

PART II
SELECTED SOCIAL INDICATORS

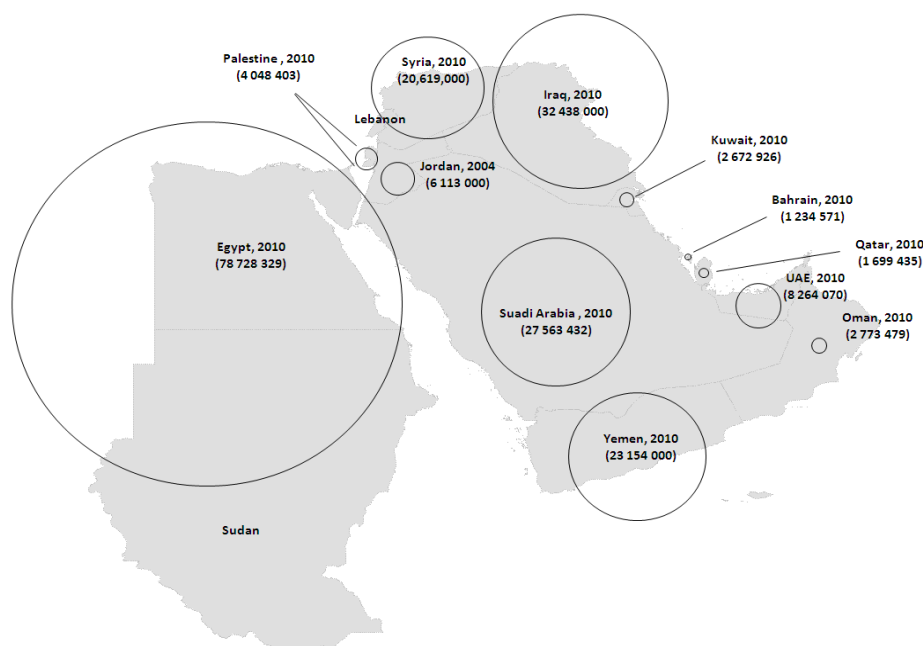
Population

The Arab region has diverse demographic features as countries in the region are at different stages of the demographic transition. This is owing to a wide range of country-specific social, economic, political and cultural factors. Currently, the region includes countries with markedly different population sizes, age-sex structures and growth rates. These features are determined by the speed of three main components of demographic change, namely fertility, mortality, and international migration (including labour migration and war-related population displacements). Considering demographic change is crucial from a policy perspective because it affects all aspect of life and has important implications for the labour market, economic growth, employment potential,

housing needs and demand for education, health and social services in any county. Reliable data on the size and structure of populations, as well as on components of demographic change are essential for understanding various aspects of social and economic trends and for informing public policy decisions.

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. It highlights population size, structure and growth, the three drivers of demographic change (fertility, mortality and migration), and selected aspects of household and family formation.

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 a rapid decline in mortality from the mid 1960s, owing to 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 a number of peculiar migration patterns, result in a rather polarized demographic profile and considerable variations in population growth rates across countries.

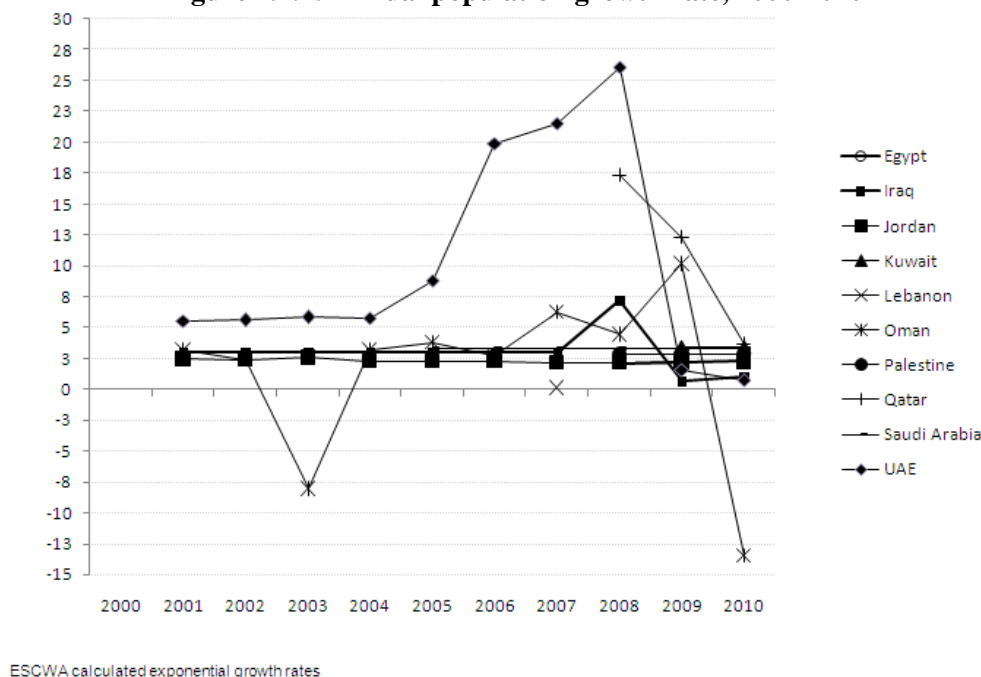
According to United Nations estimates, the Arab region experiences a population growth rate of 2.1 per cent, well above the world average (United Nations 2011). At this rate of growth, the population of the region is expected to double in size in approximately 35 years. However, current population estimates for the period 2000-2010 obtained from 12 national statistical offices in the region imply large disparities in population growth rates across countries (figure 2.1.2). According to recent estimates, the countries can be generally grouped into three different

demographic 'regimes'. The first group with fairly high population growth rates of 3 per cent or more per annum, including several Gulf countries and Iraq. The second group comprising of countries with ongoing demographic transitions and growth rates of 2.5 per cent or more, including Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Palestine. The last group is at advanced transitional stage with fairly low growth rates,

including Lebanon and Egypt. Trends over time in growth rates show wide fluctuations in the Gulf countries, owing to changes in international migration rates.

Thus, although population growth rates have been declining in the 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



A young population, overall

Current population estimates for 12 countries in 2010 show that population size varies considerably across countries, ranging from 79 million in Egypt to less than 2 million in Bahrain and Qatar (figure 2.1.3). These estimates, especially in the Gulf, are affected by the presence of large migrant (non-citizen) populations.

Figure 2.1.3: Population size by country, 2010 estimates

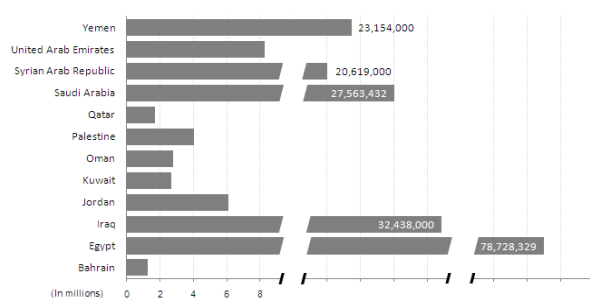
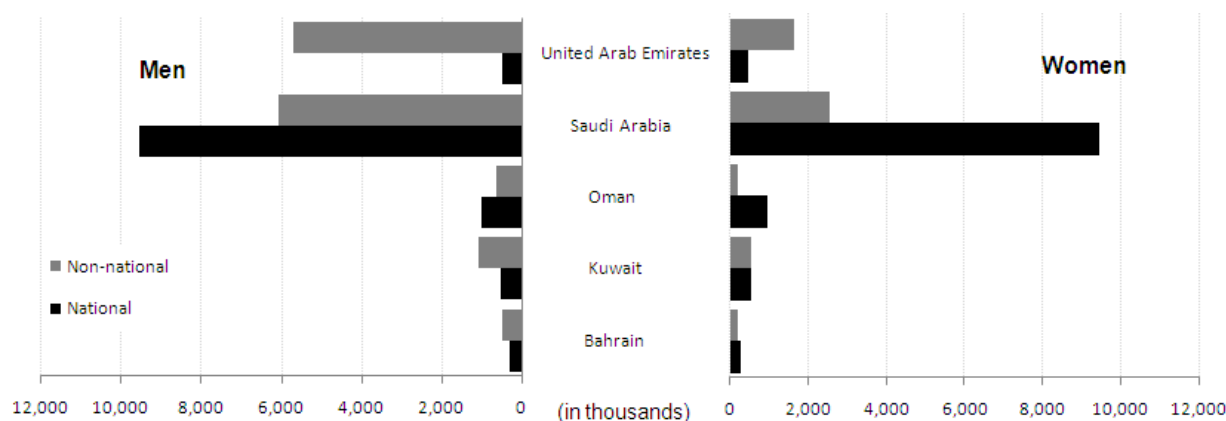


Figure 2.1.4 displays population size for five countries in the Gulf by nationality and sex. As shown in this figure, all of these countries have significant migrant populations, with three having a larger number of non-nationals than nationals. The United Arab Emirates stands out as having the largest proportion of non-nationals, at 7.3 million, compared to less than one million nationals. Also evident in the figure is the disproportionate number of men compared to women 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, being mostly 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 1.5 and 1.6 contrast the age pyramid of Kuwait, a country with significant migrant labourers to that of Egypt, a country undergoing demographic transition and with few migrant labourers.

Figure 2.1.5: Population pyramid, Kuwait, 2010 estimates

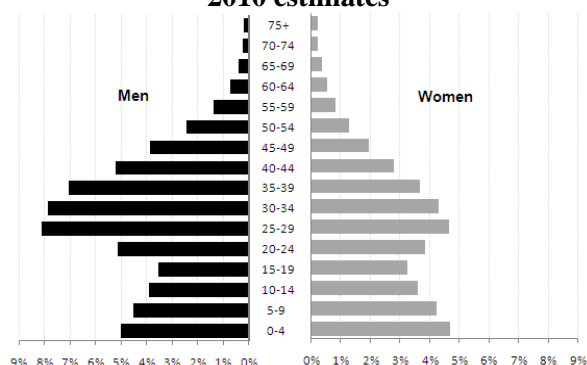
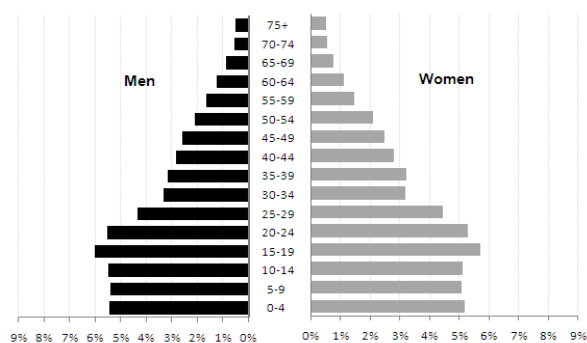
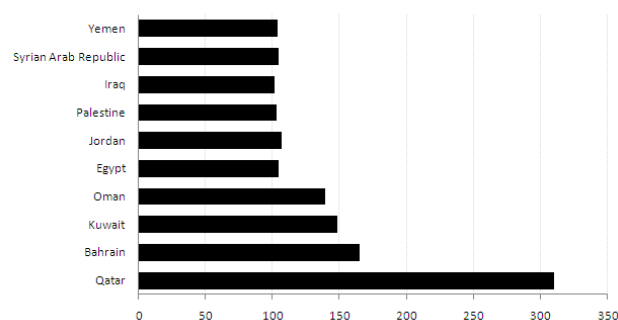


Figure 2.1.6: Population pyramid, Egypt, 2010 estimates



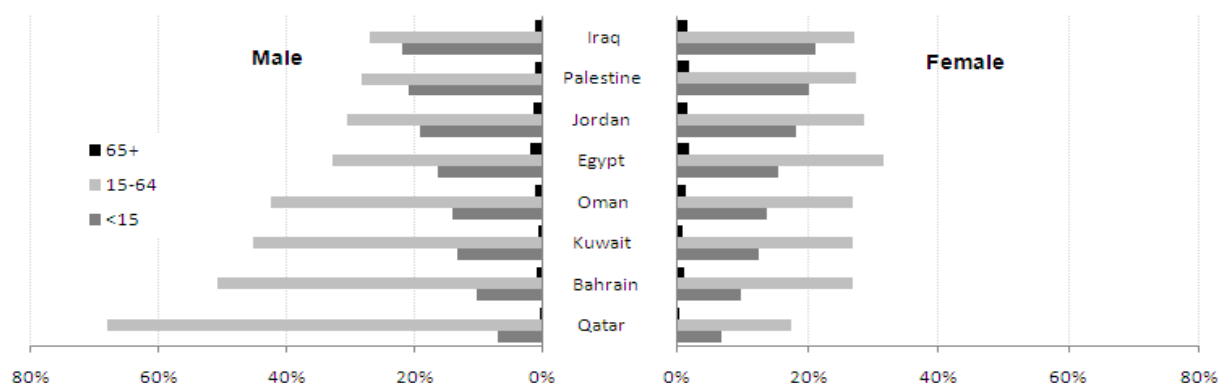
As a result of labour migration, the sex ratios for all Gulf countries are large, for example, there are over 300 men per 100 women in Qatar (figure 2.1.7).

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



According to United Nations estimates, the region has a relatively young population overall with a median age of only 22 years, compared to a world average of 28 years (United Nations 2011). However, as shown Figure 2.1.8, there is considerable heterogeneity in the age profile of countries in the region owing to varying demographic transitions and the size of migrant labour groups. The proportions of children less than 15 years ranges from a low of around 14 per cent in Qatar to a high of over 40 per cent in Palestine and Iraq. In contrast, the proportionate size of the working age population in Qatar is over 85 per cent as compared to around 54 per cent in Iraq. Figures reveal that the proportion of elderly persons in each country is still small where data was provided, not exceeding 4 per cent of total populations. Finally, data clearly shows that these ‘distorted’ sex distribution of populations in the Gulf countries are due to those in the working age populations between 15-64 years.

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

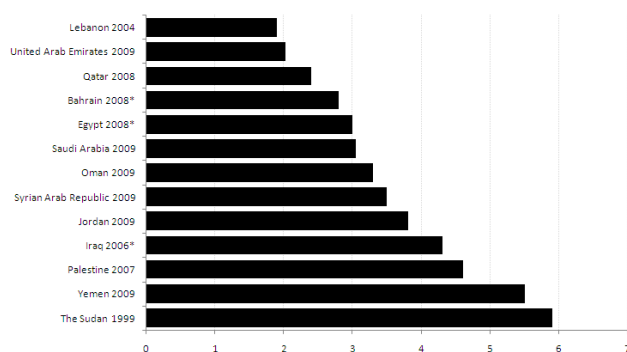


Fast decline in fertility

Most countries in the region have experienced rapid, although delayed, changes in fertility rates over the past few decades, especially since the 1980s. The speed of decline in fertility varies widely across countries, with some showing little or no decline during the past decade, for example in Egypt or Jordan. 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 replacement level (about 1.9) in Lebanon to over 5.9 in the Sudan and 5.5 in Yemen. Several countries still have rates of approximately 4 children per woman. It should be pointed out that the reported figures for Gulf countries here refer to the national populations, excluding immigrants, and hence tend to be lower than those of the total resident populations.

Figure 2.1.9: Total fertility rates, latest available year (births per 1,000 women ages 15-49)



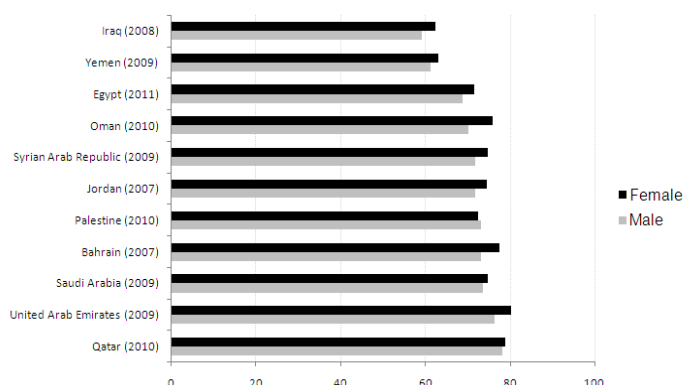
* For nationals only

Small female advantage in life expectancy at birth

Over the past few decades, the region has experienced remarkable improvements in the survival rates and health of its population. According to United Nations estimates, life expectancy at birth has improved by around 20 years since the 1960s (United Nations 2011). 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 still persist in many countries.

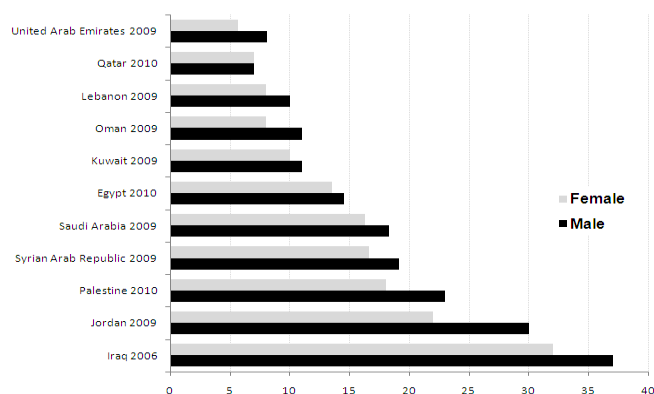
As shown in Figure 2.1.10, recent estimates of life expectancy at birth range from 59-63 years in Iraq and Yemen to 75 or more years in some Gulf countries. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have the highest life expectancies at birth with 78 years for males and 80 years for females. It is interesting that some middle-income countries such as Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic have similar or better levels of life expectancy at birth than some richer countries in the Gulf. It is also evident from the data that gender differences in life expectancy at birth are generally small, with a difference of less than two years in four of the countries (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine 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 is 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 70 deaths in the Sudan and to very low rates of 10 or less deaths in the Gulf countries, excluding Saudi Arabia. The rate of 9 deaths per 1,000 births reported in Lebanon is surprising low as compared to previous estimates (e.g., 2004 Papfam) - this could be due to indirect methods of estimation in the MICS survey (figure 2.1.11). Sex differentials in mortality are generally too small to indicate statistical significance, but they tend to favour females as would be expected in most countries.

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



Trend data from a few countries on infant and child mortality indicate continued

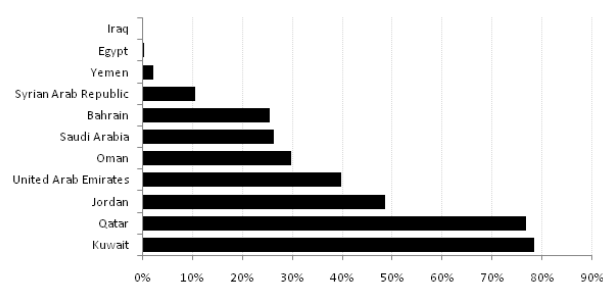
improvements over time. However, reductions in mortality seem stalled in countries with low mortality rates (Gulf), but also in countries with relatively high levels (Jordan, Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen).

International migrants nearly doubled in 20 years

International migration can have a profound impact on the population age-gender 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 region. Here, limited data from international sources are used to highlight the size of migrant and displaced populations and net migratory movements.

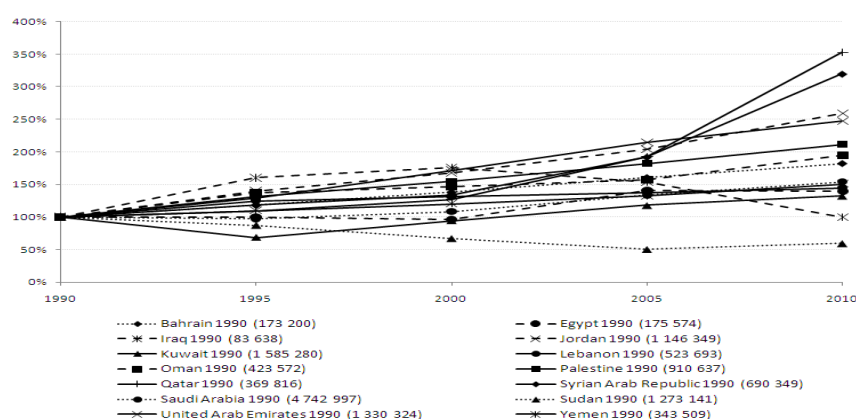
The majority of countries in the region have relatively large migrant populations (figure 2.1.12). Data for 2010 reveal that 7 out of 11 countries in the region for which data are available classify at least 25 per cent of their populations as international migrants. The number of international migrants constituted more than 75 per cent of the population in Qatar and Kuwait, and nearly 50 per cent in Jordan.

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



Trends in estimated international migration stocks indicate a substantial increase in international migrants from 1990 to 2010 in every country except the Sudan. As compared to 1990, the number of international migrants more than doubled in 5 out of the 14 Arab countries by 2010 and had more than tripled in two of them, namely Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic (figure 1.13).

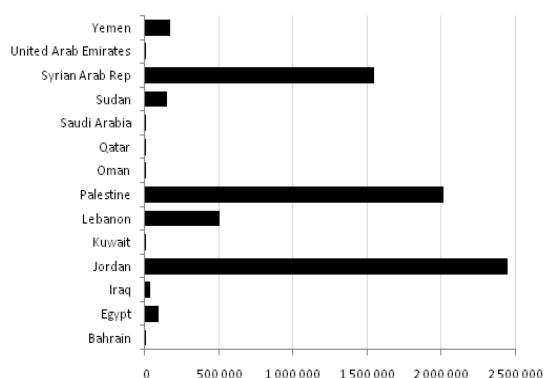
Figure 2.1.13: International migrant stock at mid-year (percentage of base year 1990)



Estimated net migration rates per 1,000 people were positive for 8 of the 14 countries during the period 2005-2010. 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 being the largest and oldest group of refugees. As shown in figure 2.1.14, three countries (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

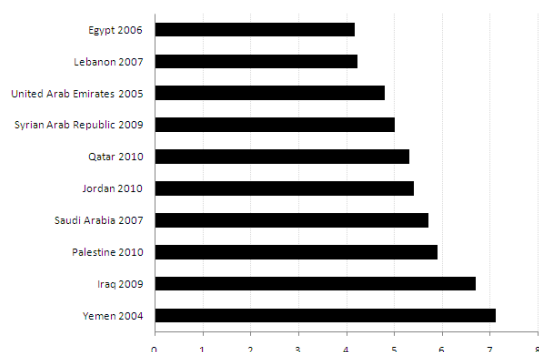
Changes in family and household formations have various policy implications, particularly on determining housing needs. Traditionally, people in Arab societies lived in large households, often with extended families spanning more than one generation. However, the living arrangements of populations have been changing to varying degrees in many Arab countries owing to 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. Only data on household size and headship were obtained from 10 countries.

Household size varies considerably from a high of around 7 persons in Iraq and Yemen to around 4 in Egypt and Lebanon (figure 2.1.15). Although household size is related to fertility rates, the relationship between the two is not consistent across countries. Other factors such as the presence of immigrant or refugee populations, the state of housing markets and preferences for extended living arrangements, all play a role in determining household size in any given population. Qatar for example 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

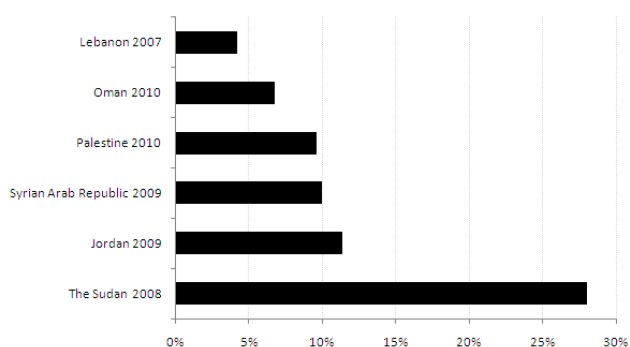
household sizes in a few countries reveal a consistent, although slow reduction in average household sizes, sometimes reaching a reduction of one person per household in roughly 15 years (Palestine).

Figure 2.1.15: Average household size, latest available year



Female household headship varies considerably across countries. It ranges from a high of 28 per cent in the Sudan to a low of 4 per cent in Lebanon (figure 2.1.16). However, four of the six 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)



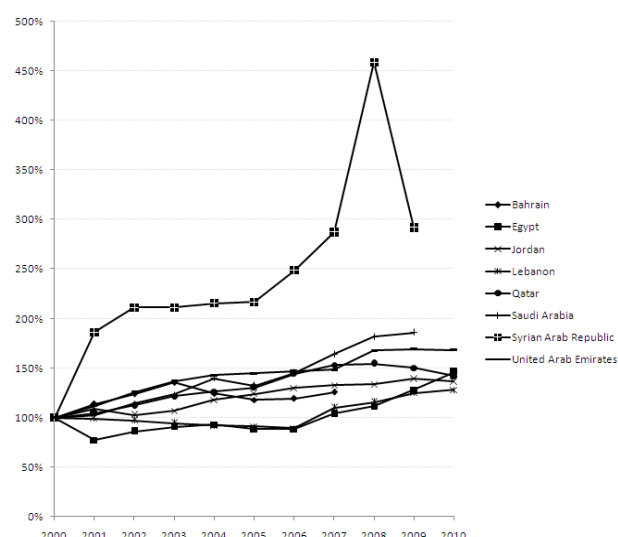
Marriage no longer universal – in some countries

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

countries. Until recently, divorce has been rare across the region.

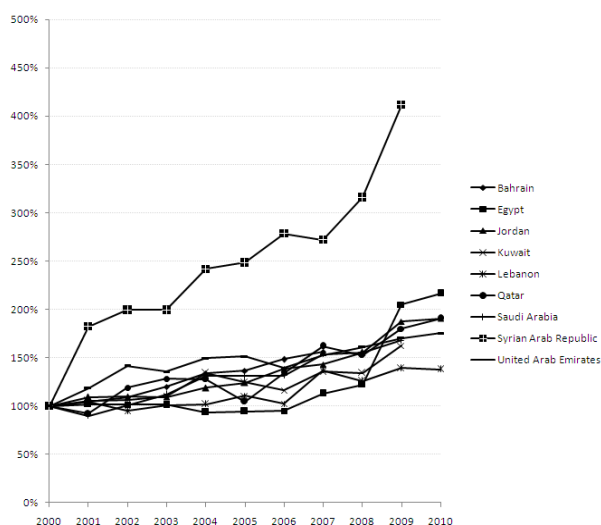
Figure 2.1.17 displays a simple index showing yearly changes in the number of registered marriages as compared to the base line year of 2000. As shown in the figure, the number of marriages has increased consistently since 2000 in most countries for which data are available. The Syrian Arab Republic experienced the most dramatic rise in registered marriages, increasing by more than four times since 2000. Registered marriages in Saudi Arabia also nearly doubled during the same period. However, the number of marriages remained fairly constant until 2007 when figures began to rise.

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



Trends in registered divorce are fairly similar to those of marriage, but the increase has been more noticeable in several countries since 2007 (figure 2.1.18). Again, the Syrian Arab Republic stands out with a significant rise in the rate of divorce, increasing fourfold since 2000. The number of registered divorces in Egypt also more than doubled and nearly doubled in both Jordan and Qatar, between 2000 until 2010.

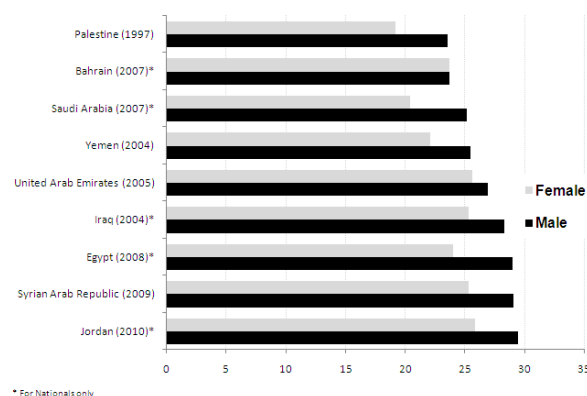
Figure 2.1.18: Registered divorces as a per cent of those registered in the year 2000



Age at first marriage has increased in all countries in the region for both men and women. However, recent estimates from 9 countries reveal wide variations in an individual's age at first marriage (figure 2.1.19). Men and women in Jordan tend to marry later than their counterparts in other countries, at the age of 30 and 26 years, respectively. Those in Palestine tend to marry earlier on average at 24 years for men and 19 years for women.

On average, Men in Egypt and Saudi Arabia tend to marry women around 5 years younger, while men in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates tend on average to marry women of a similar age.

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



* For Nationals only

Current data on marital status from 10 countries in the region indicate that marriage is no longer total 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. On the other hand, teenage marriage is still prevalent in all countries except Lebanon, and most common 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

Employment

Women and youth participate in the labour force at categorically lower rates than adult men in ESCWA member countries, often by a wide margin. Residents 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. Specifically, labour force participation, unemployment, economic sector, employment status and occupation group data will be presented. Data on gender and youth will be disaggregated wherever possible, as will comparisons of data from two time periods, between 2001 to 2005 and 2006 to 2010.

The phrase ‘latest year available’ in this chapter refers to: Bahrain 2010, Egypt 2010, Iraq 2008, Jordan 2010, Lebanon 2009, Oman 2010, Palestine 2010, Qatar 2009, Saudi Arabia 2009, Syrian Arab Republic 2010, United Arab Emirates 2009, and Yemen 2009. Data on nationals were used in all figures for all countries except Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, and Yemen, which did not provide nationality disaggregations.

Labour force participation highest in Egypt, lowest in Saudi Arabia

Labour force participation is the measure of the percentage of the population who are either working or actively seeking work. Labour force participation is low in ESCWA member countries, mainly because of low participation rates amongst women.

Figure 2.2.1 may be somewhat deceptive, since overall labour force participation rates varied over a relatively narrow range. The lowest labour force participation rate was 36.4 per cent in Saudi Arabia, and the highest was 49.5 per cent in Egypt, followed closely by 49.4 per cent in Qatar.

Figure 2.2.1: Labour force participation rates, latest year available

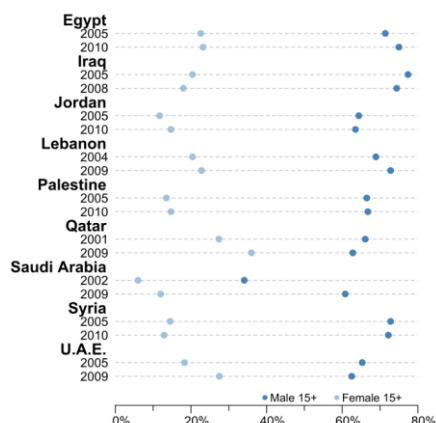


Women labour force participation rates less than half of men's in most countries

All countries, except Qatar in 2009, 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 Saudi Arabia in 2009 and the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010, working-age men participated in the labour force at over five times the rate of working-age women. The highest labour force participation rate amongst working-age populations in the 2006-2010 time period was 75.0 per cent for men in Egypt in 2010 and the lowest was 12.0 per cent for women in Saudi Arabia in 2009.

The largest relative difference between male and female labour force participation rates was in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010, where the male participation rate was 5.6 times higher than the female rate.

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

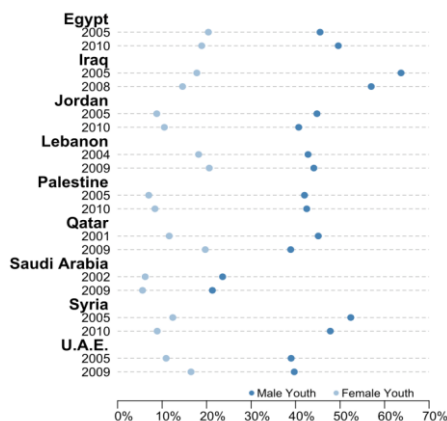


Only 5.6 per cent of female youth in Saudi Arabia participated in the labour force in 2009

To some extent, lower labour force participation rates are expected amongst youth as 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.

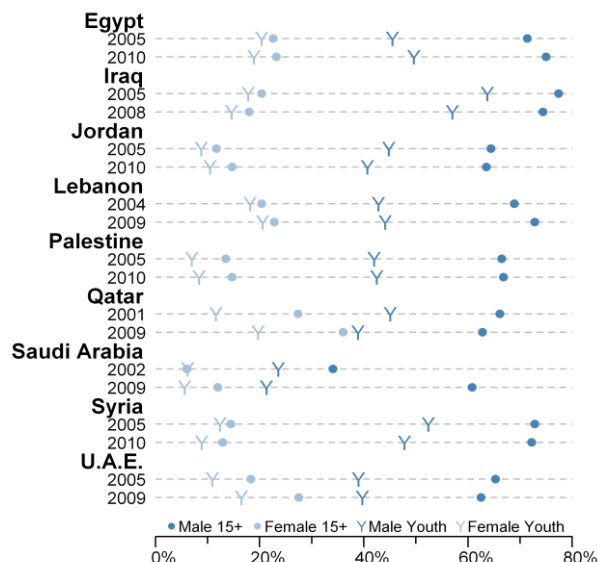
The lowest labour force participation rate in the 2006 to 2010 time period was 5.6 per cent for females in Saudi Arabia (2009). The highest recorded was 57.0 per cent for males in Iraq (2008). The largest absolute difference between figures was 42.4 percentage points in Iraq (2008). The largest relative difference was recorded in the Syrian Arab 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, below.

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

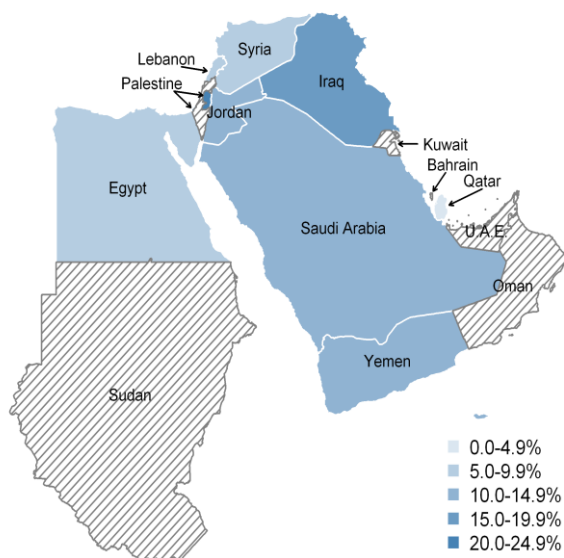


Highest unemployment rate is in Palestine, lowest is in Qatar

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.

Palestine reported the highest overall unemployment rate, of 23.7 per cent, among countries that provided data for the 2006 to 2010 time period. The lowest unemployment rate was seen in Qatar, which reported a rate of 2.3 per cent. The unemployment rate for Palestine is based on 2010 data and the rate for Qatar is based on data from 2009.

Figure 2.2.5: Unemployment rates, latest year available

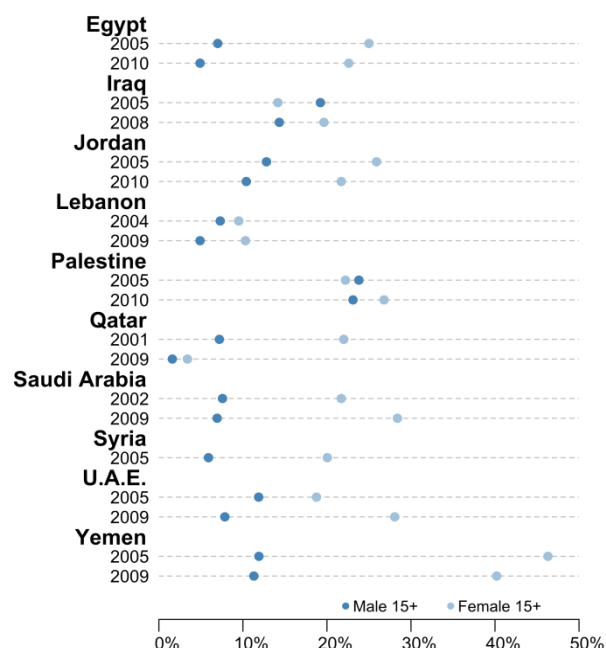


Relative gaps between male and female unemployment rates increased in all countries except Qatar and Yemen

All countries reported higher unemployment amongst women than men during the 2006 to 2010 time period. The lowest unemployment rate in working-age populations in this period was 1.6 per cent for men in Qatar and the highest was 40.2 per cent for women in Yemen.

Between the two observed time periods, the absolute differences between male and female unemployment rates decreased in Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, and Yemen, 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 Qatar and Yemen.

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



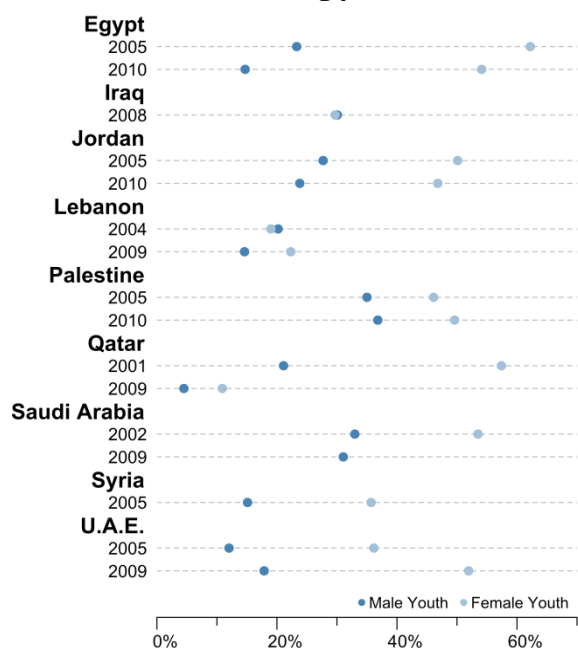
Markedly higher unemployment for youth

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

All countries' most recent data show higher unemployment rates for female youth than male youth. Unemployment rates for female youth were over 40 per cent in five out of the eight countries that reported data for the 2006 to 2010 time period. The highest unemployment rate reported in this time period was a rate of 71.0 per cent amongst female youth in Saudi Arabia in 2009.

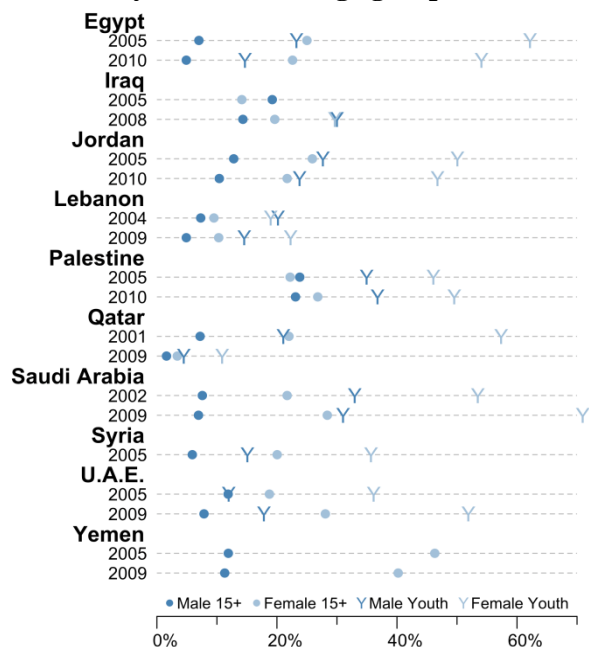
Youth unemployment rates were low, however, in Qatar in 2009. Unemployment amongst male youth was reported at a rate of 4.5 per cent and unemployed female youth at 10.9 per cent.

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 on the same scale, below.

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

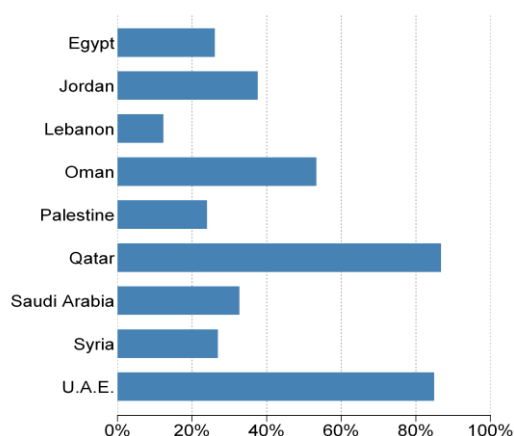


Note: No youth disaggregations were available for Iraq in 2005 or Yemen.

Largest percentage of work in the private sector in Lebanon

Lebanon's private sector accounted for 86.8 per cent of total employment, a higher percentage than that of any other country. The next highest figure for employment in the private sector was recorded in the Syrian Arab Republic with 72.9 per cent in 2010. The highest percentages of employment in the public sector were found in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in 2009, 86.7 per cent and 84.9 per cent, respectively. Egypt followed closely, in 2010, with 82.9 per cent of total employment being in the public sector. Of the nine countries observed, five had dominant public sectors and four had dominant private sectors.

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

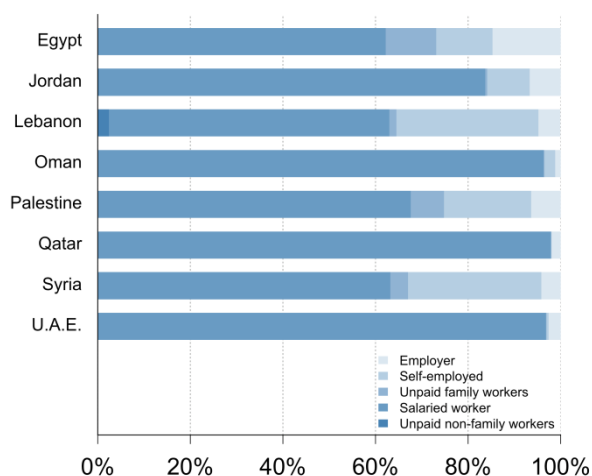


High percentages of self-employed workers in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic

Without exception, most workers in ESCWA member countries held salaried jobs in the 2006 to 2010 time period. The only countries that reported nonzero percentages for unpaid non-family workers were Jordan and Lebanon, which reported 0.2 per cent and 2.4 per cent, respectively. Egypt had the highest percentage of jobs, 14.7 per cent, that fell into the 'Employer' category.

Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic had relatively large percentages of workers who were self-employed. 30.7 per cent of workers in Lebanon were self-employed in 2009, and 28.8 per cent of workers in the Syrian Arab Republic were self-employed in 2010.

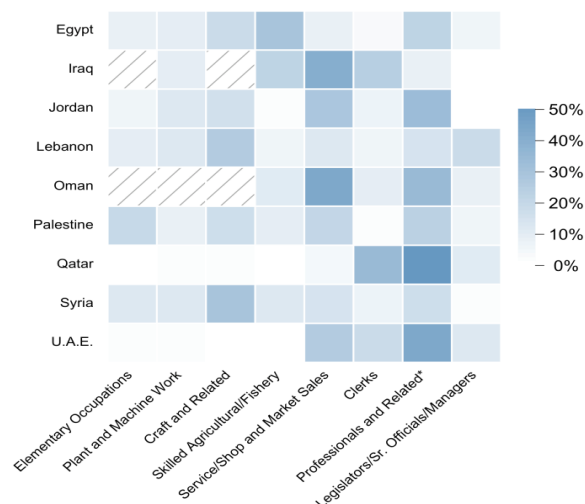
Figure 2.2.10: Percentage of employment by status, latest year available



Over a third of Iraq's civilian labour force was employed in 'Service and Shop and Market Sales'

In some countries, certain occupation groups were dominant in the civilian labour force. In Iraq, for instance, 'Service and Shop and Market Sales' accounted for 39.2 per cent of civilian labourers. 'Professionals and Related' was a major category of work in Qatar in 2009, making up 49.0 per cent of total employment for civilian nationals.

Figure 2.2.11: Main occupations, latest year available. Shaded cells denote groups for which no data were provided. Data were rescaled after exclusion of Armed Forces category, which was not available for all countries



* Professionals and Related includes Professionals and Technicians and Associate Professionals groups.

Housing Conditions

The entitlement to decent housing is both a right and a need for all people. It has a direct impact on the health of a population and provides a secure environment for the development of society.

Four indicators are used in this section for the assessment of housing conditions: the tenure of housing units, access to a water supply, access to electricity from a public network, and the type of sewage disposal system used. Data are mainly collected from 2000 and 2010 censuses.

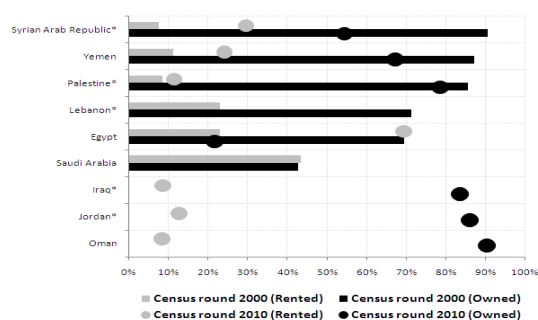
Dramatic drop in percentage of housing unit ownership in Egypt

Two categories of tenure of housing units, *owned* and *rented*, are compared across 2000 and 2010 censuses. The majority of countries showed a high level of ownership of housing units (above 50 per cent). The only significant differences between the two census rounds were seen in Yemen and Egypt.

The highest percentage of housing unit ownership in 2010 was recorded in the Syrian Arab Republic (90 per cent), and the lowest was in Egypt (22 per cent). Accordingly, the highest rental percentage was 69 per cent in Egypt and the lowest was 8.5 per cent in the Syrian Arab Republic.

There was a noteworthy decrease in property ownership in Egypt between the two census rounds; percentage ownership dropped from 69 per cent in 2000 to 22 per cent in 2010.

Figure 2.3.1: Tenure of housing unit from 2000 and 2010 census rounds

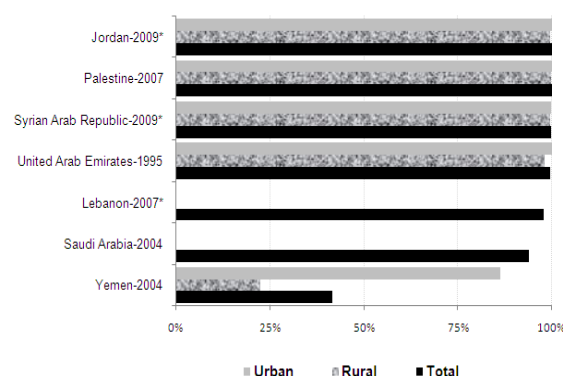


* Survey data

Access to electricity similar for urban and rural areas in most countries

The most recent available data revealed that household access to a public electricity network exceeded 96 per cent in most countries. With the exception of Yemen, all countries recorded relatively equal percentages for urban and rural areas. Yemen's percentage for rural areas was considerably lower than it was for urban areas (22 per cent vs. 86 per cent).

Figure 2.3.2: Availability of electricity from public network (percentage of total housing units), latest census/survey data

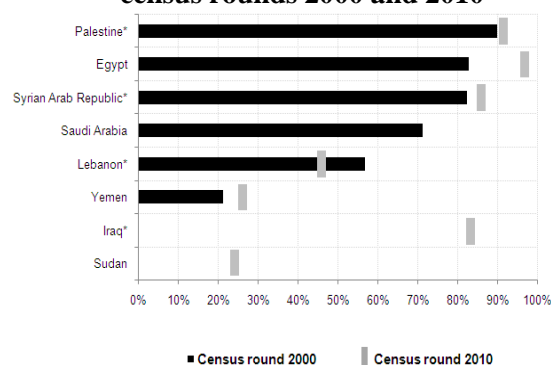


* Survey data

High level of access to public piped water

The majority of countries reported that over 70 per cent of households had access to public piped water. In 2010, the highest rate was recorded at 97 per cent in Egypt and the lowest was 24 per cent in the Sudan.

Figure 2.3.3: Availability of public piped water as a percentage of total housing units for the census rounds 2000 and 2010



* Survey data

High percentage of septic tank usage in rural areas

Two types of sewage disposal system are compared in this analysis: *sewage networks* and *septic tanks*. Data for urban areas revealed that over 60 per cent of households had access to a sewage network. The highest rate of 95 per cent was recorded in the Syrian Arab Republic and the lowest rate at 61 per cent in Palestine. Rural areas tended to use a high percentage of septic tanks, the highest of which was 97 per cent in Jordan.

It is very possible that many of the septic tanks in rural areas are in fact cesspools, rather than proper septic tanks. Cesspools are widely used in developing countries and are often insufficiently maintained, suffering leakages. The use of cesspools, rather than proper septic tanks, poses a serious environmental hazard.

Figure 2.3.4: Type of sewage disposal system as a percentage of total housing units, from the 2010 census round



Education

The attainment of education in a population is widely recognized to be an important factor in socio-economic development. Compulsory education has therefore been a major policy goal in virtually all countries across the globe. Formal schooling equips people with skills required by a modern labour market and is directly related to successive employment and wages. It also contributes to the better health and well being of 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 aims to draw a picture of formal education in member countries using data obtained mainly from National Statistical Offices. It focuses on selected indicators such as literacy rates, enrolment ratios, pupil-teacher ratios and government expenditure on education.

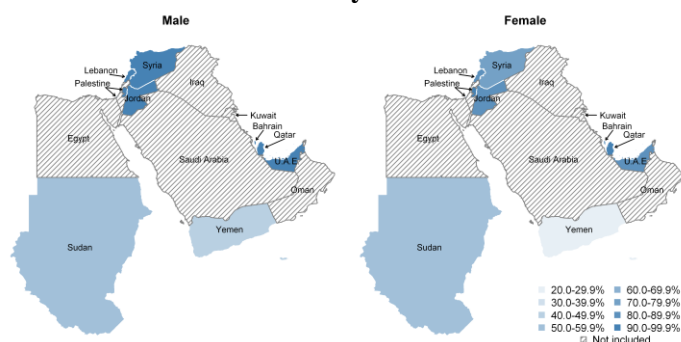
Highest literacy rates in Palestine and Qatar, lowest literacy rate in Yemen

Palestine and Qatar reported the highest overall adult literacy rates of respondent countries, 94.9 per cent and 94.7 per cent, respectively. The lowest adult literacy rate of 33.6 per cent was found in Yemen. However, the last year of data provided varied; Palestine reported data from 2010, Qatar from 2009 and Yemen from 2004.

Wide-ranging sex gaps in literacy rates

Figure 2.4.1. presents a gender-disaggregated literacy map for the most recent data provided by respondent countries. The absolute difference between adult literacy rates for men and women ranged from 2.2 percentage points in Qatar to 14.7 percentage points in Yemen. The gap in the United Arab Emirates was the second smallest, at 2.4 percentage points. The second largest gap was 14.0 percentage points in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Figure 2.4.1: Male and female literacy rates, latest year



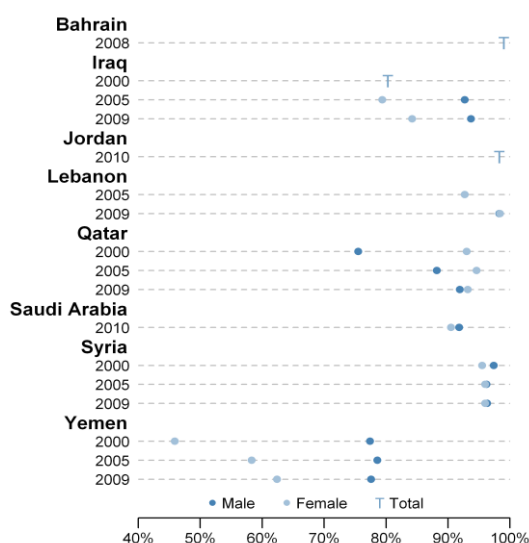
Sex gaps in enrolment in primary schools narrowed in most countries

The net enrolment ratio is one of the indicators of the quality of education in a country. The net enrolment ratio ranged from between 85 per cent and 99 per cent, with the exception of Yemen. The highest reported net enrolment ratio for primary education was 99.0 per cent in Bahrain in 2008, while the lowest was recorded in Yemen in 2009. Although no total enrolment ratio was provided for Yemen, both the male enrolment (77.6 per cent) and female enrolment (62.4 per cent) data provided were lower than the total of any other respondent country.

All countries reported an increase in the net primary enrolment ratio for both sexes between 2000 and 2010, and all countries except Lebanon 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 both Yemen and Iraq, a higher percentage of girls enrolled in primary education in 2009 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 2009, the largest recorded gender gap was in Yemen (77.6 per cent vs. 62.4 per cent), while the smallest gap was recorded in Lebanon (98.4 per cent vs. 98.3 per cent).

Figure 2.4.2: Primary enrolment ratio by sex

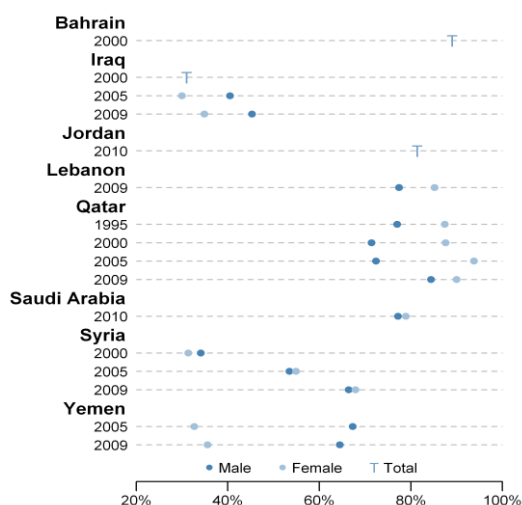


Secondary education enrolment ratio was higher amongst women than men in four of the seven respondent countries

Net enrolment in secondary education increased for both sexes over the past decade. In four (Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the Syrian Arab Republic) out of the seven respondent countries, the net enrolment ratio for women in secondary education was higher than the ratio for men.

In 2009, the highest (87.1 per cent) enrolment ratio for both sexes in secondary education was in Qatar and the lowest (35.6 per cent) was in Yemen.

Figure 2.4.3: Secondary enrolment ratio by sex

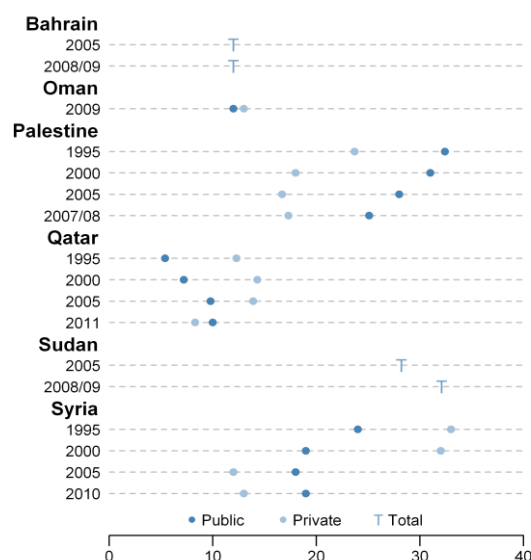


Wide variation in pupil-teacher ratios

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 settings.

The pupil-teacher ratio varied widely from one country to another: 9.3 pupils per teacher in Qatar in 2011; 12.0 in Bahrain and Oman in 2009; 16.0 in the Syrian Arab Republic in 2010; and 32.1 in the Sudan in 2009. The only consistent decrease in pupil-teacher ratio for public schools was seen in Palestine.

Figure 2.4.4: Pupil-to-teacher ratio by sector



Oman, United Arab Emirates spent over 20 per cent of public expenditure on education in 2005

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

Figure 2.4.5 shows that all countries except Saudi Arabia reported an increase in public expenditure on education as a percentage of total government expenditure between 2000 and 2005. During this period, expenditure on education in Saudi Arabia decreased from 22.7 per cent to 19.3 per cent.

The highest public expenditure on education as a percentage of the total government expenditure in 2005 was 28.3 per cent in the United Arab Emirates. Oman also spent a relatively large amount of its government expenditure (24.2 per cent) on education in 2005. The lowest percentage in 2005 was 11 per cent in Lebanon.

Lebanon and Oman increased their public expenditure on education as a percentage of the GDP between 2000 and 2005, while Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates reduced it. The highest public expenditure on education as a percentage of the GDP was 5.7 per cent in Saudi Arabia while the lowest was 1.3 per cent in the United Arab Emirates in 2005.

Figure 2.4.5: Public expenditure on education as a per cent of total government expenditure and as a per cent of the GDP

Country	Percentage of total government expenditure		Percentage of total GDP	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
Egypt	...	16.0	...	4.8
Kuwait	...	12.7	...	4.7
Lebanon	9.2	11.0	1.9	2.6
Oman	18.2	24.2	3.1	3.5
KSA	22.7	19.3	5.9	5.7
UAE	22.2	28.3	2.0	1.3
Yemen	32.8	...	9.9	...

Source: UIS 2011.

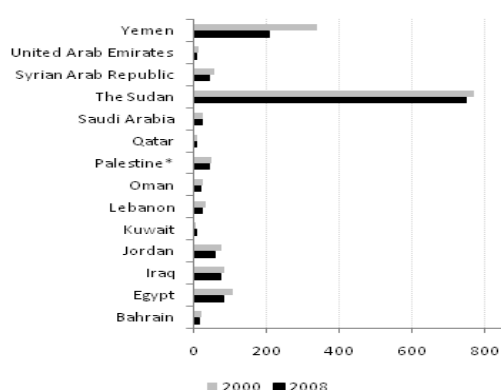
The state of health in a population depends on both the quality of health services and the willingness of individuals to make healthy choices in their lives. In this chapter, we will discuss data reported by member countries and from the World Health Organization (WHO) on maternal health, children's health and health expenditure in member countries.

In particular, we will look at mortality rates, births attended by skilled personnel, prenatal care, contraceptive use and immunization rates. Health expenditure will be considered as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), as a share of total government spending and in per capita terms.

Decrease in maternal mortality in most member countries

The World Health Organization 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 births (WHO 2011). The rate of maternal mortality declined in most ESCWA member countries between the year 2000 and the year 2008. Most notable are decreases in both Yemen and Egypt, whose rates fell by 330 and 138, respectively. The most recent data from WHO revealed the highest MMR was recorded in the Sudan, at 750, followed by 210 in Yemen. The lowest rates were 8 in Qatar and 9 in Kuwait.

Figure 2.5.1: Maternal mortality rates, 2000 and 2008



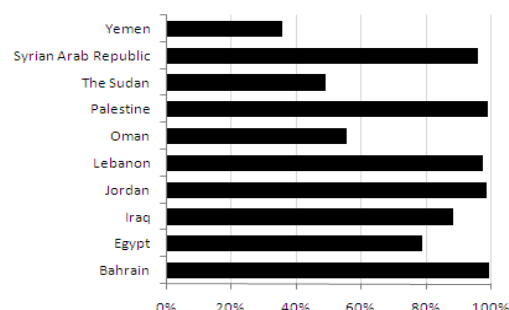
Source: WHO 2011.

Almost all births attended by skilled health personnel in some countries

According to the WHO, a skilled birth attendant is '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' (WHO 2011).

According to the most recent data available from national statistical offices, the percentages of women in ESCWA member countries who received skilled health assistance during delivery ranged from 49 per cent in the Sudan to almost 100 per cent in Bahrain. Over 95 per cent of births were attended by skilled health personnel in five out of the ten countries that reported data.

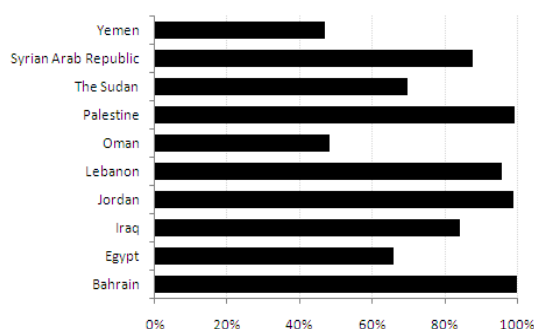
Figure 2.5.2: Per cent of births attended by skilled health professionals, latest year available



Oman: low prenatal care rate, low MMR

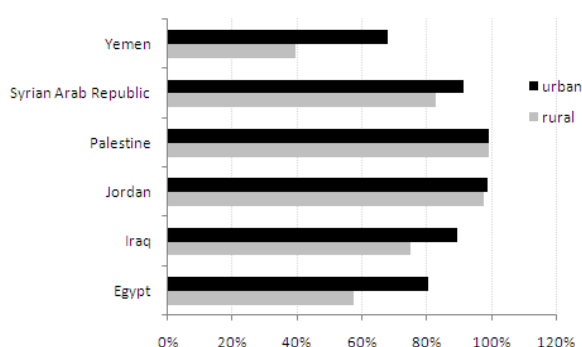
Pregnant women who receive prenatal care are defined as those women who are attended at least four times by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy. The most recent data reveal that the percentage of women receiving prenatal care fluctuated between 47 per cent in Yemen (followed closely by 48 per cent in Oman) and 100 per cent in Bahrain. It is surprising that Oman had one of the lowest percentages of women receiving prenatal care, since Oman's MMR was also among the lowest (20 per 100,000 births).

Figure 2.5.3: Prenatal care rates, latest year available



Data for Yemen showed a significant difference in prenatal care between urban and rural rates, 68 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively. The same contrast was seen in Egypt, which reported 80 per cent in urban areas and only 57 per cent in rural areas.

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



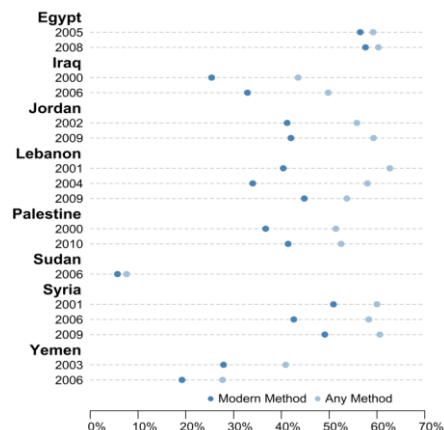
Increase in the use of contraceptives in most countries

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 is notably increasing. In the region, data are usually reported for married women aged 15 to 49.

During the 2006-2011 period, the Syrian Arab Republic reported the highest use of any method of contraception, at 61 per cent. However, the highest recorded use of modern contraceptive methods was led by Egypt, which reported 58 per cent usage. The Sudan fell behind other countries, reporting only a 6 per cent use of modern contraceptive methods and an 8 per cent

use of any contraceptive method in 2006. Most countries reported an increase in the use of contraceptives between the 2001-2005 and 2006-2010 time periods.

Figure 2.5.5: Per cent of contraceptive use

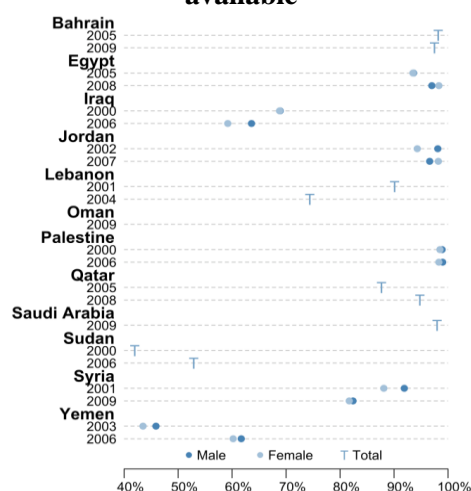


Low DTP immunization rates in Iraq and Yemen

According to the WHO, DTP3 immunization coverage is the percentage of one-year-olds who have received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine in a given year (WHO 2011).

The most noticeable difference between the male and female DTP vaccination rate in 2006-2010 was in Iraq, where a higher percentage of boys were immunized. The Sudan, Iraq, and Yemen reported DTP immunization rates at less than 70 per cent.

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

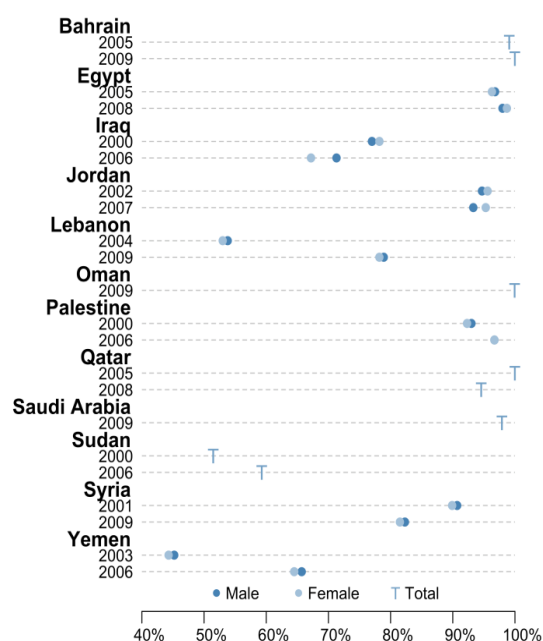


Measles immunization rates above 90 per cent in most countries

Measles immunization coverage, according to WHO, is 'the percentage 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.'

In the 2006-2010 time-period, most countries' measles immunization rates were recorded as over 90 per cent. The exceptions being Iraq, Lebanon, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

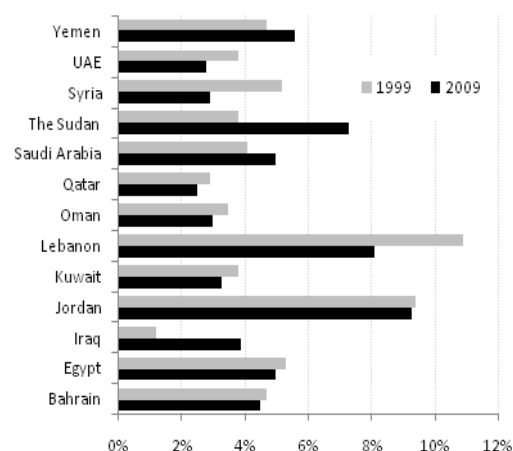
Figure 2.5.7: Measles immunization rates by sex. Total provided where sex disaggregation not available



Increase in per capita health expenditure in all countries

Health-care expenditure statistics present information on the financing of health care in member countries, which is a critical component of health systems. In 2009, expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) ranged from 2.5 per cent in Qatar to 9.3 per cent in Jordan. Lebanon (8.1 per cent) and the Sudan (7.3 per cent) also spent relatively large amounts on health relative to their GDPs.

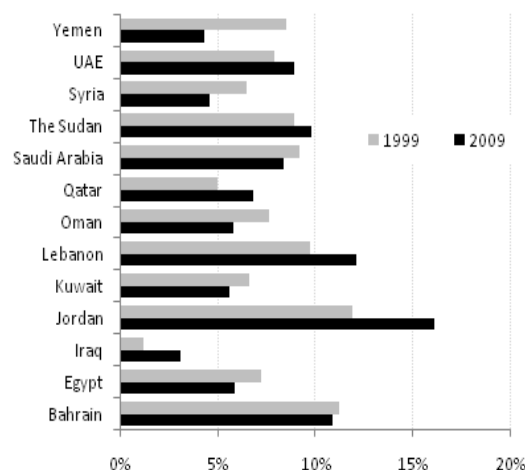
Figure 2.5.8: Total expenditure on health as per cent of gross domestic product, 1999 and 2009



Source: WHO 2011.

For the same year, the share of government spending on health ranged from 3.1 per cent in Iraq to 16.1 per cent in Jordan. Six of the twelve countries considered showed an increase in their share of government spending on health since 1999.

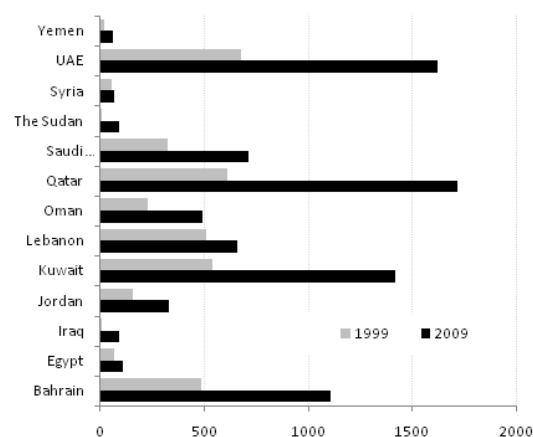
Figure 2.5.9: Expenditure on health as per cent of total government expenditure, 1999 and 2009



Source: WHO 2011.

Per capita health expenditure is also an important indicator to consider, since it reflects the amount of financial resources available for each person, independent of the country's economic standing. Between 1999 and 2009, all ESCWA member countries witnessed an increase in their per capita expenditures on health. Figures are recorded in United States dollars, at the average exchange rate.

Figure 2.5.10: Total per capita expenditure on health at average exchange rate (US\$), 1999 and 2009



Source: WHO 2011.

Culture

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

We will assess one of the keys to historical culture by investigating the quantity of and traffic to museums in recent years. We 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 had the greatest number of museums, Qatar the most per capita

Museums keep history alive. They offer visitors a unique, 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.

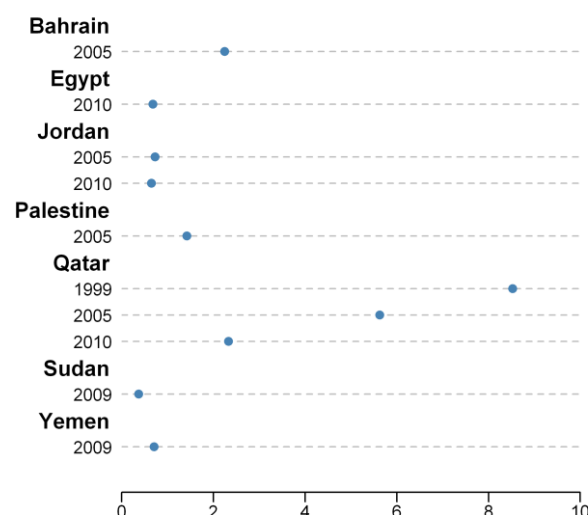
Figure 2.7.1: Number of museums and visitors to museums. (Visitors are in thousands)

Country	Year	Museums	Visitors
Bahrain	2000	2	91
	2005	2	76
Egypt	2008/09	..	4210
	2010	54	..
Iraq	2001	16	..
Jordan	2000	4	241
	2005	4	354
	2010	4	632
Oman	2000	8	110
	2005	8	92
	2010	9	119
Palestine	2000	10	118
	2005	5	6
Qatar	1999	5	56
	2005	5	14
	2010	4	203
Sudan	2006	17	..
	2009	15	..
UAE	2000	7	..
Yemen	2005	13	32
	2009	16	204

In Oman and Yemen, the number of museums has increased in recent years. A decrease, on the other hand, was reported in Palestine, Qatar, and Yemen. Figures for Bahrain and Jordan remained the same.

Egypt had 54 museums in 2010, by far the greatest number of any ESCWA member country. Bahrain, with 2, had the fewest. This is perhaps unsurprising, since Egypt is the most populous and Bahrain is the least populous of the member countries. It is also useful, then, to consider the number of museums scaled by countries' populations.

Figure 2.7.2: Number of museums per million residents



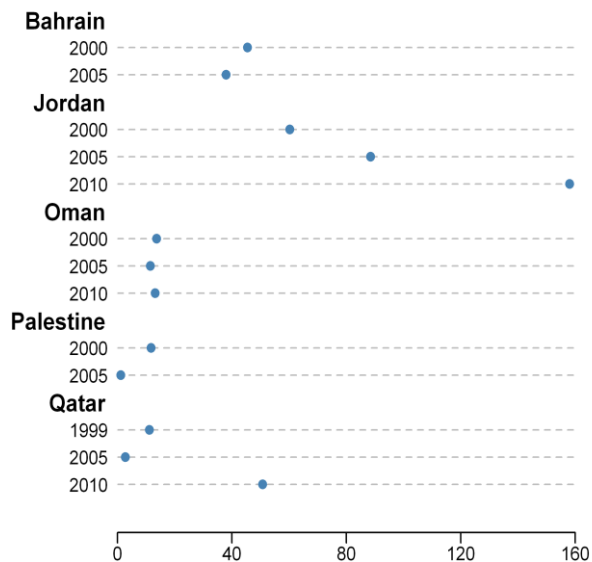
Qatar had the greatest number of museums per capita, reporting 2.3 museums per million residents in 2010. The smallest number was 0.4 museums per million residents, reported by the Sudan in 2009.

Highest traffic per museum in Jordan

Egypt eclipsed all other countries in the total number of visitors to museums in 2008/2009, but again, this figure should be taken in the context of 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 158 in 2010. Note that average traffic per museum figures were only provided when visitor and museum counts were available in the same year.

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

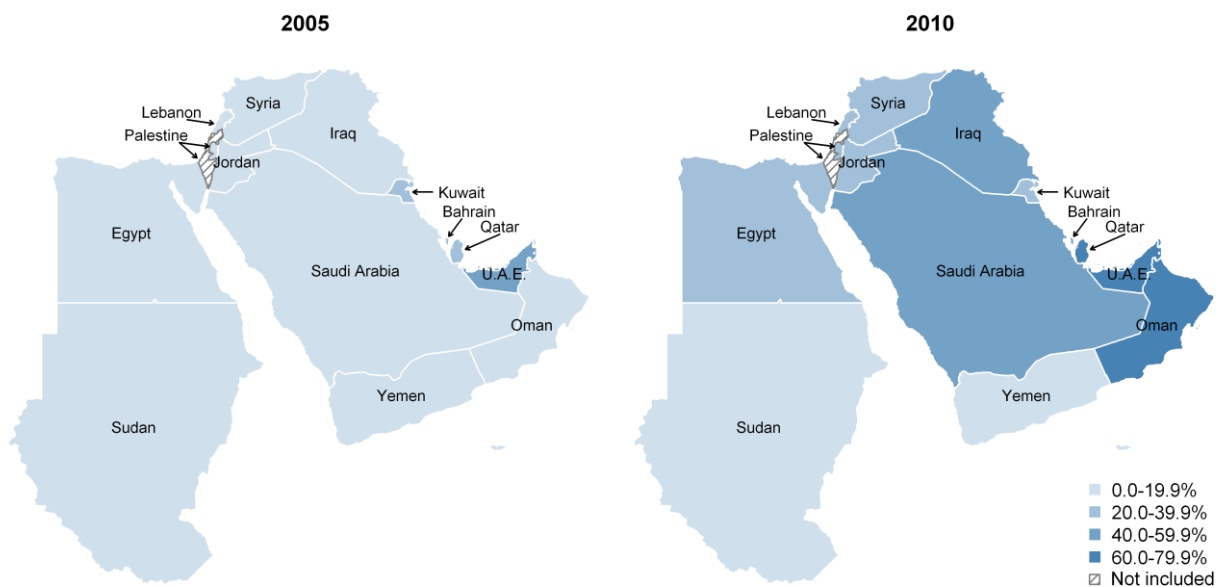


Dramatic increase in Internet use

The Internet has become a major part of modern culture in the ESCWA region. Internet usage increased sharply between 2005 and 2010. Some countries, such as Oman, the Sudan and Yemen, experienced an almost tenfold increase in Internet usage.

In 2005, the United Arab Emirates was the only country with more than one in three residents using the Internet and no country had usage over 50 per cent. In 2010, usage rates of over 33 per cent were found in 10 of the 14 member countries, four of which had usage rates of over 50 per cent.

Figure 2.7.4: Per cent of residents who use the Internet, 2005 and 2010



Source: World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database 2010.

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