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Women and Men in the Arab Region:

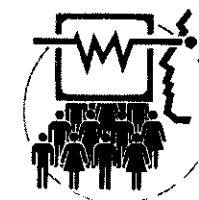
A Statistical Portrait

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Preface

This publication represents one of the activities carried out under the umbrella of the regional project on the Development of National Gender Statistics Programmes in the Arab Countries, which is being funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and executed by ESCWA. It is intended to offer a statistical portrait of the situation of women relative to that of men in the Arab region, with the objective of increasing awareness, promoting change and ensuring gender equality.

The main development goal of the project is to strengthen national capacities in the production, use and dissemination of statistics related to gender issues at the national and regional levels in an effort to influence policies and programmes and promote change for the benefit of women. This project coincides with the efforts of ESCWA to mainstream the gender perspective at all stages in research and operational activities, including advisory services and technical assistance at the national level of ESCWA member States.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to this publication, including the countries participating in the project, I hope it will highlight the need to improve the availability of relevant, accurate and up-to-date gender-disaggregated statistics to promote greater awareness of the problems faced by women relative to men in the region, and to ensure that future work will be carried out to improve the well-being of the people of our region.


HAZEM EL-BEBLAWI
Executive Secretary

Acknowledgements

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Statistical note

Most statistics used in this presentation are from United Nations system sources because they offer wide coverage and time series. Although United Nations data are generally either directly obtained from national sources or estimated on the basis of data obtained from national sources, some discrepancies between them and national data may nevertheless exist in few cases.

Regional averages of indicators are weighted averages. Weights are the values of the denominator of the indicator in the relevant countries. In some cases, not all countries are included in the average. In these cases, the proportion that the countries included in the average form of total regional population is indicated.

Women and Men in the Arab Region:

A Statistical Portrait

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Highlights

- The Arab region includes 21 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lybian Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
- Fertility levels are falling in the Arab region. As a result, there is a gradual aging of the Arab population. The proportion of the region's population that is 65 years of age and over will rise from 3.4 per cent in 1990 to 12 per cent in 2050. Since women typically live longer than men, the proportion of women who are either widows or single elderly women in the Arab population has risen and is expected to continue to rise in the foreseeable future.
- With declining mortality, the expectation of life at birth in the Arab region will rise from 63.5 years for women and 61 years for men in 1990 to 75.3 years for women and 71.6 years for men in the year 2025. As a result, the gender gap will increase from 2.5 years to 3.7 years in favour of women.
- Infant mortality in the Arab region may be estimated at 55 per thousand births for girls and 62 per thousand births for boys resulting in a gender gap of 7 per thousandth points in favour of girls. But the quality of data does not permit firm conclusions in this regard.
- Total fertility in the Arab region implies that a typical Arab woman is expected to have an average of 4.3 children in her lifetime. But this average includes women who never marry and hence do not have children during their lifetime. Marital fertility, which considers only women who are married, implies a number of children that is twice as high. Frequent births and short birth intervals have been shown to affect negatively the health of both mother and child.
- Knowledge of contraception among married Arab women is, on average, quite high but it varies considerably among countries of the region. Contraceptive use in the Arab region is in line with other countries with similar fertility levels but rates also vary significantly among countries and between rural and urban areas.
- There has been a considerable increase in the age at first marriage in the Arab region. At present the average is 24 years for women and 29 years for men. These levels are relatively high when compared with those obtained in other countries especially developing countries.



- Typically, Arab women marry men who are on average five years older than they are. In countries where emigration rates are high, these men are not only subject to five more years of mortality, but also to higher rate of emigration. This tends to restrict the availability of mates for women and this restriction increases with the women's age at marriage.
- Celibacy among both men and women is increasing and the proportion married is decreasing in the Arab region. As a result, the proportion of widowed women is decreasing in spite of the fact that women live increasingly longer than men. The decrease in the proportion married also contributed to the decrease in the proportion divorced.
- Around 13 per cent of Arab households are headed by women. This proportion varies greatly among Arab countries: from 5 per cent in Kuwait to 18 per cent in Djibouti. It is also significantly lower in rural than in urban areas.
- An ever-larger proportion of Arab women is working in the various economic sectors. The largest relative increases in the economic activity of women in the recent past took place in the Gulf countries where the participation rates of women were initially low. As a result of these trends, the proportion of women in the Arab labour force is increasing.
- In most Arab countries the unemployment rates of women are higher than those of men. This is particularly true among youth who are first entrants into the labour force.
- The average illiteracy rates in the Arab region for the population 15 years of age and over are 52 per cent among women and 29 per cent among men. In most countries, however, illiteracy rates among children 10-14 years of age are very small and the gender gap at these ages is also small. In a few countries, however, such as Yemen and Morocco, illiteracy rates, even among youth, remain disproportionately high and the gender gap unusually wide.
- It is clear, that illiteracy in the Arab region is being eliminated more through increased school enrollment than through adult literacy campaigns. In most Arab countries, school enrollment at the primary and secondary levels is high for both girls and boys. In some countries, in fact, enrollment rates in schools and universities are already higher for girls than for boys.



Population

Table 1: Distribution of Arab Population in Thousands (1990- 2025)

	1990	1995	2000	2015	2020	2025
Both sexes	225,444	251,700	284,386	386,957	421,020	454,295
Males	115,415	128,548	145,098	196,831	213,894	230,497
Females	110,032	123,152	139,280	190,135	207,134	223,831

Source: United Nations (1999)

Table 2: Distribution of Arab Population by Sex and Major Age Group (1990, 2000, 2010 and 2025)

Year	Sex	0-14	15-24	25-64	65+	Total
1990	Males	43.8	21.3	31.4	3.6	100
1990	Females	43.8	20.9	32.1	3.2	100
1990	Both sexes	43.8	21.1	31.8	3.4	100
2000	Males	38.2	20.4	38.2	3.3	100
2000	Females	38.3	20.4	37.4	3.9	100
2000	Both sexes	38.2	20.7	37.9	3.6	100
2010	Males	34.7	19.4	42.3	3.6	100
2010	Females	34.6	19.5	41.6	4.3	100
2010	Both sexes	34.6	19.5	42.0	3.9	100
2025	Males	29.0	18.2	47.1	5.7	100
2025	Females	28.7	18.0	46.9	6.4	100
2025	Both sexes	28.8	18.1	47.0	6.0	100

Source: United Nations (1999)

Table 3: Excess of Women Over Men Aged 65 Year and Over

	1990	1995	2000	2015	2020	2025	2050
Excess Women (000)	204	529	692	1171	1004	990	5320
Per 1000 Population	0.9	2.1	2.4	3.0	2.4	1.8	8.9

Source: Calculated by MADMA, data from United Nations (1999)

Chart 1: Arab Population Growth Rates

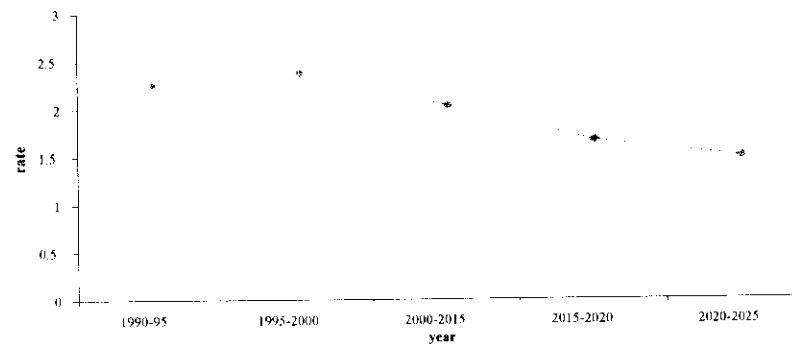
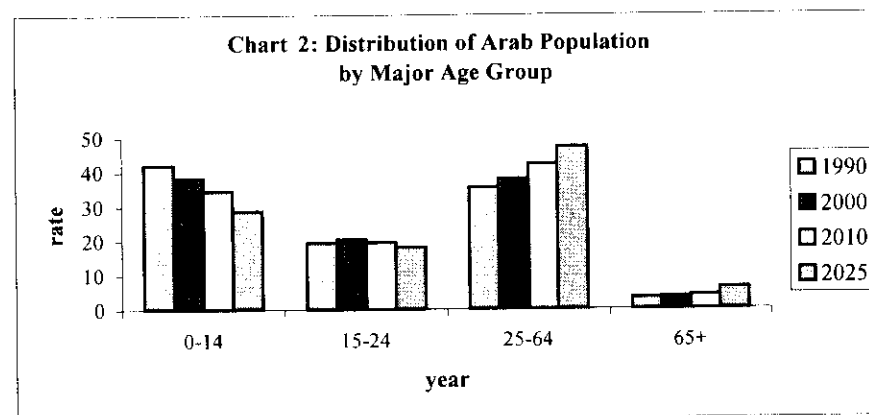


Chart 2: Distribution of Arab Population by Major Age Group





Population Growth and Structure

The population of the Arab Region is estimated at 284 million at present (2000). It is expected to grow to 454 million in the next 25 years

(Table 1). The average annual rate of growth in the next 25 years is estimated at 1.9 per cent a year¹ but the rate of growth of the population is declining. For the 1990-95 period, the average annual rate of growth was 2.3 per cent. For the 2020-2025 it is estimated that this growth rate will fall to an average of 1.5 per cent a year (Chart1). The reason for this decline in growth rates is the fact that, while mortality will continue to decline, fertility will decline much more rapidly.

This transition from high to low fertility is affecting the age structure of the population in a major fashion. The proportion of children (0-14 years) in the total population will continue to decrease during the next 25 years. The proportion of youth (15-24 years) will remain fairly constant during this period (Chart 2). The proportion of working age population (25-64 years) will increase so will the aged population (65 years and over) (Table 2). The median age of the Arab population will, therefore, increase from 18.6 years in 1990 to 27.1 years in 2025.

“[The] gradual aging of the population will accelerate in future. The proportion of the population 65 years and over will rise from 3.4 per cent in 1990 to 6.0 per cent in 2025”.

This gradual aging of the population will accelerate in future. The proportion of the population 65 years and over will rise from 3.4 per cent in 1990 to 6.0 per cent in 2025.

¹ Using the medium variant of United Nations projections

Population

The aging of the population will vary greatly between Arab countries: The proportion 65 years and over in the total population in Qatar will rise from 1 per cent in 1990 to 18 per cent in 2025, while in Egypt it will rise from 4 per cent to 8 per cent in the same period. It should also be noted that, in the developed countries, where fertility has already declined to below replacement, the proportion of the aged population often exceeds 20 per cent.

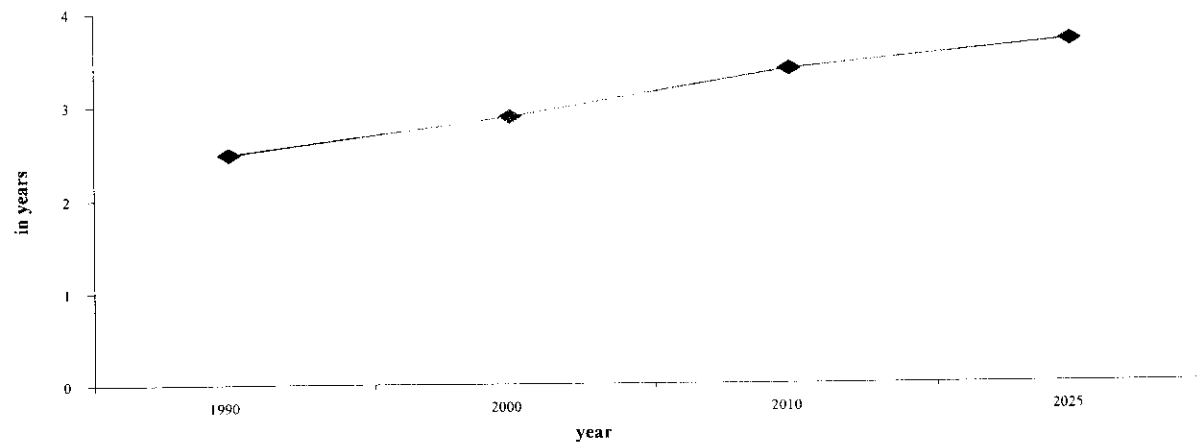
“Since women typically live longer than men, the proportion of women in the age group 65 years and over will increase with time. This means that the proportion of women who are either widows or single elderly women in the Arab population has risen and is expected to continue to rise in the foreseeable future.”

Since women typically live longer than men, there is an excess of women over men in the older age groups of the population. With the gradual aging of the population, therefore, the excess of women over men in the older age groups will increase in absolute terms and as a percentage of total population (Table3). What this means is that the proportion of women who are either widows or single elderly women in the Arab population has risen and will continue to rise and that a gradual shift of financial household responsibility will take place in favour of women in the foreseeable future.



Mortality

Chart 3: Life Expectancy Gender Gap (Women minus Men) in the Arab Region, (1990-2025)



Source: United Nations (1999)

Table 4: Life Expectancy at Birth, Regional Average and Gender Gap, (1990-2025)

Region	1990*			2000			2010			2050*		
	Women	Men	Gender Gap	Women	Men	Gender Gap	Women	Men	Gender Gap	Women	Men	Gender Gap
Region	63.5	61.0	2.5	68.5	65.6	2.9	71.6	68.2	3.4	75.3	71.6	3.7

* excluding Palestine
Source: United Nations (1999).



Life Expectation at Birth

As was already noted, women tend to live longer than men in practically all countries of the world. The Arab region is no exception. In 1990, the expectation of life at birth was 63.5 years for Arab women and 61.0 years for Arab men. The gender gap in life expectancy was, therefore, 2.5 years in favour of Arab women (Table 4). This gender gap is expected to increase gradually during the foreseeable future. In the year 2000 the expectation of life at birth of Arab women is expected to have reached 68.5 years and of Arab men to 65.6 years resulting in a gender gap of 2.9 years (Table 4 and Chart 3). Looking ahead to the year 2025, it is estimated that life expectancy will rise to 75.3 years for Arab women and 71.6 years for Arab men, resulting in a gender gap of 3.7 years in favour of women.

“In 1990, the expectation of life at birth was 63.5 years for Arab women and 61.0 years for Arab men. The gender gap was, therefore, 2.5 years in favour of Arab women... Looking ahead to the year 2025, it is estimated that life expectancy will rise to 75.3 years for Arab women and 71.6 years for Arab men, resulting in a gender gap of 3.7 years in favour of women.”

Major differences exist among countries of the region in both the levels of life expectancy and in the gender gap. In the year 2000, for example, the expectation of life at birth in Qatar reached 76.4 years for women and 71 years for men resulting in a gender gap of 5.4 years in favour of women. In Yemen, on the other hand, expectation of life at birth in the year 2000 is estimated at 60.9 years for women and 59.9 years for men resulting in a gender gap of one year in favour of women.

In general, however, the gender gap in the Arab countries at present varies mostly between 2.5 and 4.5 years in favour of women. Twenty-five years from now, that is, in the year 2025, this gender gap in the expectation of life at birth in the Arab countries is expected to vary mostly between 3 and 5 years in favour of women.

Table 5: Infant and Child Mortality

Country	1995-2000		
	Births Per Year in thousand	Infant Mortality (per 000 births)	Child Mortality (per 000 births)
Algeria	869	44	51
Bahrain	12	16	22
Djibouti	7	106	174
Egypt	1721	51	65
Iraq	787	95	116
Jordan ¹	216	26	31
Kuwait	40	12	15
Lebanon	75	29	35
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	154	28	32
Mauritania	101	92	148
Morocco	696	51	68
Oman	83	25	30
Palestine (Gaza Strip)	48	24	29
Qatar	10	17	23
Saudi Arabia	673	23	27
Somalia	478	122	204
Sudan	928	71	112
Syria	461	33	40
Tunisia	191	30	37
UAE	43	16	19
Yemen	791	80	113
Region	8384	58	12

¹ including West Bank
Source: United Nations (1999)

Chart 4: Maternal Mortality (Rates per 100,000's live births)

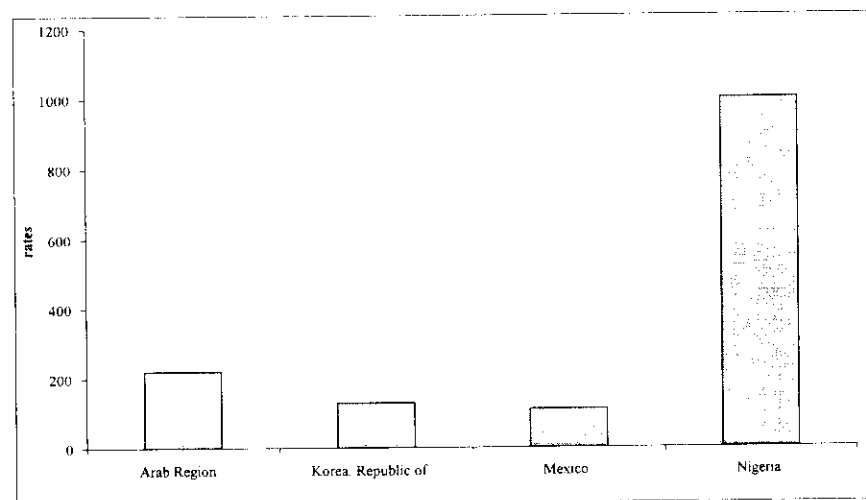


Table 6: Maternal Mortality (per 100,000's live births)

Country	Referring Time	Total ¹
Algeria	1978-79	215
Egypt	1980-82	177
Lebanon	1984-86	104
Lybian Arab Jamahiriya	1982-85	77
Mauritania	1977-79	554
Sudan	1981-83	365
Syria	1982-84	107
Region	early 80s	220
Other Countries*		
Korea, Republic of	1990	130
Mexico	1990	110
Nigeria	1990	1000

¹ 12-years preceding the survey
Source: League of Arab States et al, (1999). * United Nations (1998).



Mortality

Mother and Child Mortality

Infant mortality, that is, the mortality of children during the first year of life, averaged, in the period 1995-2000, around 58 per one thousand live births in the Arab region, which is a level typical of the less developed regions of the world. But levels varied greatly among Arab countries: from a high of 122 in Somalia to a low of 12 in Kuwait (Table 5).

Child mortality, that is, the mortality of children 1-4 years of age, averaged, for the period 1995-2000, around 12 per 1000 children 1-4 in the Arab region, a level typical also of the less developed regions. Here again, differences among Arab countries were very large. Child mortality during this period varied from 204 in Somalia to 15 in Kuwait.

“... Available data around 1990 permit an estimate of average infant mortality rates for the Arab region of 55 per 1000 births for girls and 62 for boys resulting in a gender gap of 7 per thousands points in favour of girls.”

But infant and child mortality levels are not necessarily even between boys and girls. Available data around 1990 imply average *infant* mortality rates for the Arab region of 55 per 1000 births for girls and 62 per 1000 births for boys resulting in a gender gap of 7 per thousandth points in favour of girls. Available data also imply an average *child* mortality for the Arab region of 21 per 1000 live births for girls and 20 per 1000 live births for boys, resulting in an insignificant gender gap of 1 per thousands point.

Mortality

Available data on maternal mortality show that, in the early 1980s, levels varied from a low of 77 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in Libya to a high of 554 in Mauritania... Compared with levels in other countries... maternal mortality levels in the Arab countries cover the range found in the middle to the higher income developing countries.

Available data on maternal mortality show that, in the early 1980s, levels varied from a low of 77 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in Libya to a high of 554 in Mauritania² (Table 6). The weighted average maternal mortality level for the 7 countries for which data are available³ was 220 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Compared with levels obtained around the same date in other countries, it is clear that maternal mortality levels in the Arab countries cover the range found in the middle to the higher income developing countries (Chart 4).

² Latest data are from 1990 but are admittedly unreliable for the Arab countries (Maternal Mortality ratio estimates are from World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, *Revised 1990 Estimates of Maternal Mortality- A New Approach* by WHO and UNICEF (Geneva, WHO, 1996). Available at internet site: www.un.org).

³ Representing 56 per cent of the total population of the region.



Reproduction

**Table 7: Crude Birth Rates (1000 live births)
Highest, Lowest and Regional Average**

	1990	2000	2010	2025
Somalia	52.05	49.94	42.23	31.34
Lebanon	26.88	19.77	17.44	15.52
Region	32.61	29.04	24.30	19.33

Source: United Nations (1999)

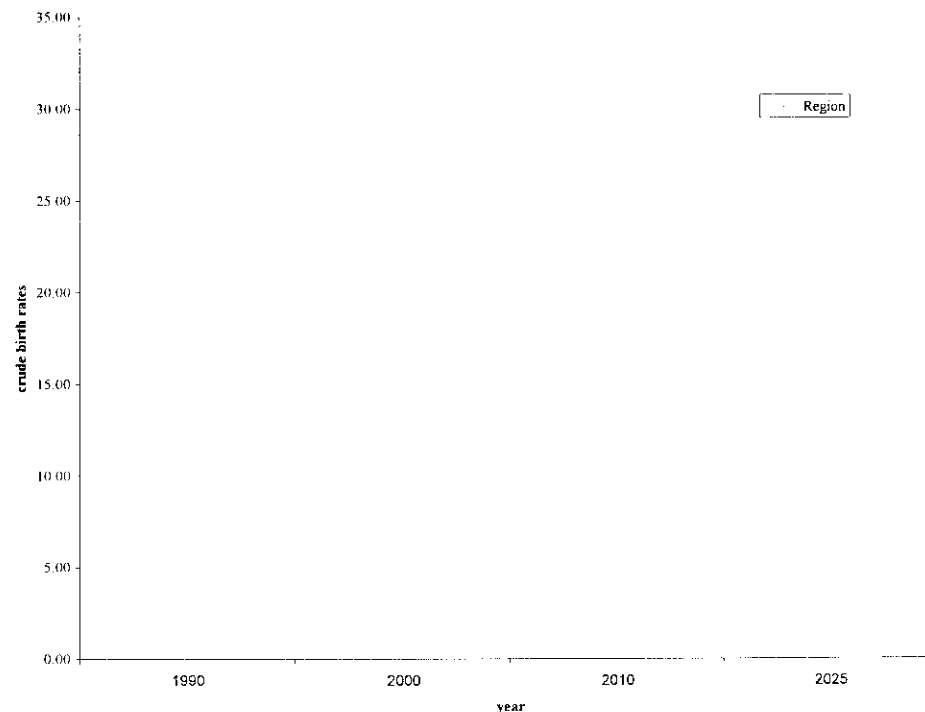
Table 8: Total Fertility Rate in Arab Countries (2000-2025)

Country	1995-2000	2020-2025
Algeria	3.8	2.1
Bahrain	2.9	2.1
Djibouti	5.3	3.2
Egypt	3.4	2.1
Iraq	5.2	2.8
Jordan ¹	4.1	2.7
Kuwait	2.9	2.1
Lebanon	2.7	2.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3.8	2.1
Mauritania	5.5	3.2
Morocco	3.1	2.1
Oman	5.8	3.6
Palestine ¹	6.0	3.3
Qatar	3.7	2.1
Saudi Arabia	5.8	2.9
Somalia	7.2	4.3
Sudan	4.6	2.7
Syria	4	2.1
Tunisia	2.5	2.1
UAE	3.4	2.1
Yemen	7.6	4.4
Region	4.5	2.8

¹ Calculated by ESCWA Statistics division (1999)

Source: United Nations (1999).

Chart 5: Crude Birth Rate in the Arab Region (1990-2025)





Fertility

The Crude Birth Rate, that is, the number of births per 1000 population, is declining in the Arab region and is expected to continue to do so in the foreseeable future. From a level of 33 births per thousand population in 1990 it has fallen to 29 per thousand in 2000. In the next 25 years it is expected to fall to 19 per thousand population (Table 7 and Chart 5).

Given fertility levels prevailing in the region in 2000, a typical Arab woman is expected to have an average of 4.6 children in her lifetime (total fertility)⁴. By the year 2025, a typical Arab woman is expected to have less than 2.8 children in her lifetime. By then eleven Arab countries are expected to have reached replacement levels of fertility (i.e., 2.1 children per couple) or below.

Differences between Arab countries are quite significant. The highest crude birth rate is to be found in Somalia where it stood at 50 per thousand in the year 2000. The lowest rate is to be found in Lebanon⁵ where it is less than 20 per thousand in the year 2000. By the year 2025, the crude birth rates in Somalia and Lebanon are expected to fall to around 31 and 16 per thousand, respectively (Table 7).

“Given fertility levels prevailing in the region in 2000, a typical Arab woman is expected to have an average of 4.6 children in her lifetime (total fertility)...”

⁴ Total fertility reflects the average for all women 15 years of age and over. If only married women are taken into account, then the number of children expected for married women (i.e., marital fertility) is at least twice as high.

⁵ The crude birth rate in Tunisia is equal to that in Lebanon in 2000 but is expected to be higher than in Lebanon in 2025. Furthermore, the crude birth rate in some of the Gulf countries is lower than in Lebanon because of the existence of a large foreign population which is largely single or without dependents. The national populations of the Gulf countries have generally a much higher crude birth rate than in most Arab countries.

Reproduction

If only married women are taken into account (marital fertility), then the number of children expected for married women is at least twice as high”.

Here again, great differences exist among Arab countries. In Yemen, in the period 1995-2000, a typical woman is expected to have 7.6 children in her lifetime against only 2.7 children in Lebanon. In the next twenty-five years these numbers are expected to have declined considerably throughout the region (Table 8). However, relatively high fertility levels are likely to persist in a few Arab countries such as Mauritania (3.2 children), Somalia (4.4 children), Yemen (4.4 children) and Palestine (Gaza Strip) (4.6 children for the period 2020-2025) (Table 8).

“...great differences exist among Arab countries. In Yemen, in the period 1995-2000, a typical woman is expected to have 7.6 children in her lifetime against only 2.7 children in Lebanon”.

In brief, fertility is still high among most Arab countries and is expected to remain high in some of them twenty-five years hence. Frequent births and short birth intervals have been shown to affect negatively the health of both mother and child.

Chart 6: Regional Percentages of Ever Married Women Knowing of a Contraceptive Method

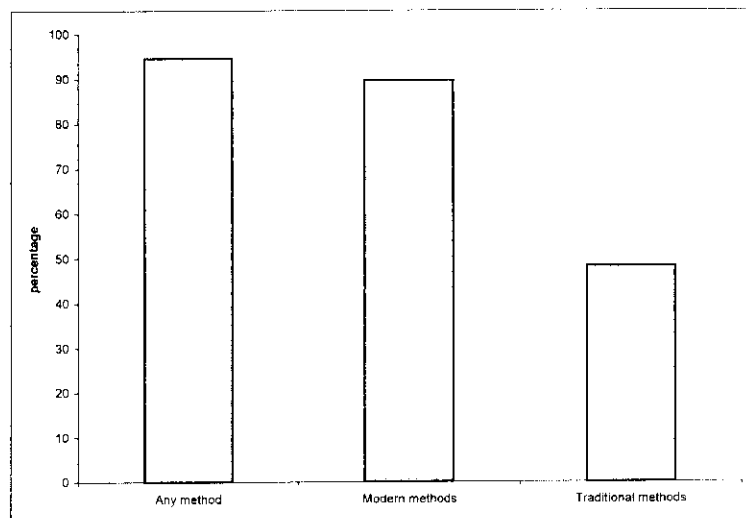


Table 11: Percentage of Currently Married Women who are Using Contraception, Rural and Urban, Latest Available Years

Country	Year of Survey	Total	Urban ¹	Rural
Algeria	1992	50.7	57.5	44.1
Bahrain	1989	43.8	60.3	42.1
Egypt	1991	47.6	61.4	38.4
Kuwait	1987	34.6	---	---
Lebanon	1996	61.0	---	---
Lybian Arab	1995	45.2	48.4	36.2
Jamahiriya				
Mauritania	1990	4.1	5.6	3.1
Oman	1989	8.6	16.0	3.7
Qatar	1987	32.3	---	---
Sudan	1993	9.9	18.2	4.9
Syria	1993	39.6	49.2	27.4
Tunisia	1995	59.7	67.3	32.7
Yemen	1992	9.7	28.2	5.7
Region	1990-95	38.35	46.82	27.88

¹ average of urban + semi urban

Source: League of Arab States et.al, (1999).

Table 9: Percentage of Ever-Married Women Knowing a Contraceptive Method

Country	Survey year	Any method	Modern methods	Traditional methods
Algeria	1992	99.2	98.5	84.6
Bahrain	1989	99.8	99.7	--
Egypt	1991	99.6	99.6	--
Lebanon	1996	99.4	99	69.2
Libya	1995	99.4	98.9	97.4
Mauritania	1990	61.4	48.4	--
Oman	1989	76.3	75.8	45.5
Sudan	1993	93.3	69.5	85.3
Syria	1993	93.8	92.6	78.5
Tunisia	1995	99.8	99.8	88.4
Yemen	1992	60.3	53.5	39.7
Region	1990-95	94.52	89.56	48.29

Source: League of Arab States et.al, (1999)

Table 10: Percentage of Ever- Married Women Aged 15-49 Using Contraception, Latest Available Year

Country	Year	Any Method	Modern Method
Algeria	1995	52 a b	49 b
Bahrain	1995	61 a c	30 c
Egypt	1995	47 a	46
Iraq	1989	14 a	10
Jordan	1997	50 a d	38 d
Kuwait	1987	35 c	32 c
Lebanon	1995	59 a	37
Libyan Arab	1995	40 a	26
Jamahiriya			
Mauritania	1990	3 a	1
Morocco	1995	50	42
Oman	1995	22 a c	18 c
Qatar	1987	32 c	29 c
Sudan	1992/93	8 a e	7 c
Syria	1995	40	28
Tunisia	1994	60	51
UAE	1995	27 a c	44 c
Yemen	1997	13 a	10
Region	1990-95	38.14	33.77

a: adjusted from source to exclude breast-feeding, b: ever-married women

c: married women aged under 50 years d: excluding the West Bank, e: North Sudan only
Source: World Population Monitoring (1999) supplemented by Demographic and Health Surveys - National Reports WISTAT CD ROM (1994)



Family Planning

Contraceptive prevalence among married women, that is the actual use of contraception by this group of women, depends on both the knowledge of contraception and the felt need for it. On the basis of data collected in 11 Arab countries in the 1990s⁶, knowledge of at least one method of contraception among married Arab women is fairly high, averaging around 95 per cent. It varied, however, considerably among countries of the region: from around 60 per cent in Yemen and Mauritania to close to 100 per cent in Egypt, Bahrain and Tunisia. Knowledge of a modern method of contraception, as against a traditional method, was also high. It averaged around 90 per cent in the 11 countries in question but it also varied considerably among Arab countries: from 48 per cent in Mauritania to about 100 per cent in Egypt, Bahrain and Tunisia (Chart 6 and Table 9).

'... knowledge of at least one method of contraception among married Arab women is fairly high, averaging around 95 per cent. It varied, however, considerably among countries of the region. ...Knowledge of a modern method of contraception, as against a traditional method, was also high. ...but it also varied considerably among Arab countries'

The actual use of contraception was understandably less since this depends not only on knowledge but also on whether the couple has reached its desired number of children or if it wishes to space children at that time. The actual use of contraception, therefore, tends to be negatively related

⁶Accounting for 67 per cent of the region's population

Reproduction

to the prevailing level of fertility. With this proviso in mind, for the 17 Arab countries for which data are available⁷, the average use of any method of contraception by ever married women aged 15-49 years around the period 1990-1995 was around 38 per cent. It varied, however, from 3 per cent in Mauritania to around 60 per cent in Bahrain, Lebanon and Tunisia. The use of modern methods averaged around 34 per cent in the region and varied from 1 per cent in Mauritania to 51 per cent in Tunisia. Regional levels of contraceptive use are in line with those prevailing in countries with similar levels of fertility (i.e., around 4.3 children). Thus, the use of any method and of a modern method was 29 and 26 per cent respectively in Nepal and 49 and 45 per cent respectively in Nicaragua compared with 38 and 34 per cent respectively in the Arab region (Table 10).

“Regional levels of contraceptive use are in line with those prevailing in countries with similar levels of fertility. ... Differences in contraceptive use varied naturally between urban and rural areas.”

Differences in contraceptive use varied naturally between urban and rural areas⁸. The regional average in urban areas in the period 1990-1995 averaged around 47 per cent in the region against 28 per cent in the rural areas. Variations among countries of the region, here again, were very large: from 6 per cent in the urban areas of Mauritania to 67 per cent in the urban areas of Tunisia and from 3 per cent in the rural areas of Mauritania to 44 per cent in the rural areas of Algeria (Table 11).

⁷ Accounting for 89 per cent of the region's population

⁸ Slight inconsistencies exist between tables 10 and 11 because they come from different sources

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The Family

Table 12: Singulate Mean Age at Marriage in Selected Arab Countries (1980s and 1990s)

Country	Source	Year	Women	Men
Algeria	1	1984	22.1	27.4
	2	1992	25.9	30.1
Bahrain	3	1989	25.5	28.9
	4	1991	25.0	28.0
Egypt	3	1980	21.4	26.9
	2	1991	21.3	27.2
Iraq	3	1987	22.3	26.3
Jordan	3	1981	22.8	26.8
	3	1991	24.6	27.8
Kuwait	3	1980	21.7	26.8
Lebanon	2	1996	27.5	30.9
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2	1995	29.2	32.0
Oman	1	1988-89	19.2	25.6
	5	1993	20.7	24.7
Palestine	6	1997	21.5	24.2
Yemen	7	1994	20.7	24.8

Sources: 1- Algeria (1996) 2- League of Arab States (1999)
 3- United Nations (1994) 4- ESCWA (1997)
 5- Oman (1997) 6- Palestine (1998b)
 7- Yemen (1997)

Chart 7: Regional Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) (1980s and 1990s)

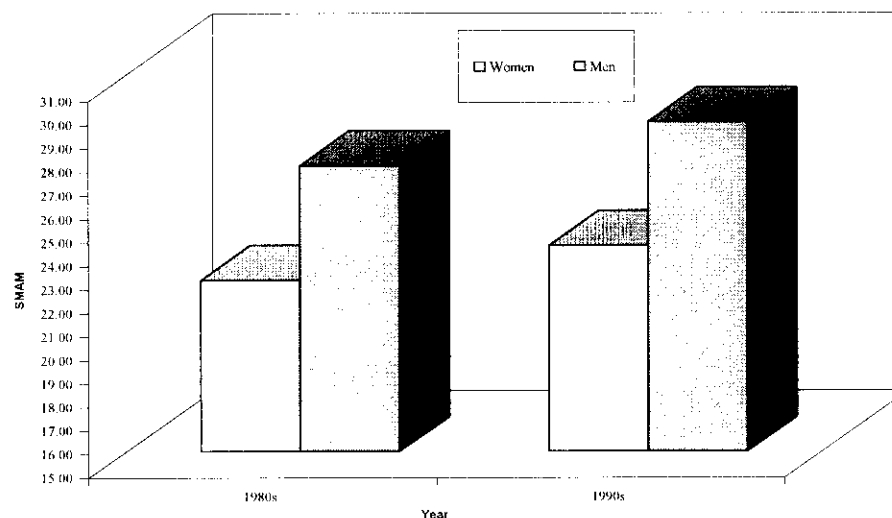


Table 13: Availability of Mate Ratios in Some Arab Countries Where Emigration Rates Are High (1990s)

Country	Year	Source	Age Group	Availability of * Mate Ratios	Country	Year	Source	Age Group	Availability of * Mate Ratios
Jordan	1994	1	15-19	103	Palestine	1997	3	15-19	87
			20-24	93				20-24	77
			25-29	57				25-29	41
			30-34	33				30-34	17
			35-39	32				35-39	11
			40-44	36				40-44	11
Lebanon	1996	2	45-49		Yemen	1991	4	15-19	61
			15-19	100				20-24	85
			20-24	85				25-29	76
			25-29	70				30-34	95
			30-34	43				35-39	83
			35-39	35				40-44	94
40-44	31	45-49							

*: number of single men in the age group x+5 to 100 single women in the age group x
 Sources: 1- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1994), 2- Lebanon: Ministry of Social Affairs (1996),
 3- Palestine: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (1999), 4- Yemen: Central Statistical Organization (1994).



Marriage

The age at first marriage in the Arab countries has increased significantly during the past two decades. Data from the 1980s and 1990s for ten Arab countries⁹ suggest that the average age at first marriage in the region increased during this period by about two years for both women and men. For women, it increased from an average of approximately 22 years in the 1980s to an average of around 24 years in the 1990s. For men, the increase was from 27 to 29 years during the same period (Chart 7). These average levels are relatively high even when compared to those obtained in some of the developed countries at present. In the United States, for example, the age at first marriage is around 23 years for women and 25 years for men.

“The age at first marriage in the Arab countries has increased significantly during the past decade or two. ... These ... levels are relatively high even when compared to those obtained in some of the developed countries at present.”

But the age at first marriage varies greatly among Arab countries. For women it varies from a low of 20 years in Palestine (1997) and 21 in Oman (1993) and Yemen (1994) to 28 years in Lebanon (1996) and 29 years in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (1995) (Table 12).

⁹ Accounting for 71 per cent of the region's population

The Family

The average age difference between women and men marrying for the first time for the Arab region remained the same in the 1980s and 1990s: around 5 years. It varied significantly, however, among countries: from 3 years in Bahrain, Jordan and Tunisia to 7 years in Mauritania and Somalia and 8 years in Djibouti (Table 12).

The fact that Arab women typically marry men who are five years older tends to restrict mate availability for them. This is particularly true in countries where emigration rates are high. In these circumstances, not only would men have been subjected to 5 more years of mortality, they also have higher emigration rates. Furthermore, as age at first marriage for women increases, mate availability tends to decrease.

“The fact that Arab women typically marry men who are five years older tends to restrict mate availability for them. ... This is particularly true in countries where emigration rates are high. ... Furthermore, as age at first marriage for women increases, mate availability tends to decrease.”

In Lebanon in 1996, for example, the number of single men 20-24 years of age was virtually equal to the number of single women 15-19 years of age, resulting in a “mate availability ratio” of 100 per cent (i.e., 100 single men to 100 single women). However, for women 20-24 years of age, the mate availability ratio fell to 85 single men five years older to 100 single women and for women 25-29 years of age it declined further to 70 single men five years older to 100 single women. As a result, female celibacy increased at all ages. Thus, for example, the percentage of women aged 45-49 years who never married rose from 7 per cent in 1970 to 12 per cent in 1996 (Table 13 and Annex 8).



The Family

In Palestine, where emigration is particularly high, male deficiency starts at younger ages. Mate availability ratios are 87 single men five years older for women 15-19 years of age, 77 for women 20-24 years of age and 41 for women 25-29 years of age (Table 13).

The increase in the proportion of single women in the population (15 years of age and over) applies basically to Arab countries with high emigration rates. For the other countries, celibacy among women varied little during the past two decades.

Table 14: Distribution of the Region's Population by Marital Status, by Gender (15+ age group) 1970s and 1990s

		Women						
Region		total pop	single	married	widowed	divorced	unknown	Total
Region	70 ¹	1,871,900	17.4	68.8	10.9	2.7	0.1	100
Region	90 ²	15,659,538	29.0	61.4	7.7	1.3	0.5	100
		Men						
Region		total pop	single	married	widowed	divorced	unknown	Total
Region	70	2,144,700	32.5	64.7	1.6	1.1	0.1	100
Region	90	15,322,140	41.3	56.5	1.1	0.6	0.6	100

¹ excluding Algeria, Djibouti, , Oman, Palestine and Yemen

² excluding Bahrain, Jordan, Lybian Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania and Saudi Arabia

Source: Calculated by MADMA (refer to table 9 in annex).

Chart 8: Distribution of the Region's Population by Marital Status, by Gender (15+ age group), 1970s and 1990s

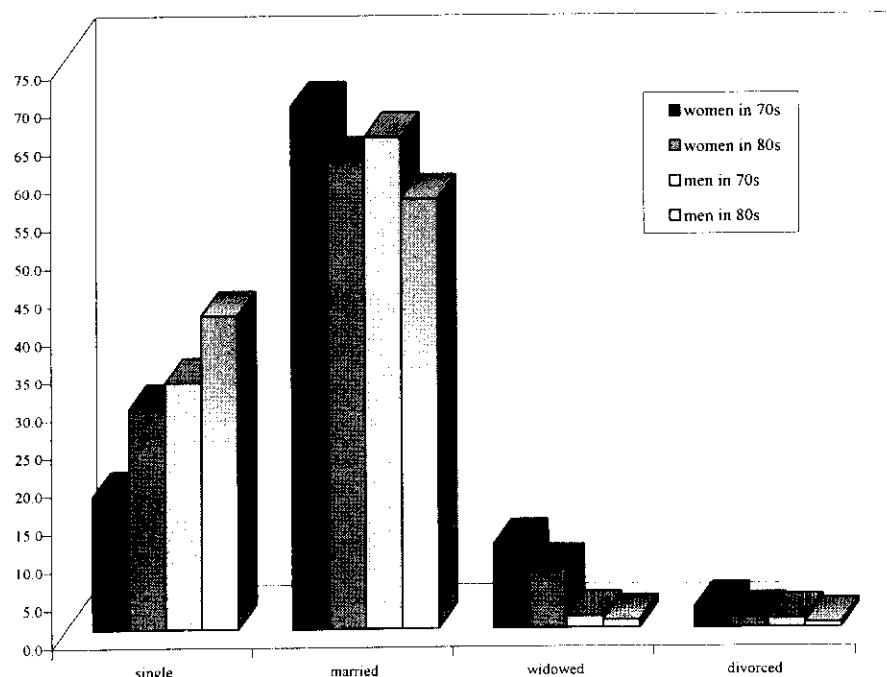


Table 15: Percentage of all Household Heads Who Are Women (mid 1990s)

Country	Sources	Year	Total
Algeria	1	1994	11.00
Djibouti	1	1994	18.40
Egypt	1	1994	12.00
Jordan	2	1994	9.59
Kuwait	1	1994*	4.77
Lebanon	3	1996*	14.19
Morocco	1	1994	17.30
Oman	4	1993	12.50
Palestine	5	1997	8.90
Sudan	1	1994	13.30
Syria	1	1994	9.30
Tunisia	1	1994	11.30
Yemen	6	1994	12.80
Region			13

*Statistics are done 1 year after the specified one.

Sources:

- 1- United Nations (1998)
- 2- Jordan (1994)
- 3- Lebanon (1996)
- 4- Oman (1997)
- 5- Palestine (1998a)
- 6- Yemen (1994).



The household

Data on the civil status of women and men in the Arab countries are spotty and sometimes contradictory. Nevertheless, it is clear from available data that celibacy among both men and women is increasing due to the postponement of marriage (see previous section) and other cultural factors. Consequently, the proportion of married women and men is decreasing. Calculations based on data from 20 Arab countries¹⁰ show, roughly, that the proportion of women (15 years of age and over) who were single in the 1970s was, on average, 17 per cent while the average in the 1990s for ten Arab countries¹¹ was 29 per cent. On the other hand, calculations based on the same sources show that the proportion of women who were married fell from 69 to 61 per cent in the two periods respectively. The corresponding averages of single men rose from 33 to 41 per cent and those of married men fell from 65 to 57 per cent in the same two periods respectively (Table 14).

“ ... it is clear from available data that celibacy among both women and men is increasing due to increased education and the postponement of marriage and other cultural factors. Consequently, the proportion of married women and men is decreasing.” ... Widowhood among both women and men seems to have declined between the 1970s and the 1990s. ... [and] the proportion of both women and men who are divorced [also] appears to have declined.”

¹⁰ Accounting for 96 per cent of the region's population

¹¹ Accounting for 37 per cent of the region's population

The Family

Widowhood among both women and men seems to have declined between the 1970s and the 1990s. The proportion of women (15 years of age and over) who were widows declined from 11 to 8 per cent and that for men declined from 1.6 to 1.1 per cent. The principle reason for this is probably the fact that a higher proportion of both sexes remains single through life. For probably the same reason, the proportion of both women and men who are divorced appears to have declined. For women the proportion divorced declined from 2.7 to 1.3 per cent and for men from 1.1 to 0.6 per cent. These divorce rates are low when compared to rates in most developing countries and in practically all of the more developed countries (Chart 8).

“The proportion of households headed by women varies between Arab countries ... between 5 and 18 per cent. ... Data show, however, that the proportion of households headed by women is generally lower in rural than in urban areas.”

The proportion of households headed by women varies between Arab countries (for which data are available) between 5 per cent in Kuwait (1994) and 18 per cent in Djibouti (1994). The average for the 13 countries¹² is 13 per cent. Data do not permit any reasonable conclusions in relation to historical trends in this regard. They show, however, that the proportion of households headed by women is generally lower in rural than in urban areas. In the urban areas this proportion varies among countries from 10 to 20 per cent and in rural areas from 6 to 15 per cent (Table 15 and Annex 10).

¹² Accounting for 78 per cent of the region's total population



Labour Force

Table 16: Economic Activity Rates in the Gulf Countries

Country	Year	Women	Men	Gender Gap (W-M)
Bahrain	1980	16.50	87.90	-71.40
	1995	30.70	85.80	-55.10
Kuwait	1980	20.40	85.20	-64.80
	1995	38.60	78.80	-40.20
Oman	1980	7.00	87.00	-80.00
	1995	16.10	79.30	-63.20
Qatar	1980	12.20	91.60	-79.40
	1995	33.90	91.30	-57.40
Saudi Arabia	1980	9.10	84.80	-75.70
	1995	17.70	82.10	-64.40
UAE	1980	15.40	94.00	-78.60
	1995	31.10	89.70	-58.60

Source: United Nations (1998).

Chart 10: Regional Employment by Sector and Gender (1980-990)

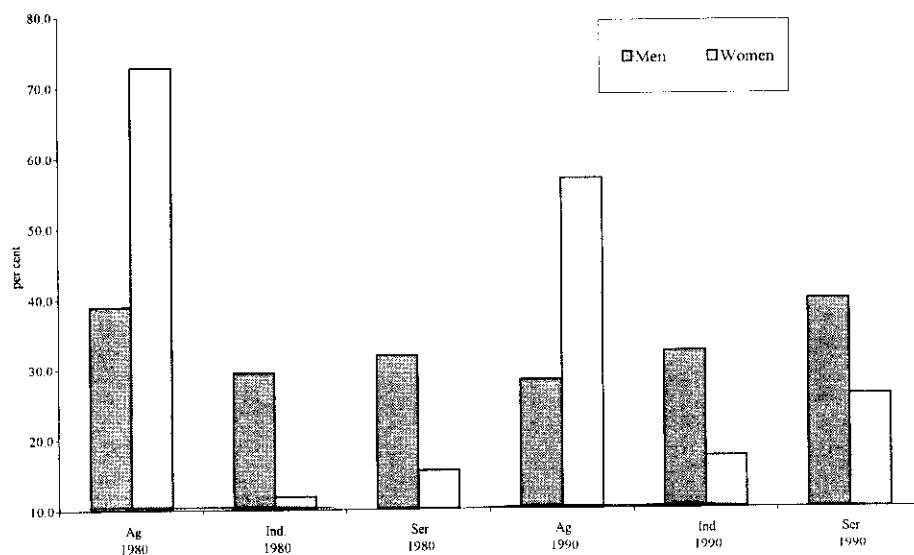


Chart 9: Regional Activity Rates by Gender (1980-1995)

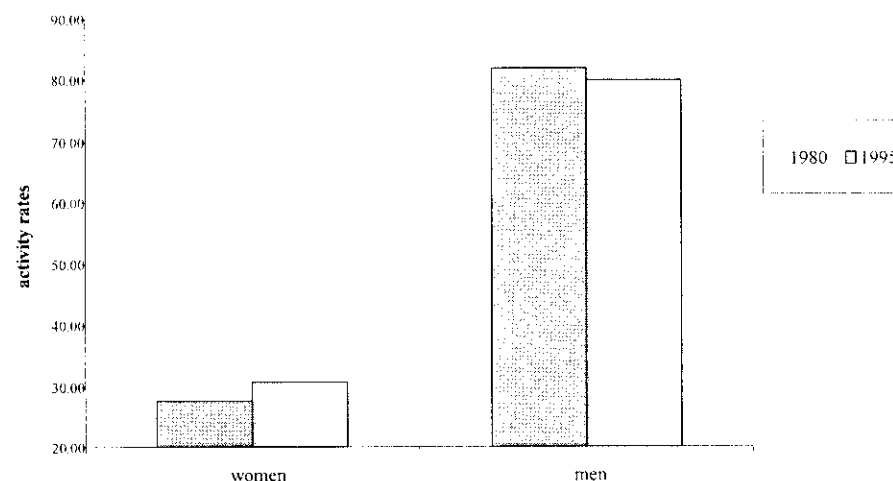


Table 17: Economic Activity Rates by Gender (1980-1995)

	Year	Women	Men	GAP (w-m)
Region	1980	27.50	81.88	-54.44
	1995	30.70	79.97	-52.16

Source: United Nations (1998).

Table 18: Economically Active Women in Professional, Technical Administrative and Managerial Fields in the Arab countries (1970-1994)

Country	Year	Percentage		Numbers	
		Total	Women	Total	Women
Region	1970	5.8	10.6	1,429,487	269,276
	1980	9.2	13.7	3,437,403	764,983
	1994	10.5	12.9	5,270,898	1,301,183

Source: United Nations (1994).



Labour Force

Economic Activity

Economic Activity rates are internationally defined as the proportion of the population 15 years of age and over that is in the labour force, whether employed or unemployed. According to this international definition, housewives are not considered to be in the labour force. Consequently, any increase in the economic activity rates of women comes largely from a shift in the primary occupation of women from the home to the economic sectors where goods and services are exchanged.

Economic activity rates of women have been rising steadily in the Arab region as in practically all other regions of the world. The largest proportional increases in the economic activity rates of women during this period took place in the Gulf countries where women's participation was relatively low in 1980. The increase has been around two-fold in most of the Gulf countries except Qatar where it was close to three-fold (Table 16).

“Economic activity rates of women have been rising steadily in the Arab region as in practically all other regions of the world. The largest proportional increases ... during this period took place in the Gulf countries.”

The rise in women's activity rates was the result of two basically contradictory trends. The increase in school and university enrollment of women (see next section) tended to reduce activity rates of young women but education also tended to raise their activity rates after graduation (in addition to other factors). For the region as a whole, activity rates of women rose from 28 per cent in 1980 to 31 per cent in 1995 in spite of the great increase in the enrollment of women in schools and universities throughout the region.

Labour Force

“... the gender gap between the economic activity rates of women and men declined throughout the region [and] the proportion of women in the Arab labour force increased ... from 25 per cent in 1980 to 27 per cent in 1995.”

Since activity rates of men are initially high, they are not subject to increased participation in economic activity. The only major factor playing a role here is increased school and university enrollment of men, which tends to reduce their activity rates. For the region as a whole, activity rates of men declined from 82 per cent in 1980 to 80 per cent in 1995 (Table 17, Chart 9). As a result, the gender gap between the economic activity rates of women and men declined throughout the region. Furthermore, the proportion of women in the Arab labour force increased: from 25 per cent in 1980 to 27 per cent in 1995).

“[The] shift [in the Arab labour force from agriculture to the industrial and services sectors] has been proportionally more dramatic in the case of women than in the case of men ...”

The industrial structure of the Arab labour force has been changing: the proportion of the labour force working in agriculture is diminishing and the proportion working in the industrial and services sectors is increasing. But this shift has been proportionally more dramatic in the case of women than in the case of men, particularly in relation to the latter two sectors. For the period 1980-1990 the increase in the proportion of men working in industry was from 29 to 32 per cent while for women it was from 12 to 17 per cent. In services, the rise in the proportion of men was from 32 to 40 per cent while for women it was from 15 to 26 per cent (Chart 10).



Labour Force

With increased education and the gradual modernization of the Arab economies, there has been a shift in the Arab labour force towards the higher skilled occupations. This is apparent from the increased importance of the category of “professional, technical, administrative and managerial” (PTAM) in the labour force. For men, the proportion in the Arab labour force belonging to this category increased from 6 to 11 per cent between 1970 and 1994. For women, the corresponding proportions increased from 11 to 14 per cent during the same period (Table 18). The reason why the increase in the proportion of working women in the Arab region classified in this category did not match that of men is that the intensive entry of women into the labour force during this period was largely in the clerical and sales categories which restricted the increase in the proportion of women in the PTAM category. Indeed, the increase in the number of women in the Arab region in this latter category was from 269,000 in 1970 to 1,301,000 in 1994, that is, at an annual rate of close to 7 per cent a year.

Table 19: Unemployment (worked before and those never worked) by gender and selected age groups in the latest available year

Country	Source	Year	15-24			15+		
			W-rate	M-rate	GAP*	W-rate	M-rate	GAP*
Bahrain	1	1991	33.89	22.41	11.48	11.81	5.07	6.74
Egypt	2	1995	41.14	24.48	16.66	18.8	7.33	11.47
Jordan	3	1994	63.87	28.49	35.38	38.23	17.99	20.24
Lebanon	4	1997	12.56	23.81	-11.25	7.19	8.46	-1.27
Oman	1,5	1993	25.81	16.16	9.65	8.12	4.56	3.56
Palestine	6	1997	31.6	27.7	3.9	20.1	20.3	-0.2
Sudan	7	1993	17.08	16.64	0.44	9.62	8.62	1
Syria	8	1995	19.68	11.31	8.37	11.58	5.06	6.52
Tunisia	9	1994	24.7	28.43	-3.73	17.2	15	2.2
Yemen	10	1994	9.83	20.22	-10.39	3.83	9.33	-5.5
Region			29.6	21.5	8.2	15.0	8.6	6.4

Sources:

1- ESCWA (Labour force Statistics Database)- version 3.1

2- ILO (1998)

3- Jordan (1998)

4- Republique Libanaise (1998)

5- Oman, Ministry of Development (1997)

5- Palestine (1998 c)

7- Sudan, Ministry of Finance (1994)

8- Syria, Council of Ministries (1999)

9- Tunisia (1998) 10- Yemen, Central Statistical Organization (1998)

Table 20: Regional Youth and Total Unemployment by Gender and Gender Gap

	15-24			15+		
	W-rate	M-rate	GAP*	W-rate	M-rate	GAP*
Region	29.6	21.5	8.2	15.0	8.6	6.4

* GAP= W-rate - M-rate

Sources: Refer to Annex 14 on unemployment

Chart 11: Unemployment Rates in Early 1990s by gender and Gender Gap

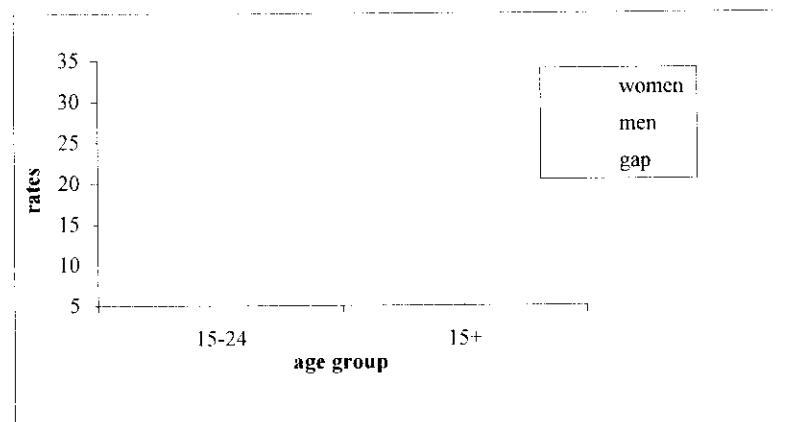


Table 21: Women's non-agricultural Wages as % of Men's for Selected Countries (latest & earliest year)

Country	Year	Women's non agricultural wage as % of men's
Djibouti	1970	74.00
	1980	84.00
Egypt	1970	61.00
	1997	97.00
Jordan	1980	83.00
	1997	87.00

Sources: United Nations (1998).



Unemployment and Wages

Data from 10 Arab countries¹³ in the first half of the 1990s show relatively high levels of unemployment in the region with the exception of the Gulf countries where these rates are generally very low¹⁴.

Levels of unemployment vary greatly between first entrants into the labour force (i.e., those who never worked before) and the rest of the labour force. In most of the developing countries that are at comparable level of development, the unemployment rate among youth (15-24 years of age) is 2 to 3 times the total unemployment rate. In the Arab region the unemployment rate among youth is, in many cases, 3 to 4 times the total unemployment rate (Table 19).

“Levels of unemployment vary greatly between first entrants into the labour force ... In the Arab region the unemployment rate among youth is, in many cases, 3 to 4 times the total unemployment rate... Since, in most cases, the unemployment rate of women exceeds that of men, these rates, particularly among young women, sometimes reach very extremely high levels”

Since, in most cases, the unemployment rate of women exceeds that of men, employment rates among women, particularly among young women, sometimes reach extremely high levels. In Jordan, for example, 1994 data showed that the total

¹³ Representing 55 per cent of total population of the region

¹⁴ Unemployment data in the Arab region are scanty, at least in the publications of the International Labour Organization. They do not cover all Arab countries and they seldom constitute time series.

Labour Force

unemployment rate was 21 per cent, 18 per cent for men and 38 per cent for women. The youth unemployment rate, on the other hand was 28 per cent and the young women's unemployment rate was 64 per cent.

For the 10 countries in question, the average overall unemployment rates in the early 1990s were 15 per cent for women and 8 per cent for men, giving a gender gap (i.e., unemployment rate of women minus that of men) of 7 percentage points (Chart 11). For the young population, the unemployment rates were 22 per cent for men and 30 per cent for women, giving a gender gap of 8 percentage points (Table 20).

For the very few countries for which data exist, women's wages are typically lower than those of men. But this does not necessarily indicate a systematic bias against women. For one thing, the occupational structure of working men and working women may be different, women occupying positions with lower average remuneration. For another thing, women being more recent entrants into the labour force have less seniority in given occupations than men, which results in a lower average pay (Table 21). In Lebanon, for example, where this matter was recently investigated, both factors were found to exist and it was concluded that "the occupational structure of the labour force and work seniority that are both in favour of male workers do not permit to conclude that the difference in average salaries in favour of males is the result of a systematic gender bias in remuneration" (UNDP, 1998a).

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Education

Table 22: Illiteracy Rates in Selected Arab Countries by Gender (Latest available year)

Country	Sources	15+	Men	Women	GAP
Bahrain(1991)	1	15.9	11.4	23.0	11.5
Djibouti(1995) ¹	1	53.8	39.7	67.3	27.6
Egypt(1996)	2, 8	48.6	29.1	50.3	21.2
Jordan (1994)	2, 8	13.4	9.9	20.6	10.7
Lebanon(1996)	3	15.0	10.4	20	9.6
Morocco(1994)	1	58.4	45.5	70.3	24.7
Oman(1993)	2, 8	41	29.0	54.1	25.1
Palestine (1997)	4	---	7.8	20.3	12.5
Saudi Arabia(1992)	1	29.2	20.0	42.7	12.5
Somalia(1990) ¹	1	75.9			22.7
Sudan(1993)	5	49.5	35.6	62.5	26.9
Syria(1995)	6, 8	29.2	11.5	31.6	20.1
Yemen(1994)	7	62.7	43.1	82.8	39.7
Region		46.8	29.0	52.0	23

GAP: Women-Men

¹ Estimates

Sources

1- UNESCO (1998).

2- United Nations (1995).

3- Lebanon: Central Administration of Statistics (1997).

4- Palestine (1999)

5- Sudan: Department of Statistics (1993).

6- Syria: Labour Force Sample Survey (1995).

7- Yemen: Central Statistics Organization (1994).

8- UNDP (1998)

Chart 12: Regional Illiteracy Rates by Gender and Gap (for early 1990s)

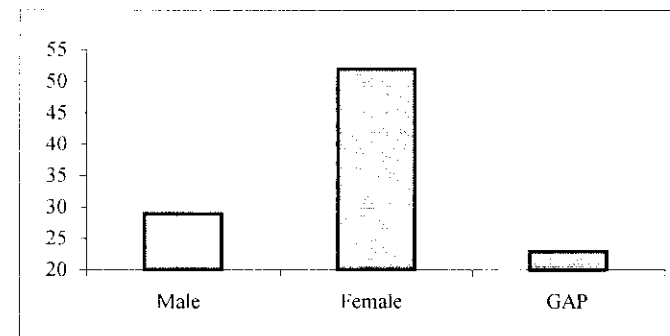
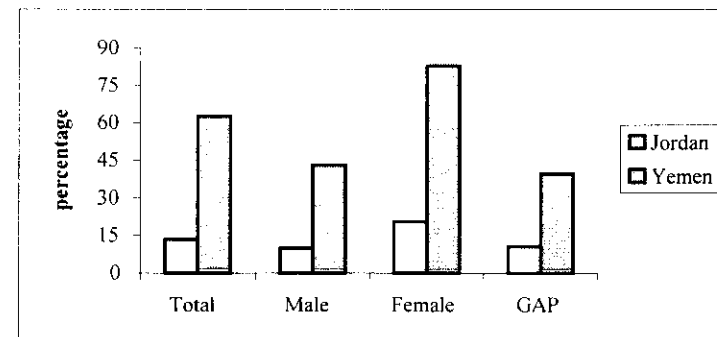


Chart 13: Highest and Lowest Illiteracy Rates in the Region (for 1994)





Illiteracy

Average illiteracy rates in the Arab region are in line with other developing regions in the world. Based on data from 13 Arab countries¹⁵ in the period 1990-95, it is estimated that the average illiteracy rate for persons 15 years of age and over is around 47 per cent (Table 22). The gap between men and women is still large. The average illiteracy rate among men was 29 per cent as against an illiteracy rate of 52 per cent among women (Chart 12).

Illiteracy rates vary greatly among Arab countries. For the thirteen countries in question, they varied from lows of 14 per cent in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza), 15 per cent in Lebanon (1996) and 16 per cent in Bahrain (1991) to highs of 54 per cent in Djibouti (1995), 58 per cent in Morocco (1994) and 63 per cent in Yemen (1994) (Table22).

“ ... the average illiteracy rate [in the Arab region] for persons 15 years of age and over in the period (1990-1995) is around 47 per cent. The gap between men and women is still large. The average illiteracy rate among men was 29 per cent as against an illiteracy rate of 52 per cent among women. ... [But] illiteracy rates ...and the gender gap [vary] greatly among Arab countries.”

¹⁵ Representing 73 per cent of the region's population in 1995.

Education

The gender gap also varies greatly among Arab countries. For the thirteen countries for which data were available the gender gap amounted to 23 percentage points in favour of men. But this varied from lows of between 10 to 13 percentage points in Lebanon, Jordan, Bahrain and Palestine to highs of between 25 and 28 percentage points in Morocco, Sudan and Djibouti with an exceptionally high gender gap of 40 percentage points in Yemen (Table 22 and Chart 13).

“In all countries for which relevant data are available, illiteracy rates among children 10-14 years of age are disproportionately lower than among adults 45 to 49 years of age. ... In some countries, illiteracy rates among the 10-14 year age group have become insignificant ... [and] the gender gap at the younger age groups, 10-14 and 15-24 years, has been virtually eliminated.”

From available data on illiteracy by age and sex, it is clear that illiteracy in the region is generally being eliminated through the education of the young and not through effective adult literacy campaigns. In all countries for which relevant data are available, illiteracy rates among children 10-14 years of age are disproportionately lower than among adults 45 to 59 years of age. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the illiteracy rate among the 10-14 age group in 1992 was less than 7 per cent while among the 45-49 age group it was 55 per cent.

In some countries, illiteracy rates among the 10-14 year age group have become insignificant reaching, for example, less than one per cent in Bahrain and 2 per cent in Lebanon, meaning that illiteracy in these countries will likely disappear within one generation. In all countries in question (with the exception of Yemen), the gender gap in illiteracy falls with age, indicating that not only are illiteracy rates declining, but they are declining more rapidly among women than among men. In Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, the gender gap at the younger age groups, 10-14 and 15-24 years, has been virtually eliminated (Annex 16).



Education

“It must be said, however, that illiteracy rates, even among the younger age groups, remains high in some Arab countries and the gap between girls and boys in these age groups remains wide.”

It must be said, however, that illiteracy rates, even among the younger age groups, remains high in some Arab countries and the gap between girls and boys in these age groups remains wide. In Yemen, for example, the illiteracy rate among children aged 10-14 years was around 33 per cent points in 1994. For girls it was 53 per cent and for boys it was 16 per cent. In Morocco illiteracy rates for the same age group were 47 per cent for girls and 24 per cent for boys averaging 35 per cent for the two groups (Annex 16).

Table 23: Regional Gross Enrollment Ratio and Gender Gap by Level and Gender for 1980 & 1995/96

Primary Education						
1980			1995/96			
Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	
Arab States	89.5	67	-22.5	91.9	76.3	-15.6

Secondary Education						
1980			1995/96			
Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	
Arab States	47	29.5	-17.5	59.4	49.5	-9.9

Tertiary Education						
1980			1995/96			
Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	
Arab States	12.9	6.1	-6.8	15.2	10.9	-4.3

N.B: The regional average (as computed by UNESCO) for the year 1995/96 excludes countries that don't have data for that year.

Sources: UNESCO (1998)

Chart 14: Regional Gross Enrollment Ratio by Gender and GAP

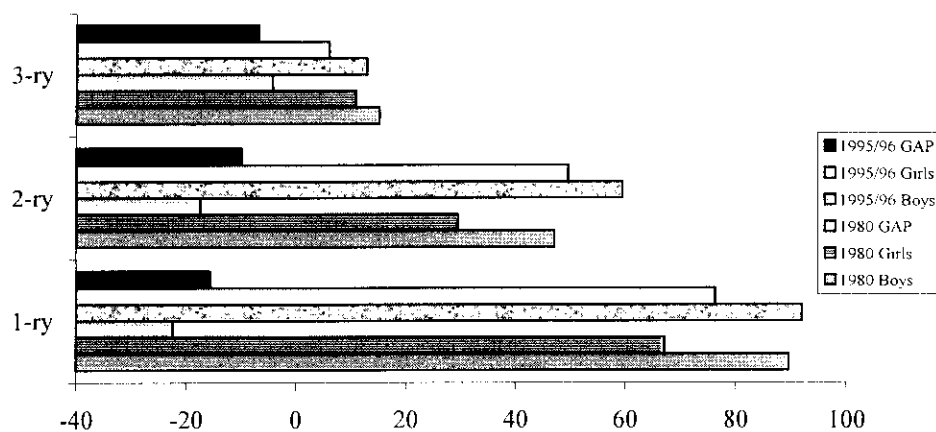


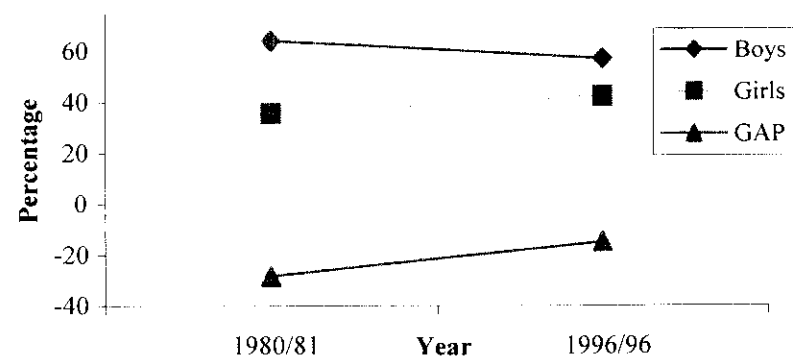
Table 24: Gross enrollment ratio and Gender Gap by Level and Gender for Selected Countries

Country	Primary Education		Secondary Education		Tertiary Education	
	1980	1995/96	1980	1995/96	1980	1995/96
	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Gender Gap % (G-B)
Bahrain	-14	2	-12	4	-0.5	5.8
Egypt	-23	7	-22	-12	-10.8	-8.2
Kuwait	-5	-1	-8	0	6.2	5.9
Lebanon	-8	-3	2	7	-19.9	-0.4
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	-9	0	-25	0	-7.1	-1.6
Oman	-32	-4	-11	-5		-0.6
Qatar	-5	-2	4	-2	10.8	27.4
Saudi Arabia	-25	-3	-13	-8	-4.4	-1
Sudan	-18	-9	-8	-2	-1.6	-0.4
UAE	-2	-3	-6	7	2.2	15.7

Source: UNESCO (1998).

Refer to table in annex 17 for explanation

Chart 15: Regional Enrollment in Vocational Education by Gender and GAP





Enrollment

There is no doubt that school enrollment at all levels has been increasing rapidly in the Arab region. This true for both men and women although the increases in the enrollment of women has been much more dramatic than the increases in the enrollment of men. The gender gap (that is, women enrollment rates minus men enrollment rates) has, therefore, diminished drastically throughout the region.

For the region as a whole, the enrollment¹⁶ of girls at the primary level of education rose from 67 per cent in 1980 to 76 per cent in 1990 against a corresponding rise in the enrollment of boys from 90 to 92 per cent. At the secondary level, the increase in the enrollment of girls was from 30 per cent to 50 per cent during the same period while for men it was from 47 to 59 per cent. At the tertiary level, finally, the increase in the enrollment of women was from 6 to 11 per cent and for men from 13 to 15 per cent. As a result, the gender gap diminished considerably: from -23 to -16 percentage points at the primary level, from -18 to -10 percentage points at the secondary level and from -6.8 to -4.3 percentage points at the tertiary or university level (Table 23).

“The gender gap [in enrollment] (that is, women enrollment rates minus men enrollment rates) has ... diminished drastically throughout the region. ... The most interesting change in this regard was at the tertiary or university level of education. In 1980, four countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE) had zero or positive gender gaps. In 1995-96 another four countries (Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Sudan) were added to that list.”

¹⁶ All enrollment rates data refer to age-specific gross enrollment, that is, the number enrolled divided by the age group that corresponds to that level of education. Since there are repeaters and others whose ages are outside that age group, gross enrollment rates exceed sometimes 100 per cent.

Education

Looking at country data, achievements in eliminating the gender gap in enrollment are even more apparent. At the primary level of education, while in 1980 no country had a zero or positive gender gap (that is, where the enrollment rates of girls was equal or exceeded the enrollment rates of boys), by 1995-96 two Arab countries (Bahrain and Egypt) had an enrollment rate for girls exceeding that of boys and four countries had virtually the same enrollment rates for girls and boys. At the secondary level, only two countries had girls' enrollment rates exceeding those of boys in 1980 but in 1995-96 four countries (Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon and the UAE) had a positive gender gap and two others (Kuwait and Libya) had virtually equal enrollment rates for girls and boys (Annex 17).

The most interesting change in this regard was at the tertiary or university level of education. In 1980, four countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE) had zero or positive gender gaps. In 1995-96 four countries (Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Sudan) were added to that list (Annex 17). More important, however, is that the gender gap in favour of women's enrollment at the university level became extremely high in some of these countries. It reached 6 percentage points in Bahrain and Kuwait, 16 percentage points in the UAE and more than 27 percentage points in Qatar. While a part of this gap may be explained by the fact that more men than women go abroad to pursue higher education, the main reason is probably that, particularly in the Gulf countries, men are tempted to go to work at an earlier age than women. In Lebanon, there were indications that the economic slow-down of late has resulted in an earlier withdrawal of boys from schools than girls (UNDP, 1998).

“... girls persist in education longer than boys. ... [this is indicated by the fact that] the enrollment rate of girls becomes closer to the enrollment rate of boys as the level of education increases.”



Education

The conclusion that girls persist in education longer than boys is reinforced by a comparison of the gender gap between levels of education. Thus, in 1995-96 the gender gap for the region as a whole fell from -16 percentage points at the primary level to -10 percentage points at the secondary level to a mere -4 percentage points at the university level. In other words, the enrollment rates of girls become closer to the enrollment rates of boys as the level of education increases (Table 23 and Chart 14).

“It is interesting to note ... that women are entering fields of study that were dominated by men in the past. ... For the fourteen countries for which relevant data are available, the proportion of women in the total enrollment in vocational schools rose on, average, from 37 per cent in 1980-81 to 43 per cent in 1995-95.”

It is interesting to note also that women are entering fields of study that were dominated by men in the past. The most useful data in this regard are those relating to enrollment in vocational schools. For the thirteen countries for which relevant data are available, the proportion of women in the total enrollment in vocational schools rose on average from 36 per cent in 1980-81 to 43 per cent in 1990-95 and that of men fell from 64 to 57 per cent. As a result, the gender gap in favour of men fell from -28 to -15 percentage points during the period (Annex 18).



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Annex 1: Relative Age and Sex Distribution of Arab Countries Population: (1990-2025)

Country		Women				Men			
		0-14	15-24	25-64	65+	0-14	15-24	25-64	65+
Algeria	1990	41.6	20.4	34.2	3.8	42.4	20.8	33.5	3.4
	2000	36.4	21.1	38.4	4.1	36.9	21.3	38.4	3.4
	2010	32.4	19.0	44.4	4.3	32.8	19.1	44.6	3.5
	2025	23.9	17.6	51.6	6.8	24.4	17.9	51.8	5.9
Bahrain	1990	36.6	18.2	42.7	2.5	28.1	14.8	55.1	2.1
	2000	33.5	18.0	45.2	3.3	26.6	14.4	56.3	2.8
	2010	25.1	19.4	51.0	4.6	20.3	15.9	59.4	4.4
	2025	22.7	12.9	53.6	10.9	19.4	11.1	54.4	15.0
Djibouti	1990	42.5	19.1	35.2	3.2	43.6	19.4	34.4	2.6
	2000	40.5	19.2	36.7	3.7	42.4	19.6	34.8	3.1
	2010	37.2	20.0	38.6	4.3	38.8	20.6	36.9	3.6
	2025	32.6	18.7	43.6	5.1	33.9	19.3	42.6	4.2
Egypt	1990	39.4	18.0	38.3	4.3	40.3	18.7	37.6	3.4
	2000	35.0	19.9	40.4	4.7	35.7	20.6	40.2	3.6
	2010	29.2	19.7	45.9	5.1	29.8	20.1	46.2	3.9
	2025	23.7	16.0	51.8	8.5	24.3	16.3	52.5	6.9
Iraq	1990	43.9	20.1	32.8	3.1	44.5	20.2	32.6	2.6
	2000	41.2	19.9	35.6	3.4	41.5	20.2	35.4	2.9
	2010	38.5	19.6	38.0	3.9	38.9	19.7	38.0	3.3
	2025	30.9	19.8	43.9	5.5	31.3	20.0	44.0	4.7
Jordan ^a	1990	42.5	21.5	33.2	2.8	41.3	21.7	33.9	3.0
	2000	39.9	21.3	35.7	3.1	39.6	21.2	36.1	3.1
	2010	35.5	20.0	40.8	3.7	35.3	20.2	41.1	3.8
	2025	29.5	18.0	46.9	5.6	30.1	18.3	47.0	4.7
Kuwait	1990	41.7	19.7	37.3	1.4	32.7	15.4	50.7	1.1
	2000	34.9	21.0	42.2	1.9	32.6	19.6	45.6	2.1
	2010	27.4	20.1	48.7	3.8	25.6	18.8	51.4	4.2
	2025	23.5	14.9	51.3	10.3	22.6	14.3	52.8	10.4

Country		Women				Men			
		0-14	15-24	25-64	65+	0-14	15-24	25-64	65+
Lebanon	1990	33.5	21.6	39.5	5.4	36.4	23.5	35.3	4.8
	2000	31.4	17.8	44.6	6.2	34.1	18.9	41.7	5.4
	2010	25.8	18.4	49.5	6.4	27.7	19.6	47.6	5.0
	2025	22.6	14.0	54.1	9.4	24.0	14.8	55.1	6.2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1990	46.3	20.1	31.0	2.6	43.9	19.0	34.7	2.4
	2000	38.1	22.8	36.0	3.2	37.2	21.9	37.7	3.2
	2010	33.9	19.5	42.6	4.0	33.7	19.4	42.7	4.2
Mauritania	2025	24.6	18.5	50.3	6.6	25.0	18.8	50.3	6.0
	1990	44.2	18.7	33.6	3.5	45.6	19.3	32.2	2.9
	2000	42.8	19.7	33.8	3.7	44.0	20.1	33.1	2.9
	2010	40.6	19.8	36.1	3.6	41.7	20.0	35.5	2.9
Morocco	2025	34.7	19.9	41.0	4.4	35.6	20.2	40.3	3.9
	1990	38.2	20.6	37.5	3.8	39.6	21.4	35.3	3.8
	2000	32.0	20.9	42.4	4.8	33.1	21.6	41.3	4.0
	2010	28.4	17.6	48.4	5.5	29.3	18.2	48.5	4.1
Oman	2025	22.9	15.7	52.8	8.6	23.6	16.1	53.2	7.0
	1990	49.6	18.3	29.5	2.6	43.7	16.3	37.9	2.2
	2000	46.2	20.4	30.8	2.7	42.3	18.4	37.0	2.4
	2010	42.6	21.0	33.2	3.3	40.4	19.7	36.7	3.2
Palestine ^b	2025	38.2	19.8	37.8	4.1	37.8	19.4	37.5	5.3
	1990	46.5	19.9	29.8	3.8	49.1	20.5	25.7	4.7
	2000	46.5	18.9	30.8	3.8	47.2	19.4	30.5	2.9
	2010	44.7	19.8	32.1	3.3	45.4	19.9	32.4	2.3
Qatar	2025	41.2	19.7	35.8	3.3	41.7	19.9	35.7	2.7
	1990	41.8	14.3	42.6	1.3	20.8	9.2	69.1	1.0
	2000	36.7	18.9	42.5	1.9	20.4	10.7	66.6	2.4
	2010	31.1	19.8	45.4	3.6	19.7	12.4	61.0	6.9
2025	25.1	17.1	46.4	11.3	19.3	13.1	44.0	23.7	

Country		Women				Men			
		0-14	15-24	25-64	65+	0-14	15-24	25-64	65+
Saudi Arabia	1990	47.8	18.5	30.7	3.0	37.3	16.3	44.3	2.2
	2000	44.4	20.9	31.6	3.2	37.4	17.7	42.2	2.7
	2010	40.8	20.3	35.3	3.6	36.1	18.0	42.3	3.6
	2025	32.6	20.1	42.4	5.0	30.5	18.7	42.7	8.1
Somalia	1990	47.4	18.7	31.0	2.9	48.3	18.9	30.3	2.5
	2000	47.4	19.2	30.8	2.6	48.5	19.4	29.9	2.2
	2010	47.3	18.9	31.2	2.6	48.2	19.2	30.4	2.1
	2025	40.8	21.2	35.0	3.0	41.7	21.4	34.3	2.5
Sudan	1990	43.2	18.9	35.3	2.7	43.5	19.4	34.4	2.8
	2000	38.9	20.8	36.9	3.3	39.9	20.8	36.2	3.1
	2010	35.9	19.5	40.4	4.1	37.0	19.9	39.6	3.6
	2025	30.1	18.9	45.4	5.6	31.0	19.3	44.9	4.8
Syria	1990	47.6	19.8	29.8	2.8	48.0	20.3	29.1	2.7
	2000	40.5	22.2	34.0	3.3	41.1	22.3	33.8	2.9
	2010	34.9	21.0	40.6	3.6	35.5	21.3	4.5	2.8
	2025	26.6	18.7	49.4	5.3	27.3	19.0	49.5	4.2
Tunisia	1990	37.1	20.2	38.6	4.0	38.1	20.1	37.4	4.4
	2000	29.8	20.6	43.7	5.9	30.9	21.1	42.3	5.7
	2010	25.5	17.8	50.5	6.3	26.6	18.3	49.7	5.5
	2025	22.3	14.6	53.6	9.4	23.3	15.2	53.6	7.8
UAE	1990	42.6	15.2	40.3	1.9	24.2	10.8	63.8	1.3
	2000	37.3	19.5	40.9	2.3	22.6	12.8	61.9	2.7
	2010	30.0	20.9	45.5	3.7	20.0	14.1	58.6	7.3
	2025	24.1	16.4	48.8	10.7	18.6	12.6	45.9	22.9
Yemen	1990	46.6	19.6	31.1	2.7	51.1	21.6	24.9	2.4
	2000	47.8	18.7	30.8	2.7	48.8	19.4	29.7	2.1
	2010	45.8	20.0	31.4	2.8	46.8	20.0	31.4	1.8
	2025	39.2	20.7	36.9	3.2	39.5	20.9	37.7	1.9

a taken from Jordan population projection

b taken from Palestine population projection

Source: United Nations (1999).

Annex 2: Distribution of Arab Population:1990-2025 (in thousands)

Country		1990	1995	2000	2015	2020	2025
Algeria	Total	24936	28058	31471	41199	43853	46611
	Males	12614	14200	15927	20836	22160	23528
	Females	12321	13859	15544	20363	21694	23083
Bahrain	Total	490	558	617	762	812	858
	Males	284	320	351	426	450	472
	Females	206	238	266	336	362	387
Djibouti	Total	517	601	638	866	948	1026
	Males	256	296	312	426	467	507
	Females	261	305	326	440	480	520
Egypt	Total	56333	62282	68470	85224	90491	95615
	Males	28635	31610	34723	43110	45720	48233
	Females	27698	30672	33746	42114	44770	47383
Iraq	Total	18078	20095	23115	34062	37664	41014
	Males	9204	10227	11756	17304	19119	20802
	Females	8874	9868	11359	16759	18546	20212
Jordan ^a	Total	3858	3887	4446	6277	6910	7542
	Males	2002	1973	2257	3182	3501	3819
	Females	1856	1914	2185	3095	3409	3723
Kuwait	Total	2143	1690	1972	2622	2813	2974
	Males	1218	871	1036	1370	1464	1539
	Females	925	819	935	1252	1349	1436
Lebanon	Total	2555	3009	3282	3942	4172	4400
	Males	1241	1467	1606	1943	2060	2177
	Females	1315	1542	1676	1999	2112	2223
Lybian Arab Jamahiriya	Total	4416	4967	5605	7573	8103	8647
	Males	2310	2585	2902	3874	4131	4395
	Females	2106	2382	2703	3699	3972	4251

Country		1990	1995	2000	2015	2020	2025
Mauritania	Total	2026	2329	2670	3885	4328	4766
	Males	1002	1153	1324	1933	2155	2374
	Females	1024	1176	1345	1952	2173	2393
Morocco	Total	23931	25966	28351	34784	36742	38670
	Males	11973	12992	14190	17441	18431	19395
	Females	11959	12974	14161	17343	18312	19275
Oman	Total	1785	2155	2542	4103	4719	5352
	Males	960	1151	1346	2130	2438	2751
	Females	825	1004	1195	1972	2282	2601
Palestine ^b	Total	1958	2109	3150	5267	6179	7197
	Males	979	1068	1591	2672	3137	3656
	Females	979	1041	1559	2595	3045	3541
Qatar	Total	485	548	599	732	761	779
	Males	328	364	390	445	451	449
	Females	157	184	209	288	310	329
Saudi Arabia	Total	16045	18253	21607	32623	36424	39965
	Males	9167	10206	11932	17465	19344	21071
	Females	6879	8046	9675	15158	17080	18894
Somalia	Total	7773	8201	10097	16350	18739	21211
	Males	3847	4069	5012	8130	9324	10588
	Females	3926	4132	5085	8219	9416	10653
Sudan	Total	24062	26617	29490	39811	43193	46264
	Males	12078	13348	14785	19970	21674	23220
	Females	11985	13270	14705	19841	21520	23044
Syria	Total	12386	14200	16125	22646	24555	26292
	Males	6273	7180	8143	11411	12365	13230
	Females	6113	7020	7982	11235	12190	13062

Country		1990	1995	2000	2015	2020	2025
Tunisia	Total	8156	8943	9586	11607	12254	12843
	Males	4125	4519	4842	5865	6192	6488
	Females	4031	4424	4744	5742	6063	6355
UAE	Total	1921	2210	2441	3026	3170	3284
	Males	1246	1418	1544	1826	1868	1895
	Females	675	792	897	1210	1302	1389
Yemen	Total	11590	15022	18112	29596	34190	38985
	Males	5673	7531	9129	15072	17443	19908
	Females	5917	7490	8983	14523	16747	19077
Region	Total	225444	251700	284386	386957	421020	454295
	Males	115415	128548	145098	196831	213894	230497
	Females	110032	123152	139280	190135	207134	223831

a taken from Jordan population projection

b taken from Palestine population projection

Source: United Nations (1999).

Annex 3: Estimated Life Expectancy at Birth in Arab Countries, 1990-2025

	1990			2000			2010			2025		
	Women	Men	Gender Gap	Women	Men	Gender Gap	Women	Men	Gender Gap	Women	Men	Gender Gap
Algeria	68.3	66.0	2.3	71.8	68.7	3.1	74.5	70.9	3.6	77.7	73.7	4.0
Bahrain	74.1	69.8	4.4	76.3	72.1	4.2	78.3	73.8	4.6	80.7	76.0	4.8
Djibouti	50.0	46.7	3.3	54.0	50.7	3.3	58.0	54.7	3.3	64.5	61.2	3.3
Egypt	65.6	62.4	3.2	69.9	66.7	3.2	73.3	69.4	3.9	76.7	72.7	4.0
Iraq	60.1	57.6	2.5	70.9	68.0	2.9	73.9	70.4	3.6	77.1	73.2	3.8
Jordan ^a				73.0	70.1	3.0	75.4	72.1	3.4	78.4	74.6	3.9
Kuwait	77.2	73.3	3.9	79.0	74.9	4.1	80.6	76.2	4.4	82.1	77.7	4.4
Lebanon	70.5	66.6	3.9	72.9	69.1	3.8	74.9	70.9	4.0	77.7	73.5	4.2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	71.3	67.7	3.6	73.3	69.2	4.1	76.3	71.9	4.4	79.1	74.5	4.6
Mauritania	53.1	49.9	3.2	57.1	53.9	3.2	61.1	57.9	3.2	67.1	63.9	3.2
Morocco	66.2	62.8	3.4	70.5	66.8	3.7	73.5	69.5	4.0	76.9	72.7	4.2
Oman	71.8	67.7	4.1	74.5	70.1	4.4	76.7	72.1	4.6	79.3	74.7	4.6
Palestine ^b				73.4	70.3	3.2	74.8	71.8	3.0	76.7	73.8	2.9
Qatar	74.2	68.8	5.4	76.4	71.0	5.4	78.4	73.0	5.4	80.5	75.4	5.1
Saudi Arabia	71.4	68.4	3.0	74.9	71.4	3.5	77.6	73.6	4.0	80.4	76.1	4.3
Somalia	40.1	38.5	1.6	50.6	47.4	3.2	54.6	51.4	3.2	60.6	57.4	3.2
Sudan	52.4	49.6	2.8	58.4	55.6	2.8	62.4	59.6	2.8	68.7	65.6	3.1
Syria	69.2	65.2	4.1	72.7	67.9	4.8	75.1	70.3	4.8	78.1	73.3	4.8
Tunisia	68.7	66.5	2.2	72.2	69.6	2.6	74.9	71.8	3.1	78.1	74.4	3.7
UAE	75.3	72.9	2.4	77.7	74.9	2.8	79.7	76.8	2.9	82.0	78.4	3.6
Yemen	55.9	54.9	1.0	60.9	59.9	1.0	65.9	64.7	1.2	71.7	69.4	2.3
Region	63.5	61.0	2.5	68.5	65.6	2.9	71.6	68.2	3.4	75.3	71.6	3.7

Gender Gap = Women - Men

^a Taken from Jordan's population projections

^b Taken from Palestine's population projections

Source: United Nations (1999).

Annex 4: Infant and Child Mortality Rates for Arab Countries

Country	Year of survey	Infant mortality ¹		Child mortality (1-4) ²	
		Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Algeria	1992	36.7	50.8	5.8	4.0
Bahrain	1989	13.7	18.6	4.5	3.7
Egypt	1991	56.8	61.1	27.1	18.9
Jordan ³	1997	23.4	34.3	6.5	3.6
Kuwait	1987	21.0	26.0	6.0	5.0
Lebanon	1996	27.6	28.2	3.6	4.8
Lybian Arab Jamahiriya	1995	21.6	27.0	6.2	5.3
Mauritania	1990	54.0	64.0	---	---
Morocco	1988	69.8	81.4	31.2	30.2
Oman	1989	25.2	27.4	12.5	9.8
Qatar	1987	22.4	25.3	6.8	7.6
Saudi Arabia	1987	50.0	55.0	8.0	14.0
Sudan	1993	65.7	73.1	37.9	48.5
Syria	1993	31.5	37.5	7.9	6.4
Tunisia	1995	31.5	39.0	9.3	7.1
UAE	1987	23.0	35.0	5.0	7.0
Yemen	1992	77.7	87.6	43.6	34.5
Region		52.6	60.4	22.4	20.9

¹ 5 years preceeding the survey

² 2 years preceeding the survey

³ Jordan (1998).

Source: League of Arab States et al., (1999).

Annex 5: Crude Birth Rates in Arab Countries: 1990-2025

Country	1990	2000	2010	2025
Algeria	30.8	26.7	19.7	17.1
Bahrain	25.7	16.1	15.4	13.7
Djibouti	39.0	34.7	31.1	22.4
Egypt	28.9	23.5	18.5	16.3
Iraq	38.4	33.8	27.8	18.4
Jordan ^a		29.9	25.9	20.9
Kuwait	24.8	20.2	18.1	14.7
Lebanon	26.9	19.8	17.4	15.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	28.6	27.8	20.5	17.3
Mauritania	42.6	38.6	33.1	23.9
Morocco	25.3	22.8	18.0	15.9
Oman	38.9	35.8	34.1	26.3
Palestine ^b		40.7	34.9	25.3
Qatar	19.9	18.1	17.2	14.4
SA	35.1	32.2	27.7	18.1
Somalia	52.1	49.9	42.2	31.3
Sudan	34.9	31.7	27.8	18.8
Syria	33.2	29.2	24.3	17.4
Tunisia	24.1	19.7	18.0	14.6
UAE	21.0	17.9	16.1	14.0
Yemen	48.6	43.3	36.9	27.3
Region	32.6	29.0	24.3	19.3

^a Taken from Jordan's population projections

^b Taken from Palestine's population projections

Source: United Nations (1999).

Annex 6: Total Fertility Rates in Arab Countries: 1990-2025

Country	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025
Algeria	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.1
Bahrain	3.4	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Djibouti	5.8	5.3	4.9	4.5	4.0	3.6	3.2
Egypt	3.8	3.4	2.9	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1
Iraq	5.7	5.3	4.8	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.8
Jordan ^a	5.0	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.7
Kuwait	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1
Lebanon	3.1	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	4.1	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.1
Mauritania	5.9	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.2
Morocco	3.3	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1
Oman	6.7	5.9	5.4	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.7
Palestine ^b	---	6.0	5.6	5.0	4.4	3.8	3.3
Qatar	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.1
Saudi Arabia	6.4	5.8	5.2	4.7	4.1	3.5	3.0
Somalia	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.3	5.6	5.0	4.4
Sudan	5.0	4.6	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.7
Syria	4.7	4.0	3.6	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.1
Tunisia	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
UAE	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.1
Yemen	7.6	7.6	7.0	6.3	5.7	5.0	4.4
Region	4.8	4.5	4.1	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.8

^a Jordan's population projections

^b Palestine's population projections

Source: United Nations (1999).

Annex 7: Percentage Single by Age Group and Sex and Availability of Mate Ratios in Selected Arab Countries, Latest Available Years

Country	Year	Source	Age Group	% Single W	% Single M	Availability of Mate Ratios *
Egypt	1986	1	15-19	74.8	90.6	130
			20-24	36.9	80.9	105
			25-29	19.0	43.7	64
			30-34	7.2	15.3	80
			35-39	4.9	5.9	57
			40-44	4.6	3.9	59
			45-49	4.0	3.0	
Jordan	1994	2	15-19	84.9	96.5	103
			20-24	50.9	83.6	93
			25-29	26.3	47.5	57
			30-34	14.4	17.6	33
			35-39	7.8	6.1	32
			40-44	4.8	3.1	36
			45-49	3.3	1.9	
Lebanon	1996	3	15-19	94.8	99.8	100
			20-24	71.5	94.3	85
			25-29	46.4	69.7	70
			30-34	30.4	38.1	43
			35-39	20.7	19.1	35
			40-44	15.2	10.1	31
			45-49	11.4	6.3	
Palestine	1997	4	15-19	76.4	98.0	87
			20-24	33.5	72.1	77
			25-29	17.4	29.6	41
			30-34	13.2	7.6	17
			35-39	10.8	2.7	11
			40-44	8.5	1.6	11
			45-49	8.4	1.2	
Syria	1981	5	15-19	74.8	96.1	77
			20-24	35.1	74.4	70
			25-29	15.3	32.3	56
			30-34	8.0	10.4	41
			35-39	4.9	4.3	53
			40-44	3.6	2.8	50
Yemen	1991	6	15-19	76.0	95.4	61
			20-24	28.1	63.5	85
			25-29	9.5	26.3	76
			30-34	3.9	9.3	95
			35-39	2.0	4.2	83
			40-44	1.5	2.4	94
			45-49	1.2	1.8	

* number of single men in the age group x+5 to 100 single women in the age group x

Sources:

1- Egypt :Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) (1986).

2- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1994).

3- Lebanon: Ministry of Social Affairs (1996).

4- Palestine:Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (1999).

5- Syria (1981).

6- Yemen: Central Statistical Organization (1994).

Annex 8: Singulate Mean Age at Marriage, 1980s and 1990s

Country	Source	Year	Women	Men
Algeria	1	1984	22.1	27.4
	2	1992	25.9	30.1
Bahrain	3	1989	25.5	28.8
	4	1991	25.0	28.0
Djibouti	3	1988	19.3	27.1
Egypt	3	1980	21.4	26.9
	2	1991	21.3	27.2
Iraq	3	1987	22.3	26.3
Jordan	3	1981	22.8	26.8
	3	1991	24.7	27.8
Kuwait	3	1980	21.7	26.8
Lebanon	2	1996	27.5	30.9
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2	1995	29.2	32.0
Mauritania	5	1981	19.4	26.9
	3	1990	23.1	29.8
Morocco	3	1982	22.3	27.2
	6	1994	25.8	30.0

Country	Source	Year	Women	Men
Oman	3	1988-89	19.2	25.6
	7	1993	20.7	24.7
Palestine	8	1997	21.5	24.2
Qatar	3	1986	22.7	26.6
Saudi Arabia	3	1987	21.7	25.6
Somalia	3	1980-81	20.1	26.5
	3	1989-90	24.1	27.7
Sudan	3	1993	25.3	31.1
	3	1981	21.5	25.7
Syria	3	1993	24.5	28.5
	5	1984	24.3	28.1
Tunisia	3	1995	26.5	30.1
UAE	3	1987	23.1	25.6
Yemen	9	1994	20.7	24.8
Region		1980s	21.8	26.8
Region		1990s	23.9	28.7

including Palestinian refugees

Sources:

- 1- Algeria (1996).
- 2- League of Arab States et al. (1999).
- 3- United Nations (1994).
- 4- ESCWA (1997).
- 5- ESCWA (1986).
- 6- Morocco (1997).
- 7- Oman: Ministry of Development (1995).
- 8- Palestine: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (1998b).
- 9- Yemen : Central Statistical Organization (1997).

Annex 9: Population Marital Status by Sex, 15 years and Over, 1970s and 1990s

Country	Source	Year	Women					Men				
			single	married	widowed	divorced (a)	unknown	single	married	widowed	divorced (a)	unknown
Algeria	1	1987	6.0	56.2	8.9	1.5	0.0	14.1	53.4	1.0	0.5	0.0
Bahrain	2	1971	19.9	65.0	12.5	2.5		37.9	59.2	1.4	1.5	
	1	1981	29.7	60.1	8.0	2.1		39.8	59.0	0.5	0.6	
Djibouti	1	1991	---	43.8	---	---		---	47.4	---	---	
Egypt	1	1976(b)	21.3	63.1	14.5	1.2		30.4	67.4	1.8	0.4	
	1	1986(b)	20.5	65.5	12.7	1.3		31.2	66.1	2.2	0.5	0.0
Iraq	1	1977	21.2	66.5	10.7	1.1	0.5	35.9	61.4	1.5	0.6	0.6
Jordan	3	1994	33.6	57.8	6.3	1.3	1.2	45.5	52.3	0.6	0.4	1.2
	1	1979 (c)	26.3	64.3	8.4	1.0		39.1	59.5	1.0	0.4	
Kuwait	2	1970	18.3	70.1	9.8	1.8		37.0	61.5	1.0	0.5	
	4	1997 (d)	31.6	61.4	3.9	3.1		41.3	57.7	0.2	0.8	
Lebanon	5	1970	29.6	59.4	10.1	0.9		41.4	56.5	1.7	0.4	
	6	1996	37.5	51.7	9.7	1.1		44.9	53.2	1.5	0.4	
Lybian Arab												
Jamahiriya	1	1973	12.5	72.0	11.7	3.8	0.1	29.8	67.2	1.5	1.5	0.1
Mauritania	1	1977	17.2	56.0	13.6	13.1		40.0	56.4	1.0	2.5	
Morocco	2	1971	15.6	66.1	14.1	4.2		31.9	64.7	1.7	1.7	
	1	1982	25.6	58.8	11.7	3.9		41.0	56.4	1.3	1.3	
Oman	7	1993	24.6	61.0	10.0	4.0		39.7	56.8	1.3	2.1	
Palestine	8	1997 (e)	31.4	59.1	7.8	1.6		42.6	56.2	0.8	0.3	
Qatar	1	1982	24.9	67.5	5.6	2.0		32.1	67.2	0.3	0.4	
	9	1986	25.3	67.0	5.3	1.8	0.5	29.3	69.8	0.2	0.3	0.4
Saudi Arabia	1	1974	---	68.8	---	---		---	61.2	---	---	
Sudan	2	1973	13.0	70.5	12.2	4.3		32.5	63.4	1.9	2.0	
	1	1983	19.1	65.2	10.3	3.2	2.2	36.1	57.2	1.4	1.3	4.0
Syria	2	1970	20.8	67.5	10.8	0.8		35.8	62.1	1.8	0.4	
	1	1994	26.1	65.7	7.6	0.6	0.0	39.4	59.3	1.1	0.2	0.0
Tunisia	2	1975	27.8	61.1	9.8	1.2		40.2	57.6	1.7	0.4	
	1	1994	27.5	56.7	7.8	0.8	0.2	37.2	54.7	1.2	0.3	0.2
UAE	1	1975	10.5	76.4	10.2	2.8	0.1	35.5	63.1	0.7	0.6	0.1
	10	1985	20.7	71.9	5.8	1.5		25.4	73.9	0.3	0.2	
Yemen	1	1994	21.0	68.1	8.7	1.8	0.4	34.3	62.4	1.8	1.0	0.5
Region		1970s	17.4	68.8	10.9	2.7	0.1	32.5	64.7	1.6	1.1	0.1
Region		1990s	29.0	61.4	7.7	1.3	0.5	41.3	56.5	1.1	0.6	0.6

Notes:

- (a) Includes separated and divorced
(b) For nationals only, age 18+
(c) Excluding data for Jordanian territory under occupation since 1967 by Israeli military forces
(d) Nationals and non-nationals
(e) 14+ years.

Sources:

- 1- United Nations (1998).
2- United Nations (1986).
3- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1994).
4- Kuwait: Ministry Of Planning (1997).
5- Lebanon: Recueil Des Statistiques Libanaises (1973).
6- Lebanon: Ministry Of Social Affairs (1996).
7- Oman: Ministry Of Development (1993).
8- Palestine (1998a).
9- Qatar (1995). 10- UAE: Ministry of Planning (1992).

Annex 10: Percentage of all Household Heads Who Are Female, Urban and Rural (mid 1990s)

Country	Source		Total	Urban	Rural
Algeria	1	1994	11.0		
Djibouti	1	1994	18.4		
Egypt	1	1994	12.0	12.0	12.1
Jordan	2	1979	8.8	9.3	8.1
	3	1987	8.6	9.6	6.3
	4	1994	9.6	9.9	8.5
Kuwait	1	1980	4.8		
	1	1994*	4.8		
Lebanon	5	1996*	14.2	14.8	11.4
Morocco	6	1971	16.9		
	1	1980	16.9	20.2	15.0
	1	1994	17.3	19.9	15.0
Oman	7	1993	12.5	11.9	13.5
Palestine (Gaza Strip)	8	1997	7.7	8.1	7.0
Sudan	1	1994	13.3	14.0	12.9
Syria	1	1981	10.3	9.8	10.8
	1	1994	9.3	....	....
Tunisia	9	1975	10.5	12.1	8.9
	1	1980	10.4	12.0	8.8
	1	1994	11.3	12.2	9.8
Yemen	10	1994	12.8	10.2	13.6
Region	mid	1990s	12.5		

* Statistics are done 1 year after the specified one.

Sources:

- 1- United Nations (1998).
- 2- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1979).
- 3- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1987).
- 4- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1994).
- 5- Lebanon: Ministry of Social Affairs (1996).
- 6- United Nations (1986).
- 7- Oman: Ministry of Development (1993).
- 8- Palestine (1998c).
- 9- Tunisia: Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999).
- 10- Yemen: Central Statistical Organization (1994).

Annex 11: Economic Activity Rates for Ages 15+ in 1980 and 1995 for Selected Countries

Country	Year	Economic Activity Rate				Population		Economically Active Population	
		Women	Men	Gender Gap (W-M)	Gender Index (W/M)	15+		15+	
						W	M	W	M
Algeria	1980	18.2	77.2	-59.0	0.2	5164	4862	939	3752
	1995	24.3	76.1	-51.8	0.3	8490	8606	2060	6547
Bahrain	1980	16.5	87.9	-71.4	0.2	85	141	14	124
	1995	30.7	85.8	-55.1	0.4	153	232	47	199
Egypt	1980	27.9	80.7	-52.8	0.3	13154	13303	3665	10729
	1995	32.6	79.4	-46.8	0.4	19042	19467	6207	15451
Iraq	1980	15.7	78.8	-63.1	0.2	3464	3556	544	2801
	1995	16.6	74.7	-58.1	0.2	5666	5823	938	4351
Jordan	1980	13.9	76.4	-62.5	0.2	717	760	100	581
	1995	21.9	76.2	-54.3	0.3	1480	1567	324	1194
Kuwait	1980	20.4	85.2	-64.8	0.2	314	507	64	432
	1995	38.6	78.8	-40.2	0.5	497	543	192	428
Lebanon	1980	19.7	74.6	-54.9	0.3	828	771	163	575
	1995	27.3	76.1	-48.8	0.4	1037	945	283	719
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1980	22.5	84.0	-61.5	0.3	738	887	166	745
	1995	22.8	78.1	-55.3	0.3	1386	1568	316	1224
Mauritania	1980	69.8	89.9	-20.1	0.8	444	427	310	384
	1995	63.8	86.3	-22.5	0.7	661	634	422	547
Morocco	1980	36.5	81.5	-45.0	0.4	5580	5429	2035	4426
	1995	40.0	79.3	-39.3	0.5	8518	8367	3407	6638
Oman	1980	7.0	87.0	-80.0	0.1	271	355	19	309
	1995	16.1	79.3	-63.2	0.2	517	648	83	514

Country	Year	Economic Activity Rate				Population		Economically Active Population	
		Women	Men	Gender Gap (W-M)	Gender Index (W/M)	15+		15+	
						W	M	W	M
Qatar	1980	12.2	91.6	-79.4	0.1	49	107	6	98
	1995	33.9	91.3	-57.4	0.4	112	289	38	264
Saudi Arabia	1980	9.1	84.8	-75.7	0.1	2312	3035	211	2573
	1995	17.7	82.1	-64.4	0.2	4416	6314	771	5184
Somalia	1980	64.3	88.7	-24.4	0.7	1850	1775	1190	1575
	1995	63.5	87.2	-23.7	0.7	2541	2442	1613	2129
Sudan	1980	30.4	88.2	-57.8	0.3	5185	5115	1578	4511
	1995	32.7	85.7	-53.0	0.4	7891	7843	2584	6723
Syria	1980	22.6	79.5	-56.9	0.3	2204	2281	499	1814
	1995	26.1	78.1	-52.0	0.3	3888	3944	1013	3079
Tunisia	1980	33.0	81.6	-48.6	0.4	1870	1892	618	1544
	1995	35.1	79.4	-44.3	0.4	2907	2940	1019	2333
UAE	1980	15.4	94.0	-78.6	0.2	175	552	27	519
	1995	31.1	89.7	-58.6	0.3	466	1075	145	964
Yemen	1980	27.5	81.4	-53.9	0.3	2284	1805	627	1469
	1995	29.2	82.1	-52.9	0.4	3970	3913	1161	3214
Region	1980	27.5	81.9	-54.4	0.3	45950	46673	12609	38216
	1995	30.7	80.0	-52.2	0.3	73638	77160	22623	61702

Source: United Nations (1998).

Annex 12: Economic Activity for age 15+, by Sector and Gender (1980 and 1990)

Country	Year	Men			Women			Men and Women		
		Ag. (%)	Ind. (%)	Ser. (%)	Ag. (%)	Ind. (%)	Ser. (%)	Ag. (%)	Ind. (%)	Ser. (%)
Aleria	1980	23.8	40.3	35.9	66.5	9.8	23.7	32.4	34.2	33.4
	1990	15.8	44.9	39.4	54.5	11.6	33.9	23.5	38.2	38.3
Bahrain	1980	3.7	43.4	52.9	0.0	12.5	87.5	3.3	40.1	56.6
	1990	2.0	41.6	56.4	0.0	12.8	87.2	1.7	36.9	61.4
Egypt	1980	42.3	29.7	28.0	80.6	5.4	14.0	51.7	23.8	24.6
	1990	28.4	35.5	36.0	55.3	18.0	26.7	35.4	31.0	33.6
Gaza Strip	1980	18.6	51.2	30.2	22.2	33.3	44.4	18.9	49.5	31.6
	1990	18.5	47.9	33.6	16.7	41.7	41.7	18.3	47.3	34.4
Iraq	1980	19.7	29.8	50.5	57.0	17.8	25.2	26.1	27.7	46.2
	1990	10.9	24.2	64.9	36.8	14.6	48.6	15.1	22.7	62.3
Jordan	1980	10.1	32.6	57.3	56.2	5.7	38.1	16.6	28.7	54.6
	1990	8.9	33.1	58.0	39.8	7.3	52.9	14.3	28.7	57.1
Kuwait	1980	1.9	42.1	56.1	0.0	4.5	95.5	1.7	37.4	60.9
	1990	1.3	37.9	60.7	0.0	2.9	97.1	1.1	30.4	68.5
Lebanon	1980	11.4	36.4	52.2	16.8	33.2	50.0	12.7	35.6	51.8
	1990	5.5	42.5	52.0	8.3	34.4	57.3	6.3	40.2	53.5
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1980	15.4	32.2	52.3	61.5	5.0	33.5	23.8	27.2	49.0
	1990	6.8	30.7	62.6	26.6	7.4	66.0	10.4	26.5	63.1
Morocco	1980	42.5	31.8	25.7	63.5	24.5	12.0	49.6	29.3	21.1
	1990	30.3	37.6	32.1	53.3	31.4	15.4	38.4	35.4	26.2
Mauritania	1980	61.6	15.3	23.1	77.8	4.1	18.1	68.7	10.3	21.0
	1990	45.5	22.4	32.2	60.3	7.2	32.5	51.9	15.7	32.4
Oman	1980	48.8	25.9	25.3	20.0	44.0	36.0	46.8	27.1	26.0
	1990	44.4	27.8	27.8	16.9	46.2	36.9	41.0	30.1	29.0
Qatar	1980	2.9	33.7	63.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	2.7	31.8	65.5
	1990	2.7	40.5	56.9	0.0	3.2	96.8	2.4	36.5	61.1

Country	Year	Men			Women			Men and Women		
		Ag. (%)	Ind. (%)	Ser. (%)	Ag. (%)	Ind. (%)	Ser. (%)	Ag. (%)	Ind. (%)	Ser. (%)
Saudi Arabia	1980	42.7	20.7	36.5	24.3	7.7	68.0	41.3	19.8	38.9
	1990	18.7	26.4	54.9	11.5	9.7	78.8	18.0	24.8	57.2
Somalia	1980	62.9	19.6	17.5	88.9	3.0	8.1	73.7	12.7	13.6
	1990	59.2	22.0	18.8	86.0	3.7	10.3	70.2	14.5	15.3
Sudan	1980	63.1	13.7	23.2	85.4	7.2	7.4	69.0	12.0	19.0
	1990	60.9	14.0	25.0	80.4	9.4	10.2	66.2	12.8	21.0
Syria	1980	23.0	43.4	33.6	73.8	12.0	14.1	34.1	36.5	29.3
	1990	18.7	39.2	42.1	65.4	11.0	23.6	29.3	32.8	37.9
Tunisia	1980	30.2	36.3	33.5	40.1	47.9	11.9	33.4	40.1	26.5
	1990	20.3	39.7	40.0	32.2	47.6	20.2	24.2	42.3	33.5
UAE	1980	4.3	45.7	49.9	0.0	10.3	89.7	4.1	44.0	51.8
	1990	8.2	35.3	56.5	0.0	3.5	96.5	7.3	31.8	60.9
Yemen	1980	54.8	26.4	18.8	97.7	1.4	0.9	67.9	18.8	13.3
	1990	44.6	29.6	25.8	83.5	10.1	6.4	55.7	24.1	20.3
Region	1980	38.9	29.4	31.7	72.8	11.8	15.4	47.2	25.1	27.7
	1990	28.2	32.2	39.6	56.8	17.3	26.0	35.3	28.5	36.2

Source: ILO (1997).

Annex 13: Unemployment Rates by Gender and Selected Age Groups: Latest available years, 1980s and 1990s

Country	Source		15-24			25-34			35-44			45-54			55+			15+		
			W-rate	M-rate	GAP*	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP
Bahrain	1	1981	19.63	7.36	12.27	2.97	0.98	1.99	0.53	0.61	-0.08	0.80	1.17	-0.37	0.60	1.43	-0.83	9.47	2.24	7.13
	2	1981	42.80	8.36	34.44	7.51	1.15	6.36	2.52	0.80	1.72	2.86	1.63	1.23	8.84	3.06	5.78	24.08	2.83	21.25
	2	1991	33.89	22.41	11.48	6.78	2.65	4.13	2.27	1.43	0.84	1.21	2.10	-0.89	2.53	3.19	-0.66	11.81	5.07	6.74
Egypt	3	1986	57.22	25.32	31.90	10.36	8.89	1.47	...	1.91	...	...	0.78	...	...	0.67	...	25.52	9.80	15.72
	2	1990	35.26	16.26	19.00	6.28	4.30	1.98	...	0.30	...	...	0.34	...	10.74	1.67	9.07	13.34	5.23	8.11
	4	1995	41.14	24.48	16.66	9.84	3.04	6.80										18.80	7.33	11.47
Iraq	2	1987	18.53	6.32	12.21	2.61	0.95	1.66	0.78	0.72	0.06	1.14	2.10	-0.96	4.85	8.54	-3.69	705.00	3.47	3.58
Jordan	2 s.survey	1983	25.89	7.92	17.97	6.96	3.19	3.77	2.97	2.12	0.85	4.67	2.14	2.53	10.87	1.40	9.47	16.25	4.04	12.21
	5	1987	47.71	17.98	29.73	12.34	10.94	1.40	5.45	8.77	-3.32	3.13	12.37	-9.24	1.72	12.10	-10.38	27.03	13.26	13.77
	2 s.survey	1993	61.58	27.32	34.26	27.14	11.53	15.61	7.70	8.92	-1.22	5.75	11.86	-6.11	7.37	12.03	-4.66	35.30	16.10	19.20
	5	1994	63.87	28.49	35.38	27.69	10.11	17.58	11.43	9.83	1.60	16.59	15.70	0.89	31.11	29.52	1.59	38.23	17.99	20.24
Kuwait	2 census	1980	7.19	6.33	0.86	0.73	0.79	-0.06	0.18	0.30	-0.12	0.21	0.59	-0.38	0.12	2.00	-1.88	1.95	1.78	0.17
	2 census	1985	6.31	6.26	0.05	0.86	0.83	0.03	0.30	0.31	-0.01	0.36	0.26	0.10	0.95	1.25	-0.30	1.99	1.35	0.64
Lebanon	6	1996	11.00	17.59	-6.59	5.74	6.43	-0.69	3.04	2.95	0.09	2.26	2.82	-0.56	2.38	5.46	-3.08	5.68	7.38	-1.70
	7	1997	12.56	23.81	-11.25	7.30	7.82	-0.52	5.74	3.20	2.54	2.60	3.64	-1.04	2.20	1.10	1.10	7.19	8.46	-1.27
Oman	2,8 census	1993	25.81	16.16	9.65	2.22	1.72	0.50	1.35	1.56	-0.21	1.44	3.39	-1.95	4.14	10.73	-6.59	8.12	4.56	3.56
Palestine (Gaza Strip (West Bank	10	1997	41.20	36.30	4.90	33.60	24.80	8.80	24.40	19.60	4.80	5.90	19.00	-13.10	4.40	23.20	-18.80	29.80	26.50	3.30
	10	1997	29.20	23.60	5.60	19.80	15.70	4.10	11.60	15.00	-3.40	7.20	12.20	-5.00	2.30	7.10	-4.80	17.70	17.20	0.50
	9 census	1997	31.60	27.70	3.90	23.10	18.90	4.20	13.80	16.70	-2.90	7.00	14.60	-7.60	2.50	11.80	-9.30	20.10	20.30	-0.20
Qatar	11,2 census	1986	7.97	2.90	5.07	0.51	0.59	-0.08	0.07	0.36	-0.29	0.14	0.84	-0.70	1.84	4.00	-2.16	0.95	0.98	-0.03

Country	Source	15-24			25-34			35-44			45-54			55+			15+			
		W-rate	M-rate	GAP*	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	W-rate	M-rate	GAP	
Sudan	12	1993	17.08	16.64	0.44	7.35	6.19	1.16	3.39	3.39	0.00	4.22	3.96	0.26	11.39	10.79	0.60	9.62	8.62	1.00
Syria	13	1981	7.43	7.32	0.11	2.18	2.69	-0.51	1.23	1.58	-0.35	1.59	2.21	-0.62	2.77	4.10	-1.33	4.27	4.04	0.23
	2 s.survey	1983	3.84	6.92	-3.08	1.05	2.22	-1.17	0.13	1.24	-1.11	1.07	1.37	-0.30	...	3.14	...	2	3.18	-1.18
	13	1995	19.68	11.31	8.37	9.31	3.52	5.79	3.39	0.93	2.46	1.85	0.94	0.91	0.61	1.77	-1.16	11.58	5.06	6.52
Tunisia	14	1975	21.79	31.18	-9.39	5.47	8.93	-3.46	1.99	7.33	-5.34	3.33	8.03	-4.70	4.10	8.10	-4.00	10.60	13.40	-2.80
	14	1984	17.24	30.54	-13.30	8.74	10.56	-1.82	3.43	6.10	-2.67	8.23	7.52	0.71	11.50	7.60	3.90	11.90	13.70	-1.80
	14	1994	24.70	28.43	-3.73	16.22	14.90	1.32	9.09	8.88	0.21	10.06	10.94	-0.88	10.10	11.10	-1.00	17.20	15.00	2.20
UAE:	2 census	1980	6.51	2.46	4.05	4.88	0.66	4.22	1.33	0.62	0.71	0.68	1.28	-0.60	0.55	2.02	-1.47	4.11	1.07	3.04
	2 census	1985	3.54	3.74	-0.20	1.83	0.65	1.18	1.16	0.42	0.74	0.98	0.91	0.07	1.71	2.44	-0.73	2.02	1.05	0.97
Yemen	2 census	1986	1.77	8.63	-6.86	0.54	5.42	-4.88	0.44	5.01	-4.57	0.54	4.82	-4.28	1.41	5.48	-4.07	4.11	5.93	-5.01
	15	1994	9.83	20.22	-10.39	2.00	7.80	-5.80	0.57	4.91	-4.34	0.71	4.90	-4.19	1.42	5.58	-4.16	3.83	9.33	-5.50

*GAP=W rate- M rate

Sources:

- 1- Bahrain: Central Statistics Organization (1997).
- 2- ESCWA (Labor Force Statistics Data Base)- (version 3.1)
- 3- Egypt (1998).
- 4- ILO (1998).
- 5-Jordan (1998).
- 6- Lebanon (1998b).
- 7- Lebanon: Administration Centrale de la Statistique (1998).
- 8- Sultanate of Oman: Ministry of Development (1993).
- 9-Palestine: Central Bureau Of Statistics (1999).
- 10- Palestine (1998d).
- 11-Qatar: Central Statistics (1987).
- 12-Sudan: Ministry of Finance (1994).
- 13- Syria: Council Of Ministries (1999).
- 14-Tunisia: Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999).
- 15- Yemen: Central Statistical Organization (1998).

Annex 14: Unemployment Rates by Gender for Youth and Total: Latest Available Years

Country	Source	Year	15-24				15+				% youth/ total
			W Rate	M Rate	Total Rate	GAP *	W Rate	M Rate	Total Rate	GAP*	
Bahrain	1	1981	42.8	8.4	17.1	34.4	24.1	2.8	5.6	21.3	3.0
	1	1991	33.9	22.4	25.4	11.5	11.8	5.1	6.2	6.7	4.1
Egypt	2	1995	41.1	24.5		16.7	18.8	7.3		11.5	
Iraq	1	1987	18.5	6.3	7.7	12.2	7.0	3.5	3.9	3.6	2.0
Jordan	1 survey	1983	25.9	7.9	10.7	18.0	16.2	4.0	5.2	12.2	2.1
	3	1994	63.9	28.5	35.2	35.4	38.2	18.0	21.1	20.2	1.7
Kuwait	1 Census	1980	7.2	6.3	6.4	0.9	2.0	1.8	1.8	0.2	3.6
	2 Census	1985	6.3	6.3	6.3	0.0	2.0	1.3	1.5	0.6	4.3
Lebanon	4	1996	11.0	17.6	16.2	-6.6	5.7	7.4	7.0	-1.7	2.3
	5	1997	12.6	23.8	21.3	-11.2	7.2	8.5	8.2	-1.3	2.6
Oman	1, 6 Census	1993	25.8	16.2	17.6	9.6	8.1	4.6	4.9	3.6	3.6
Palestine	7	1997	31.6	27.7		3.9	20.1	20.3		-0.2	
Qatar	8, 1 Census	1986	8.0	2.9	3.2	5.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0	3.3
Sudan	9	1993	17.1	16.6		0.4	9.6	8.6		1.0	
Syria	1 survey	1983	3.8	6.9	6.2	-3.1	2.0	3.2	3.0	-1.2	2.1
	10	1995	19.7	11.3	13.6	8.4	11.6	5.1	6.5	6.5	2.1
Tunisia	11	1994	24.7	28.4		-3.7	17.2	15.0		2.2	
UAE	1 Census	1980	6.5	2.5	2.7	4.1	4.1	1.1	1.2	3.0	2.3
	1 Census	1985	3.5	3.7	3.7	-0.2	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	3.2
Yemen	1 Census	1986	1.8	8.6	6.5	-6.9	0.9	5.9	4.5	-5.0	1.4
	12	1994	9.8	20.2	17.9	-10.4	3.8	9.3	8.3	-5.5	2.1

*GAP=W rate- M rate

Sources:

- 1- ESCWA (Labour Force Statistics Data Base)- Version 3.1.
- 2- ILO (1998)
- 3- Jordan: Department of Statistics (1998)
- 4- Lebanon (1998a).
- 5- Lebanon (1998b)
- 6- Sultanate Oman: Ministry of Development (1993).
- 7- Palestine (1998b).
- 8- Qatar: Council of Ministers (1997).
- 9- Sudan: Ministry of Finance (1994).
- 10- Syrian Arab Republic: Council of Ministers (1999)
- 11- Tunisia: Ministry of Women and Family Affairs (1999).
- 12- Republic of Yemen: Central Statistical Organization (1998).

Annex 15: Economically Active Women in Professional, Technical, Administrative and Managerial Fields in Arab Countries (1970-1994)

Country	Year	Professional Technical Administrative & Managerial Percentage		Professional Technical Administrative & Managerial Numbers	
		Total	Women	Total	Women
Algeria	1970	4.2	17.7	106568	19319
	1980	12.9	31.7	301296	43839
	1994	12.3	34.2	656051	168471
Bahrain	1970	9.7	53.8	5859	1748
	1980	12.9	31.5	18432	5106
	1994	12.9	31.5	18432	5106
Djibouti	1994	16.1	8.7	12482	2178
Egypt	1970	6.1	15.1	504309	93788
	1980	10.9	34.8	1128400	298500
	1994	12.2	11.6	1963100	533100
Iraq	1980	6.7	11.7	209062	63896
	1994	10.0	36.8	397186	169258
Jordan	1980	12.9	52.4	57421	17457
	1994	12.9	52.4	57421	17457
Kuwait	1970	11.3	45.1	27289	7494
	1980	17.2	39.2	84475	24782
	1994	18.4	25.8	134209	45671
Lebanon	1970	11.1	20.4	63465	20235
	1994	11.1	20.4	63465	20235
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1970	10.7	28.1	57943	10362
	1994	10.7	28.1	57943	10362
Mauritania	1994	3.9	2.7	22738	4482
Morocco	1970	7.0	8.5	277176	51543
	1980	9.6	12.1	577200	142669
	1994	9.6	12.1	577200	142669

Country	Year	Professional Technical Administrative & Managerial Percentage		Professional Technical Administrative & Managerial Numbers	
		Total	Women	Total	Women
Qatar	1970	6.9	45.9	3320	640
	1994	11.5	28.2	23165	5533
Saudi Arabia	1970	7.3	17.9	131088	18013
	1980	16.2	52.8	528194	45290
	1994	16.2	52.8	528194	45290
Sudan	1970	3.0	2.6	102907	17930
	1980	2.7	2.5	171603	46820
	1994	2.7	2.5	171603	46820
Syria	1970	4.6	9.8	70566	15978
	1980	9.8	15.6	212266	53416
	1994	13.5	15.6	415030	53416
Tunisia	1970	4.7	11.8	51135	7863
	1980	4.0	2.7	81650	11690
	1994	4.0	2.7	81650	11690
UAE	1970	9.5	44.5	27862	4363
	1980	12.0	40.7	67404	11518
	1994	13.3	29.7	91029	19445
Region	1970	5.8	10.6	1429487	269276
	1980	9.2	13.7	3437403	764983
	1994	10.5	12.9	5270898	1301183

Source: United Nations (1994).

Annex 16: Illiteracy Rates of Population 15 Years and Over by Gender and Age Group, Latest Available Year

COUNTRY		AGE GROUP					
		15+	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Bahrain(1991) ¹	Total	15.9	0.5	3.1	10.8	27.3	61.2
	Men	11.4	0.4	2.7	8.0	13.3	46.0
	Women	23.0	0.5	3.4	16.0	51.8	80.3
	Gender gap *	11.5	-0.1	-0.7	-8.1	-38.4	-34.2
Djibouti(1995) ²	Total	53.8					
	Men	39.7					
	Women	67.3					
	Gender gap	27.6					
Egypt(1996) ³	Total	48.6					
	Men	29.1	17.3		31.6	45.7	64.3
	Women	50.3	28.2		58.7	79.0	90.6
	Gender gap	21.2	11.9		27.0	33.3	26.4
Jordan (1994)	Total	13.4					
	Men	9.9		3.6	8.0	17.0	43.2
	Women	20.6		3.6	13.4	55.9	81.0
	Gender gap	10.7		0.0	5.4	38.9	37.8
Lebanon(1996)	Total	15.0					
	Men	10.4	2.0	4.0	5.8	14.1	31.5
	Women	20.0	2.2	4.3	10.4	34.6	59.6
	Gender gap	9.6	0.0	0.3	4.7	20.6	28.2
Morocco(1994)	Total	58.4	35.2	40.4	58.4	74.1	92.8
	Men	45.5	23.8	27.5	43.7	62.2	88.1
	Women	70.3	47.1	52.9	71.7	83.9	97.2
	Gender gap	24.7	23.3	25.4	28.0	21.7	9.1
Oman(1993) ⁴	Total	41					
	Men	29.0	4.5		38.8		79.5
	Women	54.1	21.0		82.2		97.6
	Gender gap	25.1	16.5		43.4		18.1
Palestine(1997)	Total						
	Men	7.8		3.1	4.1	12.1	44.6
	Women	20.3		2.8	9.3	54.1	87.7
	Gender gap	12.5		0.3	5.2	42.0	43.1

* GAP=Women - Men

** Total is taken from UNDP (1998b), United Nations (1995).

¹ Older age groups are for: 45-54 & 55+

² Estimates

³ Older age groups are for: 45-49 & 50+

⁴ Age groups are for: 15+, 15-29, 30-49 & 50+

COUNTRY		AGE GROUP					
		15+	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-59	60+
Saudi Arabia(1992)	Total	29.2	6.6	12.1	25.5	55.0	83.4
	Men	20.0	2.6	6.0	16.4	36.7	74.0
	Women	42.7	10.7	18.9	41.7	83.0	96.2
	Gender gap	22.7	8.1	12.9	25.4	46.2	22.2
Somalia(1990) ²	Total	75.9					
	Men						
	Women						
	Gender gap						
Sudan(1993)	Total	49.5	27.9	31.6	50.4	69.2	78.6
	Men	35.6	22.0	22.1	33.7	50.8	64.0
	Women	62.5	34.3	40.5	65.1	88.0	95.5
	Gender gap	26.9	-12.3	-18.4	-31.4	-37.1	-31.5
Syria(1995)	Total	29.2**					
	Men	11.5		3.6	7.9	19.3	41.5
	Women	31.6		8.7	32.2	63.8	80.6
	Gender gap	20.1		5.1	24.3	44.5	39.1
Yemen(1994)	Total	62.7	33.2	39.6	68.6	82.1	88.2
	Men	43.1	16.2	17.1	47.4	67.7	78.6
	Women	82.8	53.0	64.4	88.3	97.1	98.8
	Gender gap	39.7	-36.8	-47.3	-40.9	-29.4	-20.2
Region	Total	46.8					
	Men	29.0					
	Women	52.0					
	Gender gap	23.0					

Sources:

- UNESCO (1998)
- United Nations (1995)
- Egypt :Central Statistics Administration (1976, 1986).
- Lebanon: Ministry of Social Affairs (1996).
- Palestine (1999).
- Sudan: Ministry of Finance(1994).
- Syria (1995).
- Yemen: Central statistical Organization (1994).

Annex 17: Gross Enrollment Ratio and Gender Gap, by Level of Education and Gender, 1980 and 1995/96

Country	Primary Education						Secondary Education						Third level Education						
	1980			1995/96			1980			1995/96			1980			1995/96			
	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	Boys %	Girls %	Gender Gap % (G-B)	
Algeria	108.0	81.0	-27.0	112.0	100.0	-12.0	40.0	26.0	-14.0	66.0	59.0	-7.0	8.5	3.1	-5.4	14.0	9.8	-4.2	
Bahrain	111.0	97.0	-14.0	107.0	109.0	2.0	70.0	58.0	-12.0	95.0	99.0	4.0	5.3	4.8	-0.5	15.0 (1)	20.8	5.8	
Djibouti	46.0	32.0	-14.0	44.0	33.0	-11.0	16.0	9.0	-7.0	15.0	11.0	-4.0				0.2	0.2	0.0	
Egypt	84.0	61.0	-23.0	100.0	107.0	7.0	61.0	39.0	-22.0	80.0	68.0	-12.0	21.4	10.6	-10.8	24.2	16.0	-8.2	
Iraq	119.0	107.0	-12.0	92.0	78.0	-14.0	76.0	38.0	-38.0	51.0	32.0	-19.0	11.6	5.6	-6.0	13.6	8.6	-5.0	
Jordan	105.0	97.0	-8.0	95.0 (3)	95.0	0.0	79.0	63.0	-16.0	52.0 (3)	54.0	2.0	28.9	24.5	-4.4				
Kuwait	105.0	100.0	-5.0	73.0 (6)	72.0	-1.0	84.0	76.0	-8.0	64.0	64.0	0.0	8.6	14.8	6.2	22.4	28.3	5.9	
Lebanon	116.0	108.0	-8.0	111 (6)	108.0	-3.0	59.0	61.0	2.0	77.0	84.0	7.0	40.5	20.6	-19.9	27.2	26.8	-0.4	
Lyman Arab																			
Jamahiriya	129.0	120.0	-9.0	110.0 (4)	110.0	0.0	88.0	63.0	-25.0	95.0 (2)	95.0	0.0	11.2	4.1	-7.1	19.2 (3)	17.6	-1.6	
Mauritania	47.0	26.0	-21.0	85.0	72.0	-13.0	17.0	4.0	-13.0	21.0	11.0	-10.0				6.4	1.3	-5.1	
Morocco	102.0	63.0	-39.0	94.0	71.0	-23.0	32.0	20.0	-12.0	44.0	33.0	-11.0	9.0	2.7	-6.3	12.8 (5)	9.3	-3.5	
Oman	67.0	35.0	-32.0	82.0	78.0	-4.0	17.0	6.0	-11.0	69.0	64.0	-5.0				5.6	5.0	-0.6	
Palestine				91.0	92.0	1.0											7.7	5.0	-2.7
Qatar	108.0	103.0	-5.0	87.0	85.0	-2.0	64.0	68.0	4.0	81.0	79.0	-2.0	6.3	17.1	10.8	14.6	42.0	27.4	
Saudi Arabia	74.0	49.0	-25.0	79.0	76.0	-3.0	36.0	23.0	-13.0	62.0	54.0	-8.0	9.0	4.6	-4.4	16.3	15.3	-1.0	
Somalia	24.0	14.0	-10.0				11.0	4.0	-7.0										
Sudan	59.0	41.0	-18.0	56.0	47.0	-9.0	20.0	12.0	-8.0	20.0	18.0	-2.0	2.5	0.9	-1.6	3.2 (1)	2.8	-0.4	
Syria	111.0	88.0	-23.0	106.0	95.0	-11.0	57.0	35.0	-22.0	46.0	40.0	-6.0	23.4	10.1	-13.3	18.2 (5)	13.1	-5.1	
Tunisia	117.0	87.0	-30.0	119.0	112.0	-7.0	34.0	20.0	-14.0	63.0	59.0	-4.0	6.7	2.9	-3.8	14.2	11.5	-2.7	
UAE	90.0	88.0	-2.0	92.0	89.0	-3.0	55.0	49.0	-6.0	74.0	81.0	7.0	2.4	4.6	2.2	4.9 (6)	20.6	15.7	
Yemen				100.0 (6)	40.0	-60.0					53.0 (6)	14.0	-39.0				7.0 (6)	1.1	-5.9
Region	89.5	67.0	-22.5	91.9	76.3	-15.6	47.0	29.5	-17.5	59.4	49.5	-9.9	12.9	6.1	-6.8	15.2	10.9	-4.3	

Notes:

Primary level includes ages 6-11 yrs, except for:

Egypt: 1990's= 6-10 yrs

Lybia: 1985+=6-14

Morocco: 1980's=7-11, 1990's=7-12

Sudan: 1980-1990=7-12, 1994-1996=6-13

Jordan: 1989=6-15

Kuwait: 6-9

Lebanon: 6-10

Yemen: 6-14

Secondary level includes ages 12-17 yrs, except for:

Algeria: 1980's=12-18

Djibouti: 12-18

Egypt: 1990's= 11-16 yrs

Lybia: 1985+=15-17

Morocco: 1980's=12-18, 1990's=13-18

Sudan: 1980-1990=13-18, 1994-1996=14-16

Jordan: 1989=16-17

Kuwait: 10-17

Lebanon: 11-17

Yemen: 15-17

Third level includes ages 18-22 yrs, except for:

Algeria: 1980's=19-23

Djibouti: 19-23

Egypt: 1990's= 17-21

Morocco: 19-23

Sudan: 1980-1990=19-23, 1994-1996=17-21

N.B: The regional average (as computed by UNESCO) for the year 1995/96 excludes countries that don't have data for that year

1 For 1990 2 For 1991

3 For 1992 4 For 1993

5 For 1994 6 For 1996

Sources: UNESCO (1998), Palestine (1998a).

**Annex 18 : Total Enrollment in Vocational Education by Gender and Gender Gap
in Selected Countries (1980/81 and 1996/97)**

Country	1980/81						1996/97					
	BG	Boys No	Girls No	Boys %	Girls %	GAP * %	BG	Boys No	Girls No	Boys %	Girls %	GAP %
Algeria ¹	14493	11427	3066	78.8	21.2	-57.7	138074	88348	49726	64.0	36.0	-28.0
Bahrain	2810	1822	988	64.8	35.2	-29.7	7287	5017	2270	68.8	31.2	-37.7
Djibouti	1877 ⁶	866	1011	46.0	54.0	8.0	1841	764	1077	41.5	58.5	17.0
Egypt	633909	390935	242974	61.7	38.3	-23.3	1912040	1067949	844091	55.9	44.1	-11.7
Iraq ^{**}	56924	40246	16678	70.7	29.3	-41.4	99405	81917	17488	82.4	17.6	-64.8
Jordan ^{1,5**}	14001	9812	4189	70.1	29.9	-40.2	33109	22031	11078	66.5	33.5	-33.1
Kuwait	1161	1073	88	92.0	8.0	-84.0	2222	1520	702	54.5	45.5	-9.1
Lebanon	31045 ⁷	18565	12480	60.0	40.0	-20.0	55848	30463	25385	54.5	45.5	-9.1
Mauritania ^{2**}	1004	931	73	92.7	7.3	-85.5	1414	999	415	70.7	29.3	-41.3
Morocco ^{1,3}	10106	7785	2321	77.0	23.0	-54.1	20625	12188	8437	59.1	40.9	-18.2
Sudan ¹	15545	12254	3291	78.8	21.2	-57.7	26421	16444	9977	62.2	37.8	-24.5
Syria ⁴	26190	18684	7506	71.3	28.7	-42.7	92622	44895	47727	48.5	51.5	3.1
Tunisia	80190	56166	24024	70.0	30.0	-40.1	17731	10811	6920	61.0	39.0	-21.9
Region				64.2	35.8	-28.4				57.3	42.6	-14.7

* Gap = G-B

** 1995/1996

¹ Changes in structure of education levels were introduced in 1989/90

² for the year 1995/96: Not including health-related programmes

³ Not including professional schools

⁴ including UNRWA schools

⁵ East Bank only

⁶ For 1985/86

⁷ For 1986/87

Sources: UNESCO (1998), ESCWA (1997).