Section II, entitled, “Fertility and Mortality”, presents estimated life expectancy at birth by sex, registered births, deaths, and causes of death in the ESCWA region from 2000 to the most recent year for which data were available. In addition, the section includes levels of fertility as estimated from the most recent population census and/or household survey.

Estimates of life expectancy at birth for recent years (2000-2011) are available from nine countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The latest estimates for the years 2009-2011 indicate that Qatar had the highest life expectancy for males at 78 years in 2011, and United Arab Emirates had the highest life expectancy at birth for females at 80 years in 2009. As shown in tables 37-38 life expectancy at birth improved for both males and females in most countries between 2000 and 2011. Estimates for some countries show inconsistent trends in life expectancy at birth, with a slight decline during this period. It is unclear why this is so. Also, estimates of life expectancy for females are higher than males as expected, but the gender difference is lower than expected, amounting to only 1-2 years in a few countries. (See figure 32)

Tables 40-43 present data on registered live births by sex and sex ratios at birth.
in each of the ESCWA member countries from 2000 to 2011. Figure 33 shows that sex ratios at birth are within an acceptable range, 103-107, during most recent years (2008-2011) in the ESCWA member countries except Yemen. Thus, there is evidence of under-registration female births only in Yemen. This figure also shows significant improvements in the registration of female births in Iraq and Yemen from 2000 to 2008-2009.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was reported by the majority of ESCWA member countries. The TFR decreased in all ESCWA member countries over the last fifteen years. According to available estimates from the latest population census or survey, the highest TFR (6.1 births per woman) was in Yemen in 2004, followed by Kuwait and Sudan (5 births per woman), while the lowest TFR (1.9 births per woman) was in Lebanon and Bahrain and (2 births per woman in 2009) was in the United Arab Emirates. (See table 44).

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Tables 45-54 present registered deaths from administration records for infants and children by sex for selected years. Table 55 presents infant mortality rate (IMR) and under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) according to the latest available census and/or surveys. It shows that the highest IMR (79 infants per 1000) was in the Sudan in 2008 followed by Palestine (21 infants per 1000) while the lowest IMR (7 infants per 1000) was in Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. With regard to U5MR, the highest rate (110 children per 1000) was in Sudan in 2008 followed by (25 children per 1000) in Palestine in 2010 while the lowest rate (8 children per 1000) was in Qatar. (See figures 34 and 35)
Tables 56-62 present causes of death which is classified according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10). The data reported from the ESCWA countries show that the most common causes of death are: Diseases of the circulatory system; symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified; and certain infectious and parasitic diseases.