Section II, entitled, “Fertility and Mortality”, presents estimated life expectancy at birth by sex. Also, it presents data on 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 (2000-2010) are available from eight countries, namely: Egypt, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The latest estimates for the years 2009-2010 indicate that Qatar had the highest life expectancy at birth for males at 78 years in 2010, and the United Arab Emirates had the highest life expectancy at birth for females at 80 years. As shown in tables 38-39 life expectancy at birth improved for both males and females in most countries between 2000 and 2010. 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 41-44 present data on registered live births by sex and sex ratios at birth in each of ESCWA member countries from 2000 to 2009. Figure 33 shows that sex ratios at birth are within an acceptable range, 103-107, during most recent years (2008-2009-2010) in ESCWA member countries except Yemen. Thus, there is evidence of under-registration for 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 ten countries, namely, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. According to available estimates from the latest population census or survey, the highest TFR (6.1 births per woman) was in Yemen in 2004, while the lowest TFR (1.9 births per woman) was in Lebanon (2 births per woman in 2009) was in the United Arab Emirates. (See table 45).

Tables 46-55 present registered deaths from administration records for infants and children by sex for selected years. Table 56 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 (21...
infants per 1000) was in Palestine in 2010 while the lowest IMR (7 infants per 1000) was in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. With regard to U5MR, the highest rate (25 children per 1000) was in Palestine in 2010 while the lowest rate (8 children per 1000) was in Qatar (See figures 34 and 35).

Figure 34: Infant mortality rates according to latest available census and/or survey

Figure 35: Sex ratio for registered infant deaths, 2007-2009
Tables 57-63 present causes of death which are classified according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD 10). Data reported from ESCWA member 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.