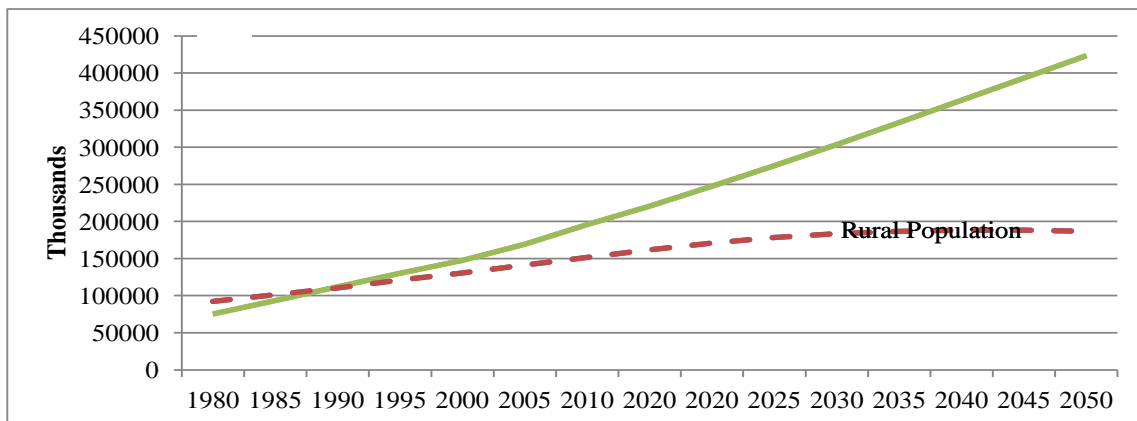


Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

III. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

The percentage of urban population for the Arab region was estimated at 56.4 per cent in 2010 compared to a regional average of 44.9 per cent in 1980, which exceeds the world average of 51.6 per cent for 2010 (see table 2). The number of urban dwellers in the Arab region more than doubled over the past three decades rising from 75.4 million urban dwellers in 1980 to 195.9 million in 2010. The average growth rate for the period stood at 3.2 per cent per year and is projected to decline to 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent for the periods 2010-2025 and 2025-2050, respectively. Nonetheless, the urban population is expected to increase by 227.5 million persons over the next 40 years, rising from 195.9 million to 423.4 million (see figure III). By 2050, more than two-thirds of the region's population are projected to be urban.

Figure III. Urban and rural population of the Arab region (1980-2050)



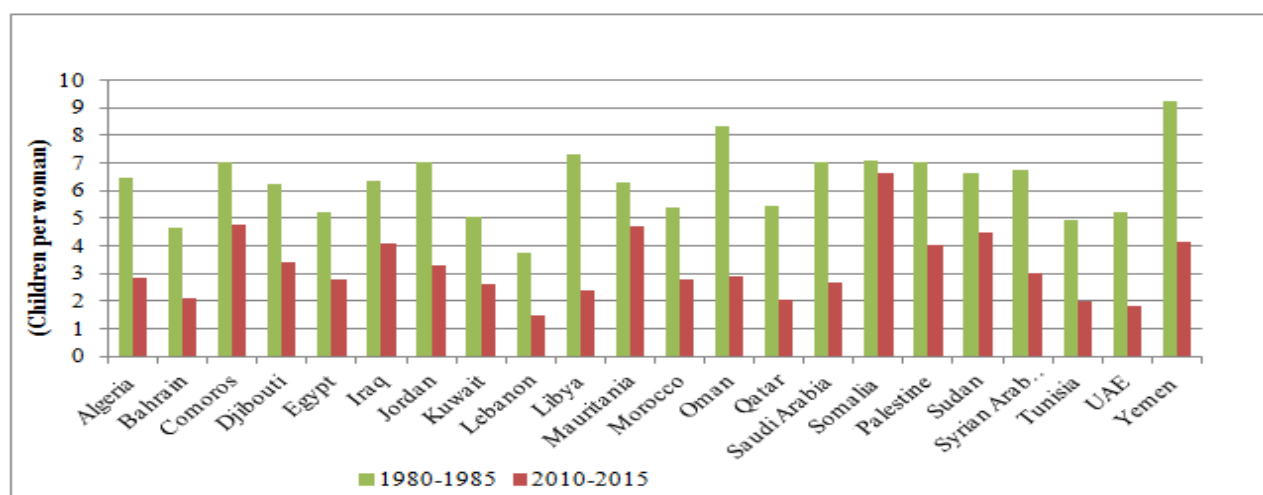
Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2011.

The most urbanized countries in the Arab region include Qatar (98.7 per cent), Kuwait (98.2 per cent), Bahrain (88.6 per cent), Lebanon (87.1 per cent), United Arab Emirates (84.0 per cent) and Jordan (82.5 per cent). At the other end of the spectrum are Comoros (28.0 per cent), Yemen (31.7 per cent), the Sudan (33.1 per cent), Somalia (37.3 per cent), Mauritania (41.2 per cent) and Egypt (43.4 per cent), with the larger share of their population living in rural areas. By 2050, all countries of the region, except for Comoros (40.1 per cent), are expected to have more than half of their populations living in urban areas.

IV. FERTILITY LEVELS AND TRENDS

The unweighted average number of children per woman for the region has declined remarkably since 1980, decreasing from 6.3 children per woman in the period 1980-1985 to 3.2 children per woman in the period 2010-2015,⁴ which is still above the world average of 2.5 children per woman (see table 3a). Major factors contributing to this decline include better educational attainment and higher participation in the workforce for women, both of which, *inter alia*, contribute to changing the ideal number of children and delaying the age of marriage and family formation. Variations in the decline in fertility levels between countries of the region are presented in figure IV below. During 2010-2015, fertility is expected to remain above four children per woman in seven of the twenty-two countries of the region, namely, Palestine (4.05 children per woman), Iraq (4.06 children per woman), Yemen (4.15 children per woman), the Sudan (4.46 children per woman), Mauritania (4.70 children per woman), Comoros (4.74 children per woman) and Somalia, with the highest fertility rate of 6.61 children per woman. Lebanon, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates are expected to reach the below replacement level during 2010-2015, and Bahrain and Qatar will reach replacement level fertility during the same period (see table 3b). Projections show that the Arab region as a whole will reach the replacement level by 2050.

Figure IV. Total fertility in the Arab region (1980-2015)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

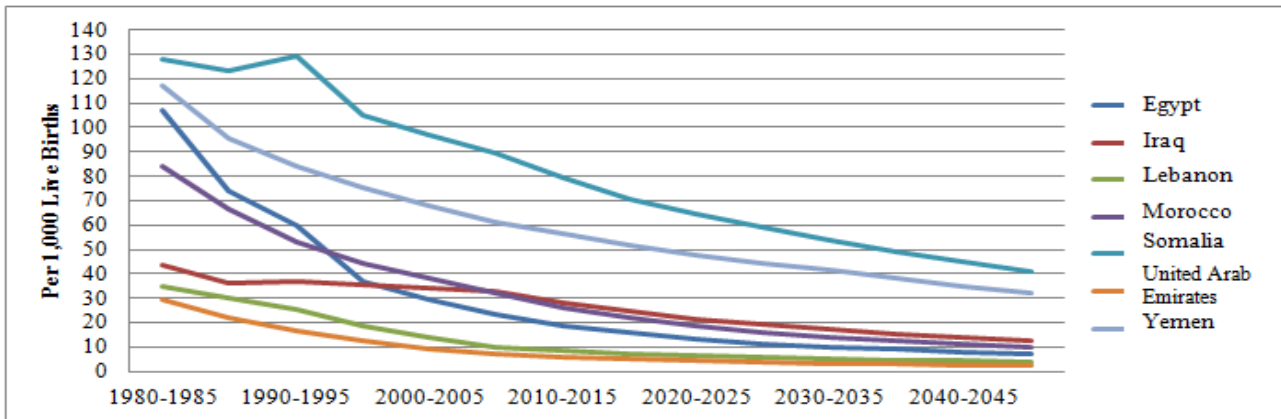
V. MORTALITY LEVELS AND TRENDS

A widely used indicator of the level of national health, which is a crucial element for national economic and social development, is the infant mortality rate (IMR). The IMR for Arab countries has improved remarkably over the past three decades, dropping in all countries of the region compared to 1980 levels (see table 4a). The largest absolute reductions for the period 1980-2015 have been realized in Egypt, where the IMR has dropped from 106.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births to 18.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, followed by Yemen (from 117.0 to 56.2 per 1,000), Morocco (from 83.9 to 26.3 per 1,000), Oman (from 59.4 to 7.3 per 1,000), Tunisia (from 65.8 to 15.5 per 1,000) and Algeria (from 75.4 to 26.4 per 1,000). Despite this progress, six countries in the region are projected to have an IMR that is higher than the world average of 36.8 per 1,000 live births for the period 2010-2015. These are Somalia (79.5 per 1,000), Mauritania (71.7 per 1,000), Comoros (67.2 per 1,000), Yemen (56.2 per 1,000), Djibouti (55.3 per 1,000) and the Sudan (55.0 per 1,000). This situation is expected to continue up to the period 2045-2050. At the other end of the spectrum, meanwhile, IMRs in the countries of the GCC (United Arab Emirates with 5.7 per 1,000; Qatar with 6.5 per 1,000; Bahrain with 6.9 per 1,000; Oman with 7.3 per 1,000; Kuwait with 8.6

⁴ ESCWA calculations based on data provided in UN-DESA, 2012.

per 1,000; and Saudi Arabia with 11.2 per 1,000) and Lebanon (8.3 per 1,000) are the lowest in the region. However, these rates are still higher than the IMR for developed countries of 5.6 per 1,000 live births.⁵ Figure V below shows the trend in IMR reductions for selected Arab countries for the period 1980-2050.

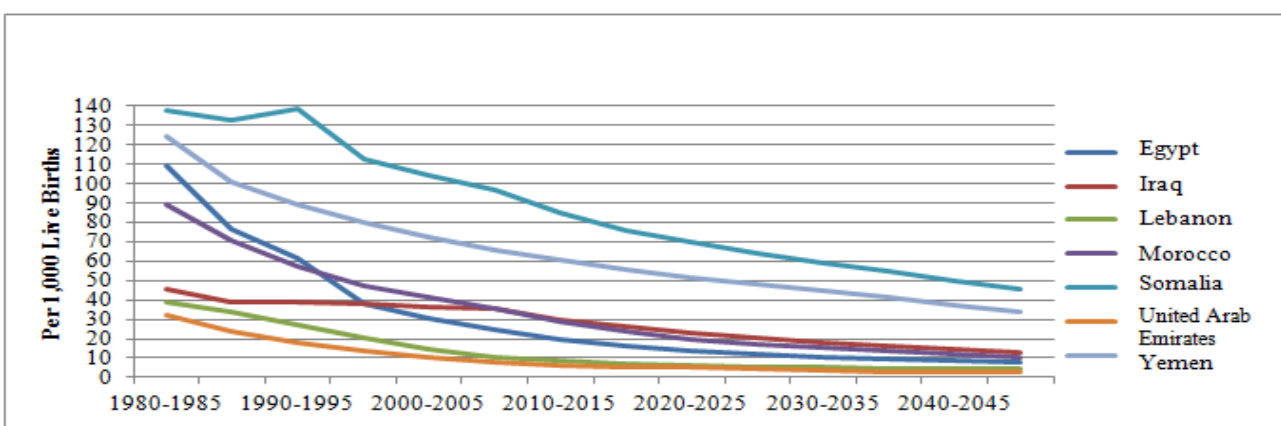
Figure V. Infant mortality rates in selected Arab countries (1980-2050)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

It is important to note that the IMR is typically higher among infant males than it is among infant females, and that this trend subsists despite IMR improvements. However, the gap between the mortality rates for infant males and females is narrowing down (see table 4a). For instance, the IMRs for infant males and females for the period 1980-1985 were 137.4 and 117.8 per 1,000 in Somalia, 124.4 and 109.1 per 1,000 in Yemen, 109.1 and 104.5 per 1,000 in Egypt, 88.8 and 78.7 per 1,000 in Morocco, 46.0 and 40.4 per 1,000 in Iraq, 38.8 and 31.0 per 1,000 in Lebanon, and 32.5 and 26.4 per 1,000 in the United Arab Emirates, respectively. For the period 2010-2015, the IMRs for infant males and females in the mentioned countries are expected to drop to 85.0 and 73.8 per 1,000 in Somalia, 60.4 and 51.7 per 1,000 in Yemen, 29.7 and 26.5 per 1,000 in Iraq, 28.6 and 23.8 per 1,000 in Morocco, 19.8 and 18.0 per 1,000 in Egypt, 8.6 and 8.1 per 1,000 in Lebanon, and 6.5 and 4.9 per 1,000 in the United Arab Emirates, respectively. Trends in IMRs for infant males and females for the period 1980-2050 are shown in figures Va and Vb below.

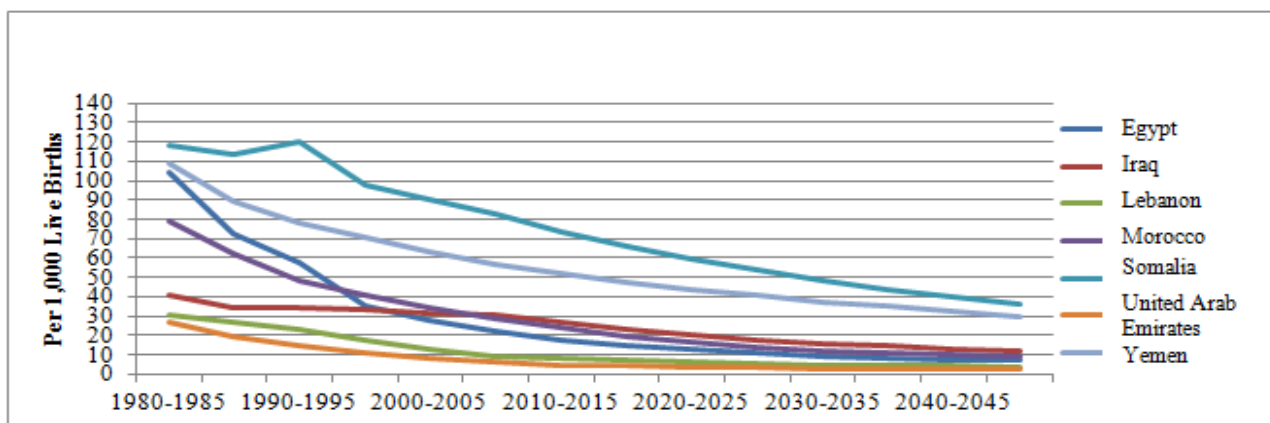
Figure Va. Male infant mortality rates in selected Arab countries (1980-2050)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

⁵ UN-DESA, 2012.

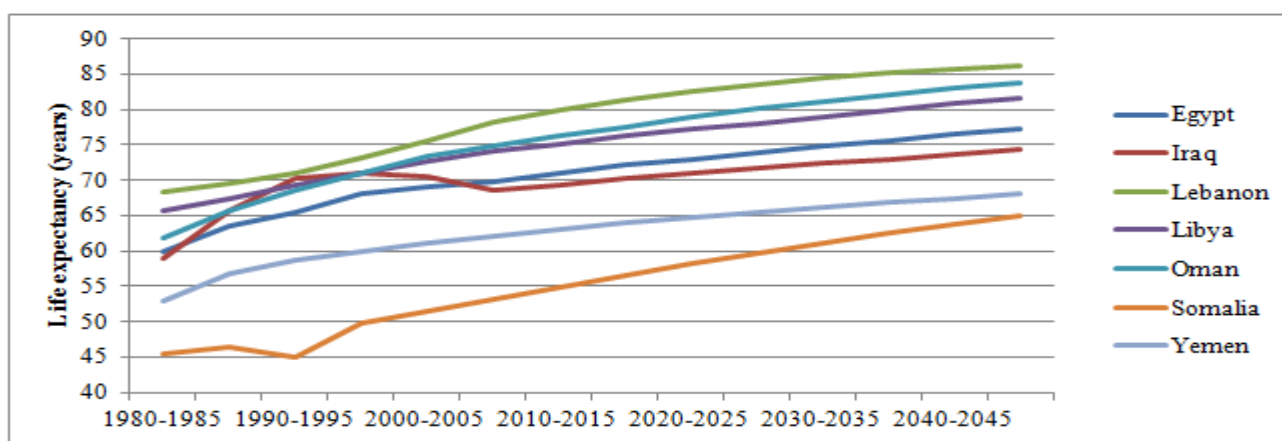
Figure Vb. Female infant mortality rates in selected Arab countries (1980-2050)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

Life expectancy at birth has increased considerably for both males and females in all countries in the region, though at varying degrees, during 1980-2015; this trend is expected to continue until 2045-2050 (see table 4b). Between 1980 and 2015, life expectancy at birth is foreseen to increase by 14.5 years in Oman, by 11.5 years in Tunisia, 11.4 years in Lebanon, 11.2 years in Egypt and in Morocco, 10.5 years in Saudi Arabia, 10.4 years in Iraq and 10 years in Yemen. Projections show that Lebanon will have the highest life expectancy at birth for the period 2010-2015, standing at 79.8 years, followed by Qatar (78.3 years), United Arab Emirates (76.7 years), Bahrain (76.5 years), Oman (76.4 years) and Tunisia (75.8 years). However, despite gains in life expectancy, seven Arab countries are not expected to reach the target of 70 years for life expectancy at birth set by the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development for 2015. Those countries are Iraq (69.4 years), Yemen (63.0 years), the Sudan (61.9 years), Djibouti (61.6 years), Mauritania (61.5 years), Comoros (60.8 years) and Somalia (54.9 years). Gains in life expectancy for selected Arab countries for the period 1980-2050 are presented in figure VI below.

Figure VI. Life expectancy in selected Arab countries (1980-2050)

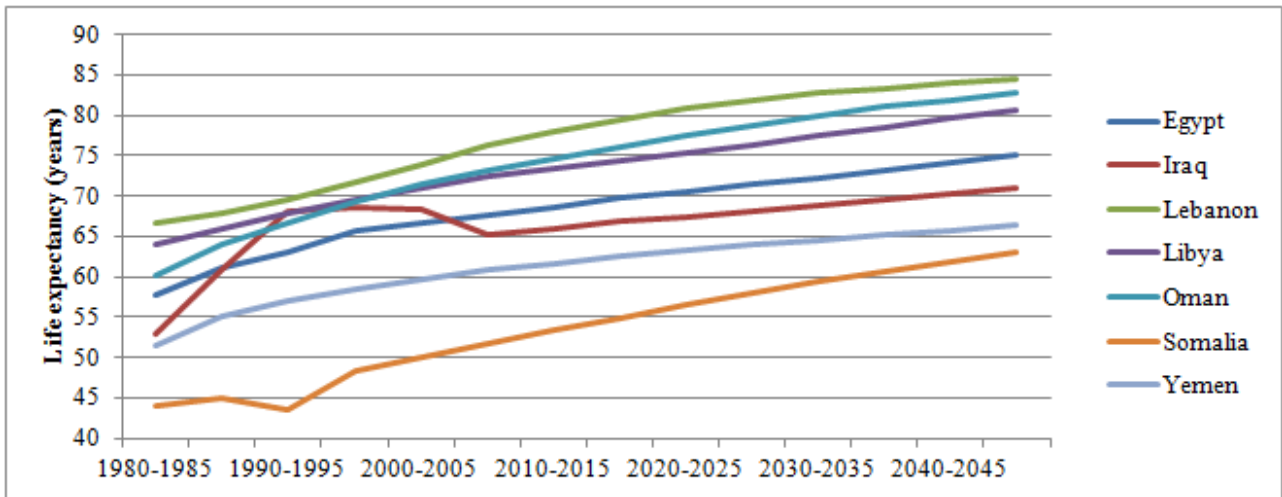


Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

Further examination of male and female life expectancy at birth reveals that women tend to have a higher life expectancy than men (see table 4b). For instance, life expectancy for men and women for the period 1980-1985 was 66.7 years and 70.1 years, respectively, in Lebanon, 63.9 and 67.5 years in Libya, 60.2 and 63.7 years in Oman, 57.7 and 62.2 years in Egypt, 53.0 and 66.3 years in Iraq, and 44.0 and 47.1 years in Somalia. Life expectancy for men and women for the period 2010-2015 is expected to increase to

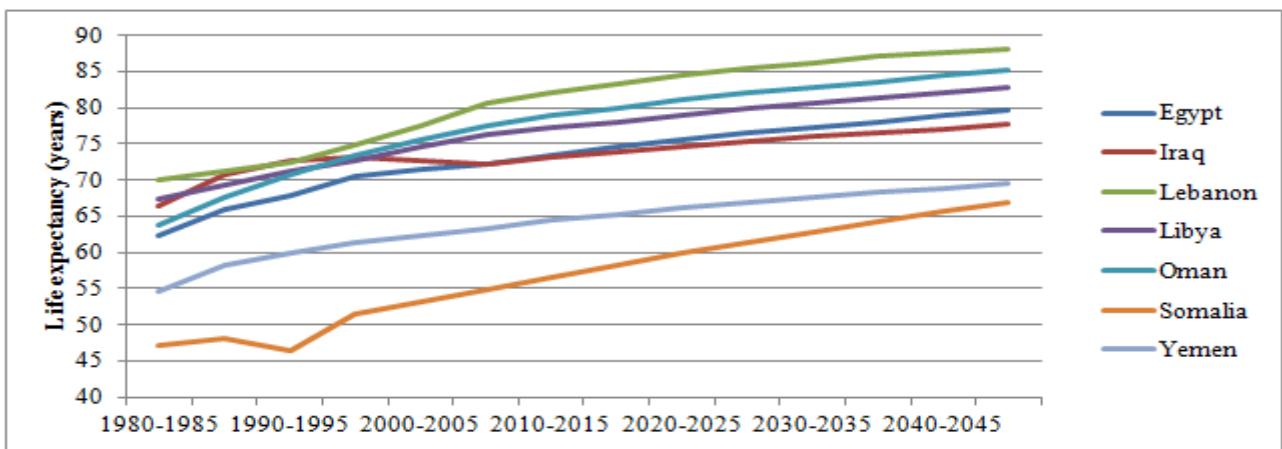
reach 77.9 and 82.1 years in Lebanon, 74.7 and 78.9 years in Oman, 73.4 and 77.2 years in Libya, 68.7 and 73.5 years in Egypt, 66.0 and 73.1 years in Iraq, and 53.3 and 56.5 years in Somalia. Life expectancy trends for males and females in selected Arab countries for the period 1980-2050 are shown in figures VIa and VIb below.

Figure VIa. Male life expectancy in selected Arab countries (1980-2050)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

Figure VIb. Female life expectancy in selected Arab countries (1980-2050)

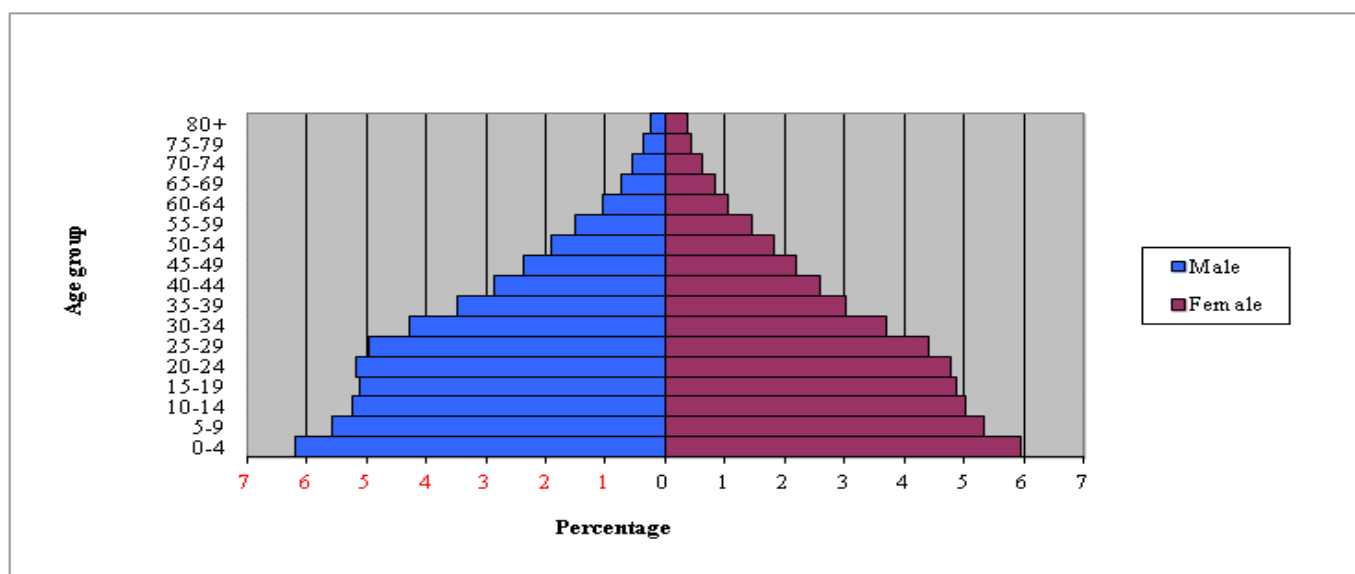


Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

VI. POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE

The Arab region has a fairly young age structure with about one-third of its population in the 0-14 age bracket and roughly one-fifth in the 15-24 age bracket (see table 5). Looking at the population pyramid for the region for the year 2010 reveals the effects of the fertility transition in the pyramid's base, which represents recent fertility and is narrowing, while the central section, which represents historical fertility, is slightly bulging (see figure VII). In the top section of the pyramid, a higher proportion of females for the age group 65 and above can be noted as a result of the higher life expectancy at birth for women.

Figure VII. Population pyramid, Arab region (2010)



Source: ESCWA, based on the Population Division of UN-DESA, 2012.

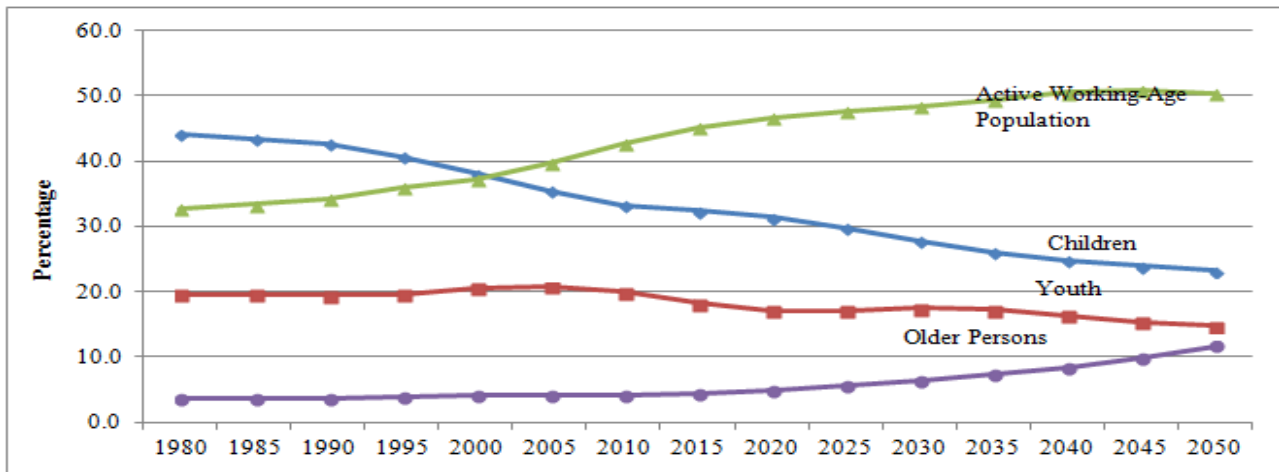
The population of the region for the children age group (0-14 years) has increased in absolute numbers from 73.8 million in 1980 to 116.0 million in 2010. Nevertheless, their proportion declined from 44.1 per cent in 1980 to 33.3 per cent in 2010 (see table 5; and figures VIII and IX). The declining trend is projected to continue into the future: although the absolute number of children aged 0-14 will continue to increase, reaching 135.5 million in 2030 and 140.1 million in 2050, they will make up only 27.8 per cent and 23.2 per cent of the overall Arab population. Regional variations are evident mainly due to differences in the interplay of mortality and fertility in the different Arab countries, and in migration trends, mostly in the GCC countries. Although the proportion of children in the total population decreased for all countries in the region by 2010, except Somalia, the pace of the decline varied tremendously, with countries with high fertility, such as Comoros, Iraq and Mauritania, showing a very slow decrease, and countries where fertility decline has been moderate, such as Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, showing a faster decrease. Moreover, the decrease in the proportion of children in GCC countries is mostly due to high inflows of labour migrants, which inflates the working age population.⁶

As to the youth age group (15-24 years), its overall number increased from 32.6 million in 1980 to 69.4 million in 2010, and is projected to reach 85.3 million in 2030 and 89.0 million in 2050. In terms of proportions, youth formed 19.2 per cent of the total Arab population in 1980 and increased to reach a peak of 20.8 per cent in 2005 (see table 5; and figures VIII and IX). This youth bulge is a direct consequence of the fertility transition.⁷ Youth as a proportion of the total population started to decrease after 2005, standing at 19.9 per cent in 2010. This downward trend is projected to continue into the future as the population momentum slows. The proportion of youth is anticipated to decline to varying extents in all countries of the region by 2050, except for Somalia, where it will hover around 20 per cent between 2015 and 2050.

⁶ ESCWA, 2013a.

⁷ ESCWA, 2009.

Figure VIII. Population of the Arab region by broad age groups (1980-2050)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

The active working age population (25-64 years) is growing more rapidly than any other age group, almost tripling in size between 1980 and 2010, when it stood at 54.8 million (32.8 per cent) and 148.6 million (42.7 per cent), respectively, thereby adding a total of 93.8 million people to the overall population over a span of thirty years (see table 5; and figures VIII and IX). Projections show that the active working age population will keep on increasing to reach 236.1 million in 2030 and 304.5 million in 2050, correspondingly forming 48.8 per cent and 50.4 per cent of the total Arab population. Looking at the variations between Arab countries, it can be noted that the percentage of the adult working age group increased between 1980 and 2010 for all countries of the region, except for Somalia, with this increase being most prominent in some GCC countries due to their high levels of labour migration. Furthermore, countries where high fertility levels prevail are projected to experience major increases in the proportion of their active working age population by 2050 as a result of expected future declines in fertility.⁸

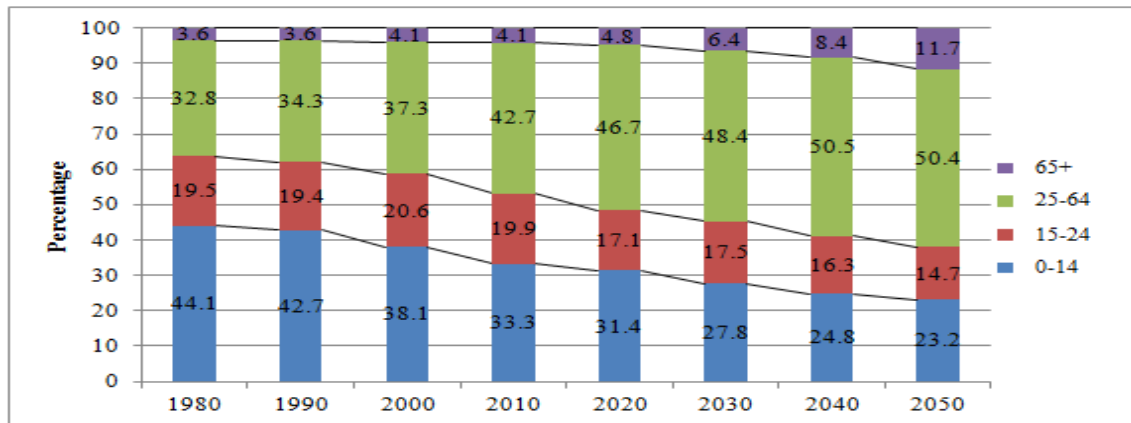
The population of older persons (65 years and above) increased from almost 6 million in 1980 to 14.4 million in 2010; however, it remains the group which makes up the smallest proportion of the total population, corresponding to 3.6 per cent and 4.1 per cent, respectively (see table 5; and figures VIII and IX). Population ageing is a consequence of the transition from high to low levels of fertility and the continuing increase in life expectancy. The pace of ageing depends largely on the extent of decline in fertility levels, with countries that have experienced sharp declines in fertility rates ageing rapidly, and those that have maintained high fertility rates ageing slowly, hence the large variations between countries of the region. Lebanon and Tunisia are the most advanced countries in terms of the ageing process, with the population of older persons, in 2010, representing 8.4 per cent and 6.9 per cent of their populations, respectively. Yemen (2.7 per cent), Palestine and Somalia (2.8 per cent), Comoros (2.9 per cent), and Mauritania (3.1 per cent) are at the other end of the spectrum. The low proportion of older persons in GCC countries is mainly due to the high levels of labour migration and the consequent swelling of the working age population.⁹ The pace of increase in the proportion of older persons in the total population is expected to pick up after 2025, when it is foreseen to rise from 5.5 per cent to 7.3 per cent in 2035, 9.8 per cent in 2045 and 11.7 per cent in 2050. In absolute terms, this is equivalent to some 38.0 million, 56.8 million and 70.4 million people, respectively.

⁸ ESCWA, 2013a.

⁹ By using the ageing index instead of the old-age dependency ratio, which is least affected by migration flows into and out of a country by people in the 25-64 age bracket, Bahrain and Oman would be classified as fast ageing and Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia as medium ageing (ESCWA, 2011b).

While only four Arab countries are projected to have more than 8 per cent of their population in the older persons age group in 2030, this number is expected to increase to fifteen countries by 2050.

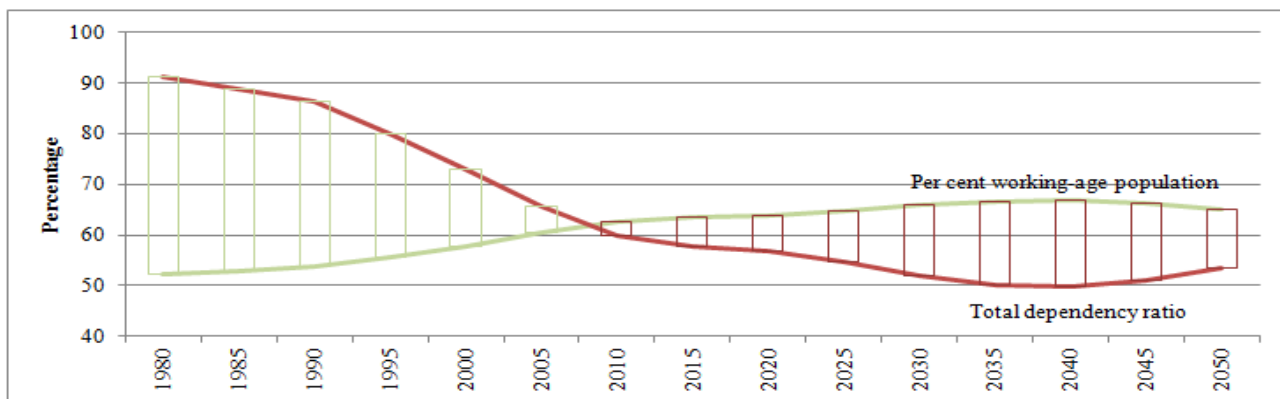
Figure IX. Trends in age structure of the population in Arab countries (1980-2050)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

Examining the evolution of the population age structure for the Arab region, it becomes evident that the total dependency ratio¹⁰ has decreased significantly over the past three decades, namely, from 91 per cent in 1980 to 60 per cent in 2010 (see table 6). This downward trend is projected to continue into the future when the total dependency ratio will reach 53 per cent in 2050. This decrease has been mostly caused by major reductions in the child dependency ratio over the mentioned period, while the old age dependency ratio has remained rather stable. In fact, the child dependency ratio fell from 84 per cent in 1980 to 53 per cent in 2010, and is expected to fall further to reach 36 per cent in 2045 and to remain at this level until 2050. The old age dependency ratio stood at 7 per cent from 1980 to 2010 and is projected to start increasing after 2015 to reach 11 per cent in 2035, 15 per cent in 2045 and 18 per cent in 2050.

Figure X. The demographic window of opportunity in the Arab region



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

The significant increase in the working age population that the Arab region is experiencing together with the decrease in the total dependency ratio imply that smaller numbers of dependents are being supported by large working age cohorts (see figure X). This will create an opportunity to boost savings and investments and is conducive to economic growth. However, the opportunity will only materialize if the

¹⁰ Dependency ratio is “the ratio of the economically dependent part of the population to the productive part; arbitrarily defined as the ratio of the elderly (ages 65 and older) plus the young (under age 15) to the population in the working ages (ages 15-64)”. (Population Reference Bureau, Glossary of Demographic Terms, available from: <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Lesson-Plans/Glossary.aspx>).

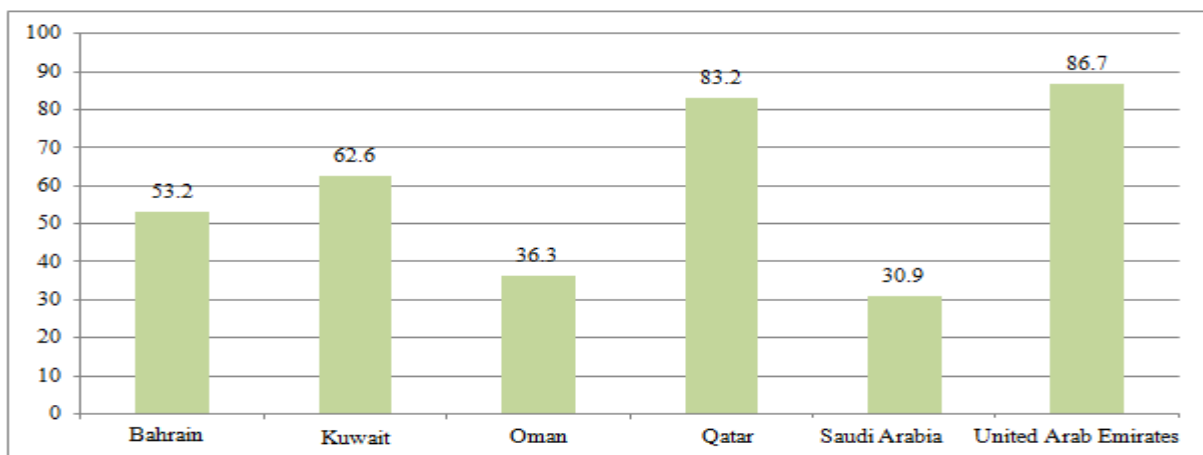
right set of policies are put in place with a view to turn savings into investment, create jobs, address gender inequality in labour market participation,¹¹ promote education, match labour supply and demand, and create suitable infrastructures in preparation for ageing populations/societies. This phenomenon is referred to as the demographic window of opportunity or the demographic dividend and is short lived, extending over approximately five decades.¹²

VII. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Migration is high in the Arab region, which includes countries of origin, countries of destination and countries that are at the same time both sending and receiving countries. The most prominent form of migration in the region is labour migration, followed by forced migration,¹³ besides irregular and transit migration. Over the past two decades, the region has witnessed an ascent in the number of international migrants, increasing from 14.9 million in 1990 (or 6.5 per cent of the total Arab population) to 28.8 million in 2010 (or 8.3 per cent of the total Arab population), which is equivalent to an increase of about 13.9 million migrants (see table 7). At the global level, the absolute number of international migrants went up from 154.2 million in 1990 to 220.7 million in 2010, meaning that 9.6 per cent of the world's international migrants were present in the Arab region in 1990, and 13.0 per cent in 2010.

With a total of 21 million migrants, GCC countries are hosting the largest number of migrants in the region. This represents 72 per cent of the total number of migrants in the region and 47 per cent of the total GCC population, creating an imbalance in the overall population structure of the GCC countries (see figure XI). In fact, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are also considered two of the most important countries of destination in the world, ranking fourth and fifth after the United States, the Russian Federation and Germany, and received 8.4 million and 7.3 million international migrants, respectively, in 2010.¹⁴

Figure XI. Migrants as a proportion of the total population in countries of the GCC (2010)



Source: UN-DESA, 2013. Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision.

It is worthwhile noting that female migrants as a percentage of the stock of international migrants represented 32.5 per cent in 2010, which was below the global average of 48.1 per cent (see table 7). In fact, the percentage of women migrants varies between countries of the region, with GCC countries, where high demand exists for workers in the male dominated construction sector, receiving the lowest percentage of

¹¹ The average female participation rate for the region is below 30 per cent (ESCWA, 2011a, p. 4).

¹² ESCWA, 2011b.

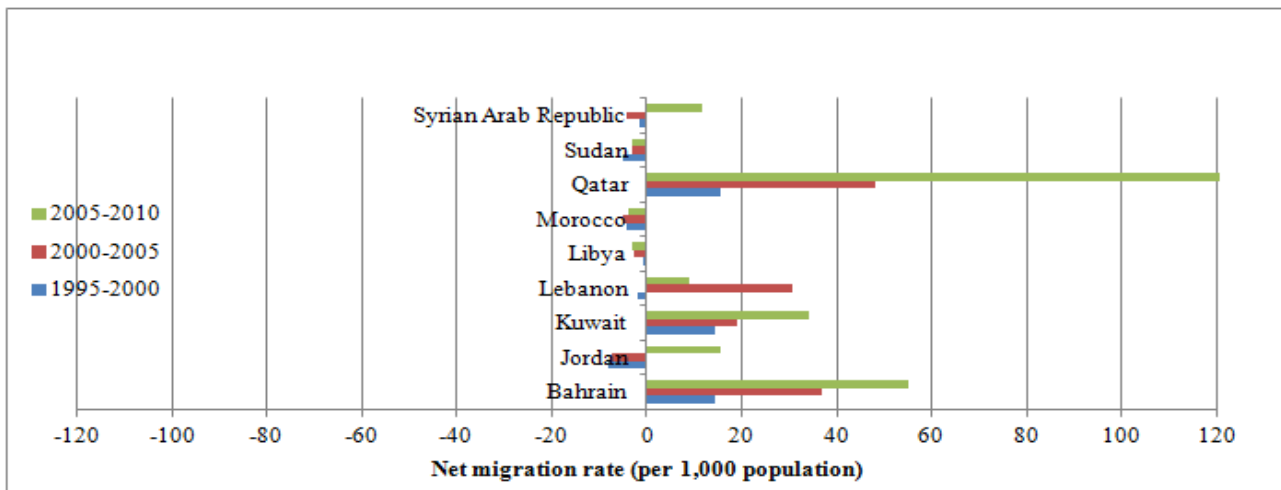
¹³ ESCWA, 2013b.

¹⁴ UN-DESA, 2013a.

female migrants in the region, namely, 19.9 per cent in Oman, 20.1 per cent in Qatar, 25.3 per cent in the United Arab Emirates, 27.8 per cent in Bahrain, 29.6 per cent in Saudi Arabia and 30.0 per cent in Kuwait, followed by Iraq (30.1 per cent) and Libya (34.5 per cent).

Looking at the net migration rate for Arab countries, variations in the flows of migrants into and out of these countries become apparent (see table 8). For the period 2005-2010, the countries with the highest net migration rate include Qatar (with 133.4 migrants per 1,000 population), followed by the United Arab Emirates (121.1 migrants per 1,000 population), Bahrain (55.0 migrants per 1,000 population) and Kuwait (34.0 migrants per 1,000 population), reflecting the large inflows of labour migrants into these countries. Other countries showing a positive net migration rate for the period are Jordan and Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, considered an important “receiver” of refugees, labour and transit migrants in the region,¹⁵ and Mauritania, which serves as a “transit point” for migrants from neighbouring countries.¹⁶ Twelve countries had a negative net migration rate,¹⁷ signaling larger outflows of migrants, with Somalia having the highest migration outflow, with a net migration rate of -6.6 migrants per 1,000 population, which is most probably due to the volatile political situation in the country, and Algeria having the lowest outflow, with a net migration rate of -0.3 migrants per 1,000 population. Maghreb countries, namely, Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, have been countries of emigration mostly to Europe as well as countries of transit for migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁸ Figure XII shows trends in the net migration rate for selected Arab countries for the period 1995-2010.

Figure XII. Net migration rates in selected Arab countries (1995-2010)



Source: ESCWA, based on UN-DESA, 2012.

VIII. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND IMPLICATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT

This paper has provided a general overview of the present and projected demographic trends and patterns in the Arab region. This region is characterized by intense migration flows, mainly in pursuit of better employment opportunities. It is highly urbanized with more than half of the region’s population residing in urban areas. While noting regional variations, improvements in IMR and actual gains in life expectancy at birth have been realized in all Arab countries over the past three decades. Population growth

¹⁵ Smith, 2012.

¹⁶ IOM, 2013.

¹⁷ The countries are Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Palestine, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen.

¹⁸ ESCWA, 2009.

will continue in all countries of the region despite slowing growth rates and declines in fertility owing to population momentum. The large proportion of young people in their reproductive years will drive this growth. The interplay between the demographic processes will have an impact on the age structure of the population in the region. At present, the Arab population is young. Reductions in fertility will lead to reductions in the overall dependency ratio mainly as a result of major declines in child dependency. This will create a demographic window of opportunity in several countries by enhancing the possibility for increased savings and investment in economic and social development through reducing the pressure to support young dependants and older persons. Nonetheless, adequate economic and social policies will have to be developed and implemented by national governments to reap the demographic dividend.

To date, Arab countries have made major progress in the areas of health and education. However, and mostly due to inadequate labour market policies, the economic and social systems in place have fallen short of absorbing the growing youth population into the labour market. Moreover, existing social protection systems in Arab countries have limited coverage and do not take into consideration the needs of the various age groups, which increases their vulnerability. Such challenges are negatively affecting the ability of countries to benefit from the demographic window of opportunity. At the same time, the lack of employment opportunities along with political volatility and armed conflict, have spurred migration flows, especially among the young people, within and outside the region. Most of the countries in the region, other than the countries of the GCC and Libya, are classified as both sending and receiving countries. Such countries as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia heavily depend on migrants' remittances, while Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are major countries of destination to migrants and important originators of remittances on an international scale.¹⁹ Despite the large migration flows, coordination among Arab countries on issues of migration is lacking, and the enforcement of existing agreements is inadequate, which negatively affects the ability of countries in the region to maximize the positive effects of international migration and to minimize its negative impacts.

In order to benefit from the demographic window of opportunity, Arab countries will need to implement suitable gender-sensitive economic policies aimed at relaxing labour market rigidity, and at directing investment towards the productive sectors of the economy with a view to encouraging job creation, enhancing productivity to absorb the new entrants into the labour market, and increasing labour force participation. This is in tandem with the implementation of adequate social policies targeting more vulnerable groups and aimed at ensuring that labour markets function in a more equitable manner. Most importantly, such policies will have to be commensurate with the changing needs of the population and the economy,²⁰ and should support a higher level of economic growth. To handle its expanding populations, the region will require a sustained economic growth rate of 6-7 per cent.²¹

Beside the creation of a dynamic and flexible labour market, social protection systems in Arab countries will have to be reformed with a view to addressing the gap in coverage and type of services provided. Effective social protection systems will need to be established to cater to the changing needs of the people as they advance in life, and of populations as a result of changes in the age structure.²² This is paramount to allow people to fully develop their potentials and societies to maximize development benefits. The social, pension and health-care needs of older persons, especially older women,²³ will have to be

¹⁹ Kronfol, 2013.

²⁰ ESCWA, 2013a.

²¹ Kronfol, 2013.

²² The age structure of a population must be taken into consideration while developing social services, as it affects the kind of services needed as well as the funding of such services. Investments in education and health are important to enable individuals to obtain the necessary skills and to improve their quality of life. The development of sustainable pension systems is also important to enable people to age in dignity (ESCWA, 2013a).

²³ Women tend to have a longer life expectancy than men, thus the feminization of the ageing phenomenon.

considered very carefully in such countries as Lebanon and Tunisia, where, in 2010, the old dependency ratio stood at 12 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.²⁴

Regional coordination on issues of international migration is of particular importance to enhance regional complementarities, harness the positive development implications of international migration and reduce negative impacts. This situation can be addressed through the creation of a regional platform aimed at facilitating dialogue, coordination and cooperation between countries of origin and destination in the region on pertinent migration issues to maximize the benefits for all parties involved. Also important in this regard is building the capacity of Arab countries to mainstream migration issues into development objectives.²⁵

Integrating population issues into development planning is very important for the achievement of population and development objectives. This needs to be complemented by the formulation and implementation of relevant policies and programmes in partnership with civil society organizations following a participatory approach, the frequent evaluation of such programmes to inform the planning process, the allocation of adequate resources, and a high level of political commitment to population and development issues.

²⁴ ESCWA, 2013a.

²⁵ ESCWA, 2012.

Annex

TABLE 1. POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	Mid-Year Population (thousands)				Annual Population Increment (thousands)*	Annual Population Increment (thousands)*	Annual Growth Rate*	
	1980	2012	2025	2050	1980-2012	2012-2025	1980- 2012	2012- 2025
Algeria	19 475	38 482	46 480	54 522	594	615	2.13	1.45
Bahrain	360	1 318	1 571	1 835	30	19	4.06	1.35
Comoros	314	718	954	1 508	13	18	2.58	2.19
Djibouti	359	860	1 023	1 244	16	13	2.73	1.34
Egypt	44 932	80 722	96 989	121 798	1 118	1 251	1.83	1.41
Iraq	13 653	32 778	45 892	71 336	598	1 009	2.74	2.59
Jordan	2 281	7 009	8 742	11 510	148	133	3.51	1.70
Kuwait	1 371	3 250	4 432	6 342	59	91	2.70	2.39
Lebanon	2 605	4 647	5 043	5 316	64	30	1.81	0.63
Libya	3 078	6 155	7 145	8 350	96	76	2.17	1.15
Mauritania	1 534	3 796	5 097	7 921	71	100	2.83	2.27
Morocco	19 799	32 521	37 723	42 884	398	400	1.55	1.14
Oman	1 154	3 314	4 770	5 065	68	112	3.30	2.80
Qatar	224	2 051	2 662	2 985	57	47	6.92	2.01
Saudi Arabia	9 843	28 288	34 207	40 388	576	455	3.30	1.46
Somalia	6 090	10 195	14 743	27 076	128	350	1.61	2.84
Palestine	1 510	4 219	5 769	8 906	85	119	3.21	2.41
The Sudan	14 418	37 195	49 676	77 138	712	960	2.96	2.23
Syrian Arab Republic	8 956	21 890	27 865	36 706	404	460	2.79	1.86
Tunisia	6 308	10 875	12 231	13 192	143	104	1.70	0.90
United Arab Emirates	1 015	9 206	11 479	15 479	256	175	6.89	1.70
Yemen	7 907	23 852	31 279	42 497	498	571	3.45	2.09
Total Arab Population*	167 186	363 341	455 772	603 998	6 130	7 110	2.43	1.74
World	4 449 049	7 080 072	8 083 413	9 550 945	82 219	77 180	1.45	1.02

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 2. URBAN POPULATIONS AND URBAN GROWTH RATES IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	Urban Population (thousands)				Percentage of Urban Population				Urban Growth Rate [*]		
	1980	2010	2025	2050	1980	2010	2025	2050	1980- 2010	2010- 2025	2025- 2050
Algeria	8 191	25 546	34 345	40 649	43.5	72.0	81.7	87.4	3.79	1.97	0.67
Bahrain	308	1 118	1 430	1 671	86.1	88.6	90.0	92.8	4.30	1.64	0.62
Comoros	76	206	320	682	23.2	28.0	30.7	40.1	3.32	2.94	3.03
Djibouti	245	684	919	1 363	72.1	77.0	78.8	84.2	3.42	1.97	1.58
Egypt	19 715	35 186	47 751	74 040	43.9	43.4	47.3	60.0	1.93	2.04	1.75
Iraq	9 005	21 073	32 956	62 185	65.5	66.5	67.4	74.6	2.83	2.98	2.54
Jordan	1 378	5 103	6 771	8 798	59.9	82.5	85.6	89.0	4.36	1.89	1.05
Kuwait	1 305	2 689	3 642	5 097	94.8	98.2	98.4	98.7	2.41	2.02	1.34
Lebanon	2 059	3 684	4 106	4 266	73.7	87.1	88.8	91.2	1.94	0.72	0.15
Libya	2 147	4 929	6 007	7 462	70.1	77.6	80.5	85.1	2.77	1.32	0.87
Mauritania	415	1 426	2 231	4 282	27.4	41.2	47.0	60.4	4.11	2.98	2.61
Morocco	8 064	18 109	22 743	28 430	41.2	56.7	62.5	72.5	2.70	1.52	0.89
Palestine	943	2 994	4 669	8 063	62.4	74.1	77.5	82.9	3.85	2.96	2.19
Oman	562	2 036	2 669	3 087	47.6	73.2	76.9	82.6	4.29	1.80	0.58
Qatar	198	1 735	2 281	2 607	89.4	98.7	99.7	99.8	7.23	1.82	0.53
Saudi Arabia	6 455	22 530	30 763	39 725	65.9	82.1	84.9	88.4	4.17	2.08	1.02
Somalia	1 722	3 479	6 375	16 862	26.8	37.3	45.0	59.8	2.34	4.04	3.89
The Sudan	3 013	11 117	17 063	34 731	20.0	33.1	36.9	50.8	4.35	2.86	2.84
Syrian Arab Republic	4 160	11 363	16 082	23 852	46.7	55.7	61.8	72.2	3.35	2.32	1.58
Tunisia	3 265	6 928	8 316	9 762	50.6	66.1	69.8	77.2	2.51	1.22	0.64
United Arab Emirates	820	6 313	8 641	11 010	80.7	84.0	87.6	90.6	6.80	2.09	0.97
Yemen	1 314	7 635	14 944	34 770	16.5	31.7	40.7	56.5	5.87	4.48	3.38
Arab Region [*]	75 360	195 883	275 024	423 394	44.9	56.4	60.7	69.4	3.18	2.26	1.73
World	1 753 229	3 558 578	4 642 582	6 252 175	39.4	51.6	58.0	67.2	2.36	1.77	1.19

Source: UN-DESA, 2011.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 3A. FERTILITY TRENDS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	Total Fertility (children per woman)			
	1980-1985	2010-2015	2025-2030	2045-2050
Algeria	6.49	2.82	2.20	1.93
Bahrain	4.63	2.10	1.81	1.69
Comoros	7.05	4.74	3.90	3.13
Djibouti	6.26	3.42	2.67	2.17
Egypt	5.20	2.79	2.37	2.03
Iraq	6.35	4.06	3.31	2.69
Jordan	7.05	3.27	2.56	2.05
Kuwait	5.03	2.60	2.36	2.18
Lebanon	3.75	1.51	1.50	1.63
Libya	7.34	2.38	1.82	1.62
Mauritania	6.28	4.70	3.84	3.05
Morocco	5.40	2.78	2.27	1.96
Oman	8.32	2.91	2.08	1.71
Qatar	5.45	2.05	1.75	1.67
Saudi Arabia	7.02	2.68	2.10	1.78
Somalia	7.07	6.61	5.13	3.63
Palestine	7.05	4.05	3.21	2.57
The Sudan	6.63	4.46	3.55	2.81
Syrian Arab Republic	6.77	3.00	2.37	1.92
Tunisia	4.92	2.02	1.79	1.76
United Arab Emirates	5.23	1.82	1.62	1.64
Yemen	9.23	4.15	2.82	2.03

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

TABLE 3B. ATTAINING REPLACEMENT LEVEL FERTILITY IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Year	Replacement Level
	Country
2000-2005	Lebanon
	Tunisia
2005-2010	United Arab Emirates
2010-2015	Bahrain
	Qatar
2015-2020	Libya
2025-2030	Oman
	Saudi Arabia
2030-2035	Algeria
2035-2040	Morocco
	Syrian Arab Republic
2040-2045	Egypt
	Yemen
2045-2050	Djibouti
	Jordan
	Kuwait
After 2050	Comoros
	Iraq
	Mauritania
	Somalia
	Palestine
	The Sudan

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

TABLE 4A. INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES BY GENDER

Country													Variation in Infant Mortality*		
	1980-1985			2010-2015			2025-2030			2045-2050			1980-2015		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Algeria	79.4	71.1	75.4	28.6	24.1	26.4	21.6	17.4	19.6	16.1	12.4	14.3	50.8	47.0	49.0
Bahrain	24.0	22.3	23.1	7.6	6.2	6.9	5.4	4.1	4.8	3.6	3.1	3.3	16.4	16.1	16.2
Comoros	116.4	94.1	105.6	72.1	62.0	67.2	59.8	49.7	54.9	47.8	37.3	42.7	44.3	32.1	38.4
Djibouti	93.7	80.8	87.4	59.9	50.5	55.3	43.0	34.2	38.7	28.7	22.1	25.5	33.8	30.3	32.1
Egypt	109.1	104.5	106.9	19.8	18.0	18.9	12.0	10.9	11.4	7.7	7.0	7.3	89.3	86.5	88.0
Iraq	46.0	40.4	43.3	29.7	26.5	28.1	20.1	17.9	19.1	13.0	11.6	12.3	16.3	13.9	15.2
Jordan	43.8	41.6	42.7	19.4	14.6	17.1	12.6	9.4	11.0	7.6	5.9	6.8	24.4	27.0	25.6
Kuwait	25.4	22.4	23.9	9.5	7.7	8.6	7.1	5.1	6.1	5.0	3.3	4.2	15.9	14.7	15.3
Lebanon	38.8	31.0	35.0	8.6	8.1	8.3	5.6	5.5	5.5	4.1	3.9	4.0	30.2	22.9	26.7
Libya	55.4	46.4	51.0	15.0	12.6	13.8	9.0	7.6	8.3	6.3	5.4	5.9	40.4	33.8	37.2
Mauritania	92.3	86.1	89.2	75.2	68.0	71.7	63.4	55.0	59.3	51.8	42.3	47.2	17.1	18.1	17.5
Morocco	88.8	78.7	83.9	28.6	23.8	26.3	17.5	14.1	15.9	10.6	8.8	9.7	60.2	54.9	57.6
Oman	61.8	57.0	59.4	7.6	7.0	7.3	4.9	4.6	4.8	3.3	3.1	3.2	54.2	50.0	52.1
Qatar	24.5	21.8	23.2	6.6	6.3	6.5	4.8	4.7	4.8	3.5	3.4	3.5	17.9	15.5	16.7
Saudi Arabia	60.3	52.0	56.2	11.9	10.4	11.2	6.9	6.2	6.5	3.5	4.1	3.8	48.4	41.6	45.0
Somalia	137.4	117.8	127.8	85.0	73.8	79.5	64.3	53.5	59.0	46.0	36.1	41.1	52.4	44.0	48.3
Palestine	56.6	49.2	53.0	21.0	17.3	19.2	14.9	12.8	13.9	11.1	9.7	10.4	35.6	31.9	33.8
The Sudan	93.1	80.7	87.0	59.1	50.8	55.0	49.3	40.0	44.8	39.2	29.1	34.3	34.0	29.9	32.0
Syrian Arab Republic	47.2	38.4	42.9	19.5	15.8	17.7	10.7	9.2	10.0	5.4	5.7	5.5	27.7	22.6	25.2
Tunisia	70.3	61.2	65.8	16.6	14.3	15.5	10.2	8.8	9.5	6.8	5.9	6.3	53.7	46.9	50.3
United Arab Emirates	32.5	26.4	29.6	6.5	4.9	5.7	4.3	3.2	3.8	2.5	2.3	2.4	26.0	21.5	23.9
Yemen	124.4	109.1	117.0	60.4	51.7	56.2	48.0	40.5	44.4	34.2	29.8	32.0	64.0	57.4	60.8

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 4B. LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES BY GENDER

Country	Life expectancy at birth												Number of years gained in life expectancy*		
	1980-1985			2010-2015			2025-2030			2045-2050			1980-2015		
	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Algeria	60.1	63.0	61.6	69.4	72.6	70.9	70.8	74.6	72.6	72.6	76.7	74.6	9.3	9.6	9.3
Bahrain	69.4	72.1	70.5	75.8	77.4	76.5	77.9	79.5	78.6	81.0	81.9	81.4	6.4	5.3	6.0
Comoros	51.0	55.0	53.0	59.4	62.2	60.8	62.0	65.2	63.6	64.6	68.4	66.5	8.4	7.2	7.8
Djibouti	53.2	56.2	54.7	60.0	63.2	61.6	65.4	69.1	67.2	70.0	74.2	72.1	6.8	7.0	6.9
Egypt	57.7	62.2	59.9	68.7	73.5	71.1	71.5	76.5	73.9	75.1	79.6	77.3	11.0	11.3	11.2
Iraq	53.0	66.3	59.0	66.0	73.1	69.4	68.2	75.3	71.7	71.0	77.7	74.3	13.0	6.8	10.4
Jordan	65.9	68.8	67.3	72.2	75.5	73.8	74.4	77.9	76.1	77.6	80.5	79.0	6.3	6.7	6.5
Kuwait	69.3	71.7	70.2	73.4	75.5	74.2	74.8	77.4	75.9	77.1	79.7	78.3	4.1	3.8	4.0
Lebanon	66.7	70.1	68.4	77.9	82.1	79.8	81.8	85.5	83.5	84.6	88.2	86.3	11.2	12.0	11.4
Libya	63.9	67.5	65.6	73.4	77.2	75.2	76.4	79.8	78.1	80.6	82.7	81.7	9.5	9.7	9.6
Mauritania	54.4	57.1	55.8	59.9	63.0	61.5	61.9	65.3	63.6	64.0	67.9	65.9	5.5	5.9	5.7
Morocco	58.1	61.1	59.6	69.0	72.6	70.8	71.6	75.7	73.6	74.6	78.7	76.7	10.9	11.5	11.2
Oman	60.2	63.7	61.9	74.7	78.9	76.4	78.7	82.0	80.1	82.7	85.1	83.8	14.5	15.2	14.5
Qatar	72.8	74.4	73.5	77.7	79.4	78.3	79.9	81.5	80.6	82.7	84.0	83.1	4.9	5.0	4.8
Saudi Arabia	63.3	66.8	64.9	73.8	77.5	75.4	76.9	80.2	78.3	80.9	83.0	81.8	10.5	10.7	10.5
Somalia	44.0	47.1	45.5	53.3	56.5	54.9	58.0	61.4	59.7	63.1	66.9	65.0	9.3	9.4	9.4
Palestine	62.8	66.1	64.4	71.4	74.9	73.1	73.8	77.5	75.6	77.1	80.4	78.7	8.6	8.8	8.7
The Sudan	53.0	56.0	54.5	60.2	63.8	61.9	62.7	66.7	64.7	65.5	70.0	67.7	7.2	7.8	7.4
Syrian Arab Republic	66.3	68.0	67.1	71.6	77.6	74.4	75.0	80.5	77.7	79.4	83.5	81.5	5.3	9.6	7.3
Tunisia	62.8	65.9	64.3	73.5	78.2	75.8	76.9	80.9	78.9	81.0	83.6	82.4	10.7	12.3	11.5
United Arab Emirates	67.6	70.6	68.7	76.1	78.1	76.7	78.7	80.5	79.3	82.4	83.2	82.7	8.5	7.5	8.0
Yemen	51.5	54.5	53.0	61.7	64.4	63.0	64.0	66.9	65.4	66.4	69.6	68.0	10.2	9.9	10.0

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 5. DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES BY BROAD AGE GROUPS

Country	Percentage aged 0-14 (%)					Percentage aged 15-24 (%)					Percentage aged 25-64 (%)*					Percentage aged 65 or over (%)				
	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050
Algeria	46.2	27.1	28.4	24.5	20.2	20.3	20.8	16.6	17.5	12.7	30.2	47.4	50.3	50.4	52.8	3.4	4.7	4.7	7.6	14.3
Bahrain	34.6	19.9	21.6	16.1	13.4	22.1	14.6	14.2	13.0	9.5	41.1	63.5	61.9	64.4	58.9	2.1	2.0	2.3	6.6	18.2
Comoros	45.0	42.2	41.7	36.6	32.3	19.7	18.6	18.4	20.1	18.5	31.8	36.3	37.0	39.5	43.8	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.8	5.4
Djibouti	46.5	34.1	33.6	29.1	23.7	20.4	22.4	19.7	18.3	15.1	30.9	39.7	42.6	46.5	50.8	2.4	3.7	4.1	6.0	10.4
Egypt	40.3	31.5	30.9	26.4	21.8	19.4	19.7	17.8	17.4	14.5	35.8	43.3	45.4	48.2	51.4	4.5	5.5	5.9	7.9	12.3
Iraq	46.8	41.2	39.2	34.2	28.2	18.0	19.8	20.0	19.0	17.3	31.1	35.6	37.6	43.0	47.3	4.1	3.4	3.2	3.9	7.2
Jordan	49.0	35.1	33.4	28.0	22.3	19.6	19.8	18.5	19.1	14.6	28.2	41.7	44.4	47.2	50.4	3.2	3.4	3.6	5.8	12.7
Kuwait	39.9	25.2	24.6	22.3	19.4	17.9	16.2	14.3	14.4	12.4	40.6	56.5	58.7	59.2	57.1	1.6	2.1	2.4	4.0	11.1
Lebanon	39.0	23.7	19.4	17.7	13.4	20.6	20.0	19.0	11.4	10.1	35.0	47.8	52.7	55.9	50.8	5.4	8.4	8.8	15.0	25.7
Libya	46.1	29.4	29.4	21.7	16.9	18.1	19.3	16.8	16.9	11.5	32.9	46.7	48.8	53.0	52.9	2.9	4.6	5.0	8.4	18.7
Mauritania	45.3	40.6	39.7	35.6	30.9	19.8	19.6	19.4	19.4	18.0	32.0	36.7	37.7	40.9	45.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	4.1	6.1
Morocco	44.0	28.1	27.9	24.4	20.1	21.9	19.8	17.7	16.2	13.2	31.0	47.1	49.2	50.0	51.5	3.0	5.0	5.1	9.3	15.2
Oman	45.1	27.4	21.9	19.8	14.7	17.6	22.4	19.9	13.3	10.1	34.6	47.7	55.1	62.6	54.3	2.7	2.5	3.0	4.4	20.9
Qatar	33.7	13.7	13.6	11.4	9.6	20.1	14.4	12.3	8.7	6.5	44.6	70.7	73.2	75.6	54.8	1.5	1.1	0.9	4.3	29.1
Saudi Arabia	44.4	30.7	28.3	19.2	15.9	17.7	17.2	15.1	15.9	9.6	35.0	49.1	53.6	57.6	56.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	7.2	18.4
Somalia	43.7	47.7	46.7	43.5	37.0	18.9	18.9	19.9	20.3	20.0	34.1	30.6	30.6	33.3	39.6	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.4
Palestine	49.9	42.1	39.0	33.9	26.6	19.1	21.4	22.3	18.6	16.9	28.7	33.7	35.6	43.3	48.7	2.3	2.8	3.1	4.2	7.8
The Sudan	47.0	42.1	40.5	35.6	30.0	18.8	19.6	19.9	19.5	18.0	31.3	35.2	36.3	40.9	46.1	2.9	3.1	3.3	4.0	6.0
Syrian Arab Republic	48.7	35.7	34.5	27.4	20.5	19.8	20.7	19.6	17.2	14.6	28.6	39.8	41.6	48.7	51.9	2.9	3.7	4.3	6.7	12.9
Tunisia	41.9	23.5	23.2	19.7	16.2	21.4	18.8	15.8	14.2	10.8	33.2	50.7	53.6	52.8	50.1	3.4	6.9	7.5	13.3	22.9
United Arab Emirates	28.1	13.9	16.1	12.0	11.2	18.2	23.0	12.1	11.2	7.5	52.4	62.8	71.2	74.9	56.7	1.3	0.3	0.5	1.8	24.6
Yemen	49.0	42.0	39.1	32.3	23.7	18.1	23.1	22.7	19.5	16.7	29.9	32.2	35.2	44.6	53.4	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.6	6.3
Arab Region*	44.1	33.3	32.3	27.8	23.2	19.5	19.9	18.2	17.5	14.7	32.8	42.7	45.2	48.4	50.4	3.6	4.1	4.3	6.4	11.7

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 6. TRENDS IN DEPENDENCY RATIOS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	Total dependency ratio					Child dependency ratio					Old-age dependency ratio				
	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050	1980	2010	2015	2030	2050
Algeria	98	47	49	47	52	91	40	42	36	31	7	7	7	11	22
Bahrain	58	28	31	29	46	55	25	28	21	20	3	3	3	8	27
Comoros	93	82	80	68	60	87	77	75	61	52	6	5	5	6	9
Djibouti	96	61	61	54	52	91	55	54	45	36	5	6	7	9	16
Egypt	81	59	58	52	52	73	50	49	40	33	8	9	9	12	19
Iraq	104	81	74	61	55	95	74	68	55	44	8	6	5	6	11
Jordan	109	63	59	51	54	102	57	53	42	34	7	6	6	9	20
Kuwait	71	38	37	36	44	68	35	34	30	28	3	3	3	5	16
Lebanon	80	47	39	49	64	70	35	27	26	22	10	12	12	22	42
Libya	96	52	52	43	55	90	45	45	31	26	6	7	8	12	29
Mauritania	93	78	75	66	59	88	72	69	59	49	6	6	6	7	10
Morocco	89	50	49	51	55	83	42	42	37	31	6	8	8	14	24
Oman	92	43	33	32	55	86	39	29	26	23	5	4	4	6	32
Qatar	54	17	17	19	63	52	16	16	14	16	2	1	1	5	47
Saudi Arabia	90	51	46	36	52	84	46	41	26	24	6	4	4	10	28
Somalia	89	102	98	87	68	82	96	93	81	62	6	6	6	5	6
Palestine	109	81	73	62	52	104	76	67	55	41	5	5	5	7	12
The Sudan	100	82	78	66	56	94	77	72	59	47	6	6	6	7	9
Syrian Arab Republic	107	65	64	52	50	101	59	56	42	31	6	6	7	10	19
Tunisia	83	44	44	49	64	77	34	33	29	27	6	10	11	20	38
United Arab Emirates	42	17	20	16	56	40	16	19	14	17	2	0	1	2	38
Yemen	108	81	73	56	43	102	76	68	50	34	6	5	5	6	9
Arab Region*	91	60	58	52	53	84	53	51	42	36	7	7	7	10	18
World	70	52	52	54	58	60	41	40	36	34	10	12	13	18	25

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 7. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	International migrant stock at mid-year (both sexes)				Increment*	International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population (both sexes)				Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock			
	1990	2000	2010	2013		1990	2000	2010	2013	1990	2000	2010	2013
Algeria	273 954	250 110	244 964	270 407	-28 990	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	45.2	45.2	45.2	45.0
Bahrain	173 200	244 937	666 172	729 357	492 972	34.9	36.7	53.2	54.7	28.5	30.8	27.8	27.8
Comoros	14 079	13 799	12 618	12 511	-1 461	3.4	2.6	1.8	1.7	52.3	52.8	52.0	51.7
Djibouti	122 221	110 201	114 188	123 537	-8 033	20.7	15.2	13.7	14.2	47.4	47.1	44.9	44.5
Egypt	175 574	169 149	280 714	297 448	105 140	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	47.1	46.8	43.8	43.6
Iraq	83 638	146 910	83 111	95 780	-527	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	33.3	31.1	30.1	29.8
Jordan	1 146 349	1 927 845	2 722 983	2 925 780	1 576 634	34.1	40.4	42.2	40.2	48.8	49.0	49.2	49.3
Kuwait	1 585 280	1 500 442	1 871 537	2 028 053	286 257	77.0	78.7	62.6	60.2	39.0	32.5	30.0	30.0
Lebanon	523 693	692 913	820 655	849 721	296 962	19.4	21.4	18.9	17.6	48.8	49.0	47.9	47.6
Libya	457 482	558 770	699 144	755 974	241 662	10.7	10.8	11.6	12.2	35.5	35.5	34.5	34.1
Mauritania	93 878	62 593	89 178	90 206	-4 700	4.6	2.3	2.5	2.3	41.8	42.0	41.6	41.4
Morocco	57 597	53 124	50 113	50 771	-7 484	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50.4	50.1	48.3	47.7
Oman	423 572	623 608	1 017 696	1 112 032	594 124	23.4	28.4	36.3	30.6	21.0	20.8	19.9	19.0
Qatar	369 816	470 731	1 456 168	1 600 955	1 086 352	77.6	79.3	83.2	73.8	27.3	28.0	20.1	20.8
Saudi Arabia	4 998 445	5 263 388	8 429 983	9 060 433	3 431 538	30.8	26.1	30.9	31.4	33.5	33.2	29.6	29.0
Somalia	478 294	20 087	23 995	24 593	-454 299	7.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	48.9	47.1	46.2	45.8
Palestine	288 332	275 202	258 032	256 517	-30 300	13.9	8.6	6.4	5.9	54.2	54.7	55.6	55.6
The Sudan	1 402 896	801 883	612 663	446 707	-790 233	5.4	2.3	1.7	1.2	50.4	49.7	49.1	49.2
Syrian Arab Republic	714 140	832 273	1 661 922	1 394 227	947 782	5.7	5.1	7.7	6.4	49.0	49.0	48.9	48.9
Tunisia	38 018	36 212	33 583	36 526	-4 435	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	50.9	49.8	49.7	49.2
United Arab Emirates	1 306 574	2 446 675	7 316 611	7 826 981	6 010 037	72.3	80.8	86.7	83.7	28.7	28.2	25.3	25.3
Yemen	118 863	143 495	285 837	314 683	166 974	1.0	0.8	1.3	1.3	44.2	43.8	40.7	40.7
Arab Region*	14 845 895	16 644 347	28 751 867	30 303 199	13 905 972	6.5	5.9	8.3	8.2	38.9	36.9	32.5	31.9
World	154 161 984	174 515 733	220 729 300	231 522 215	66 567 316	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.2	48.8	49.1	48.1	48.0

Source: UN-DESA, 2013b.

Note: * Calculated by ESCWA.

TABLE 8. NET MIGRATION RATE IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES

Country	Net Migration Rate (per 1,000 population)			
	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010
Algeria	-0.7	-0.5	-0.4	-0.3
Bahrain	2.1	14.4	37.0	55.0
Comoros	-1.4	-2.4	-3.5	-3.1
Djibouti	-4.8	-4.8	-4.8	-5.0
Egypt	-3.8	-3.0	-1.1	-0.9
Iraq	-1.6	-0.2	-2.1	-3.1
Jordan	20.9	-8.3	-7.4	15.4
Kuwait	-66.0	14.4	19.1	34.0
Lebanon	6.3	-1.9	30.5	8.8
Libya	0.2	-0.8	-2.8	-3.0
Mauritania	-1.3	0.8	2.1	0.6
Morocco	-4.7	-4.1	-5.1	-4.0
Oman	6.6	-19.3	9.1	2.4
Qatar	-9.2	15.7	48.2	133.4
Saudi Arabia	-1.4	-9.1	19.6	1.2
Somalia	-28.2	-2.9	-5.0	-6.6
Palestine	3.0	4.8	-11.2	-4.8
The Sudan	10.8	-4.9	-2.9	-3.0
Syrian Arab Republic	-1.0	-1.7	-4.4	11.5
Tunisia	1.0	-1.1	-1.5	-0.6
United Arab Emirates	31.6	34.6	48.2	121.1
Yemen	10.0	-1.2	-1.1	-1.3

Source: UN-DESA, 2012.

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