CHAPTER I

POPULATION

الفصل الأول

السكان
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Population

This chapter presents data on population size, growth and composition; fertility and mortality; and marriages and divorces in ESCWA member countries. Data are derived from the World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and from the latest censuses of member countries. Data have also been collected through an annual questionnaire in the field of population and vital statistics prepared by ESCWA.

Table I-1 presents estimates of the total population size and the average annual population growth rates in ESCWA member countries and the world, in addition to developed and least developed countries, from 2000 to 2020. Data are for the de facto mid-year population, covering all residents regardless of their legal status or citizenship, except for refugees not permanently settled in the country of asylum. The average annual growth rate is the average annual rate of change in the total population over a five-year period, starting and ending in the middle of the indicated years.

Currently, the population of ESCWA member countries is of 314 million. Its size is expected to increase at a rate of 2 per cent annually from 2010 to 2015, as estimated by the United Nations Population Division. It will thus account for 4.5 per cent of the world population.

Table I-2 is on births and deaths. It presents estimates of the crude birth rate and crude death rate. The crude birth rate or crude death rate estimate is the total number of births or deaths in a population during a given period, divided by the total number of person-years lived or number of persons exposed to the risk of dying during the same period, which is equivalent to the average population for the period. It is presented per 1,000 people over five-year periods. There has been a decline in both rates since 2000. During the period 2015-2020, the crude birth rate in the region will range between a low of 9.8 per thousand in Qatar and a high of 31.7 per thousand in Sudan;
and the crude death rate will range between 1.1 per thousand in the United Arab Emirates and 8.0 per thousand in the Sudan.

Table I.3 is on children and the elderly. It presents data on the proportion of children aged 0-14 years in the total population, in addition to the proportion of elderly aged 65+ years in the total population, both referred to as the ratio of dependent population. Dependency rates for both children and the elderly have been declining between 2000 and 2020. According to the latest estimates, the proportion of children in the total population ranged between 13.4 per cent in Qatar and 38.7 per cent in The Sudan. The highest percentage of elderly population was recorded in Lebanon, at 10.8 per cent, and the lowest in the United Arab Emirates, at 0.9 per cent approximately.

Table I-4 presents data on fertility. The total fertility rate is the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with currently prevailing age-specific fertility rates. It is reported as annual averages for five-year periods starting and ending in the middle of the indicated years. The adolescent fertility rate measures the annual number of births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 years, representing the risk of childbearing among adolescent girls. It is also referred to as the age-specific fertility rate for girls aged 15 to 19 years. Between the periods 2000-2005, 2005-2010, 2010-2015 and 2015-2020 fertility rates decreased in all ESCWA member countries. Estimates for the period 2015-2020 indicate that fertility rates have fallen below replacement levels to 1.5, 1.7 and 1.9 children per woman in Lebanon, United Arab Emirates and Qatar and Tunis; and below the world average of 2.5 children per woman in seven ESCWA member countries.

The adolescent fertility rates have also decreased substantially in the region: in 15 countries, adolescent fertility rates have fallen below world rates (44 livebirths per 1000 girls aged 15-19).

Table I-5 presents sex-disaggregated estimates of life expectancy rates at birth for the periods 2000-2005, 2005-2010, 2010-2015 and 2015-2020. Life expectancy increased for both men and women in the region. The highest life expectancy in the subregion in 2015-2020 was in Lebanon, at 82.3 years, followed by Qatar, at 81.5 years, and the United Arab Emirates, at 80.4 years. The lowest life expectancy in the region was recorded in Yemen, at 66.0 years, followed by Djibouti, at 66.8 years, and Somalia, at 67.1 years.

We introduce the index of the fertility rates in the region and the crude death rate in the region. The fertility rate in the region has fallen from 2.7 children per woman in 2000-2005 to 1.8 children per woman in 2015-2020. The crude death rate in the region has fallen from 1.6 deaths per thousand in 2000-2005 to 1.2 deaths per thousand in 2015-2020.

We also present data on adolescent fertility rates. Adolescent fertility rates have fallen below the world average in all countries in the region. The highest adolescent fertility rate in the region in 2015-2020 was in Lebanon, at 52.0 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, followed by Qatar, at 47.0 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, and the United Arab Emirates, at 45.0 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19. The lowest adolescent fertility rate in the region was recorded in Yemen, at 29.0 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, followed by Djibouti, at 29.5 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19, and Somalia, at 30.0 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19.

We also present data on mortality rates. Mortality rates have fallen in all countries in the region. The highest mortality rate in the region in 2015-2020 was in Yemen, at 22.4 deaths per thousand, followed by Djibouti, at 22.9 deaths per thousand, and Somalia, at 23.0 deaths per thousand. The lowest mortality rate in the region was recorded in Lebanon, at 7.9 deaths per thousand, followed by Qatar, at 8.2 deaths per thousand, and the United Arab Emirates, at 8.4 deaths per thousand.

Finally, we present data on life expectancy at birth. Life expectancy at birth has increased in all countries in the region. The highest life expectancy at birth in the region in 2015-2020 was in Lebanon, at 82.4 years, followed by Qatar, at 81.4 years, and the United Arab Emirates, at 80.3 years. The lowest life expectancy at birth in the region was recorded in Yemen, at 66.0 years, followed by Djibouti, at 66.7 years, and Somalia, at 67.0 years.

We also present data on adolescent mortality rates. Adolescent mortality rates have fallen in all countries in the region. The highest adolescent mortality rate in the region in 2015-2020 was in Yemen, at 3.3 deaths per thousand, followed by Djibouti, at 3.4 deaths per thousand, and Somalia, at 3.5 deaths per thousand. The lowest adolescent mortality rate in the region was recorded in Lebanon, at 1.4 deaths per thousand, followed by Qatar, at 1.5 deaths per thousand, and the United Arab Emirates, at 1.6 deaths per thousand.

Finally, we present data on life expectancy at age 65. Life expectancy at age 65 has increased in all countries in the region. The highest life expectancy at age 65 in the region in 2015-2020 was in Lebanon, at 74.0 years, followed by Qatar, at 73.0 years, and the United Arab Emirates, at 72.0 years. The lowest life expectancy at age 65 in the region was recorded in Yemen, at 59.0 years, followed by Djibouti, at 59.5 years, and Somalia, at 60.0 years.
males and females in all countries. According to 2015-2020 estimates, life expectancy at birth will be highest in Lebanon (79.5 years for males and 83.4 years for females) and the lowest in the Sudan (61.7 years for males and 65.3 years for females). With the exception of Iraq, Sudan and Yemen, all member countries will have higher life expectancy at birth than the world average for both males (68.8 years) and females (73.3 years).

Table I-6 presents estimates of infant and child mortality rates for the periods 2000-2005, 2005-2010, 2010-2015 and 2015-2020. It shows a substantial decrease in infant and child mortality rates in all countries. During the period 2015-2020, the United Arab Emirates will record the lowest rates (4.9 deaths per 1,000 births for infants and 6.0 deaths per 1,000 births for children); and the Sudan recorded the highest rates for the same categories (51.3 deaths per 1,000 births for infants and 79.0 deaths per 1,000 births for children). With the exception of the Sudan and Yemen, all member countries have lower infant and child mortality rates than world averages.

Tables I-7, I-8 and I-9 present data on population counts by the latest census. They include population data by age group, gender, nationality and rural/urban residence. Population data refer to the de facto population. Urban areas were determined according to the respective national census definition. Lebanon has not undertaken a population census since 1932.

Table I-10 presents the total number of registered births and deaths from 2000 to 2012. Almost all member countries witnessed a consistent increase in the number of registered births. Registered deaths have also increased in a number of countries.

Table I-11 shows the total number of registered marriages and divorces from 2000 to 2012. During that period, most member countries witnessed a consistent increase in the number of registered marriages, and all of them witnessed an increase in registered divorces.

And the estimates of the period 2015-2020 show a significant increase in deaths in Lebanon (79.5 years for males and 83.4 years for females), and the lowest in Sudan (61.7 years for males and 65.3 years for females). With the exception of Iraq, Sudan and Yemen, all member countries will have higher life expectancy at birth than the world average for both males (68.8 years) and females (73.3 years).

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