

**Demographic transition
and Gender systems:
the case of Jordan**

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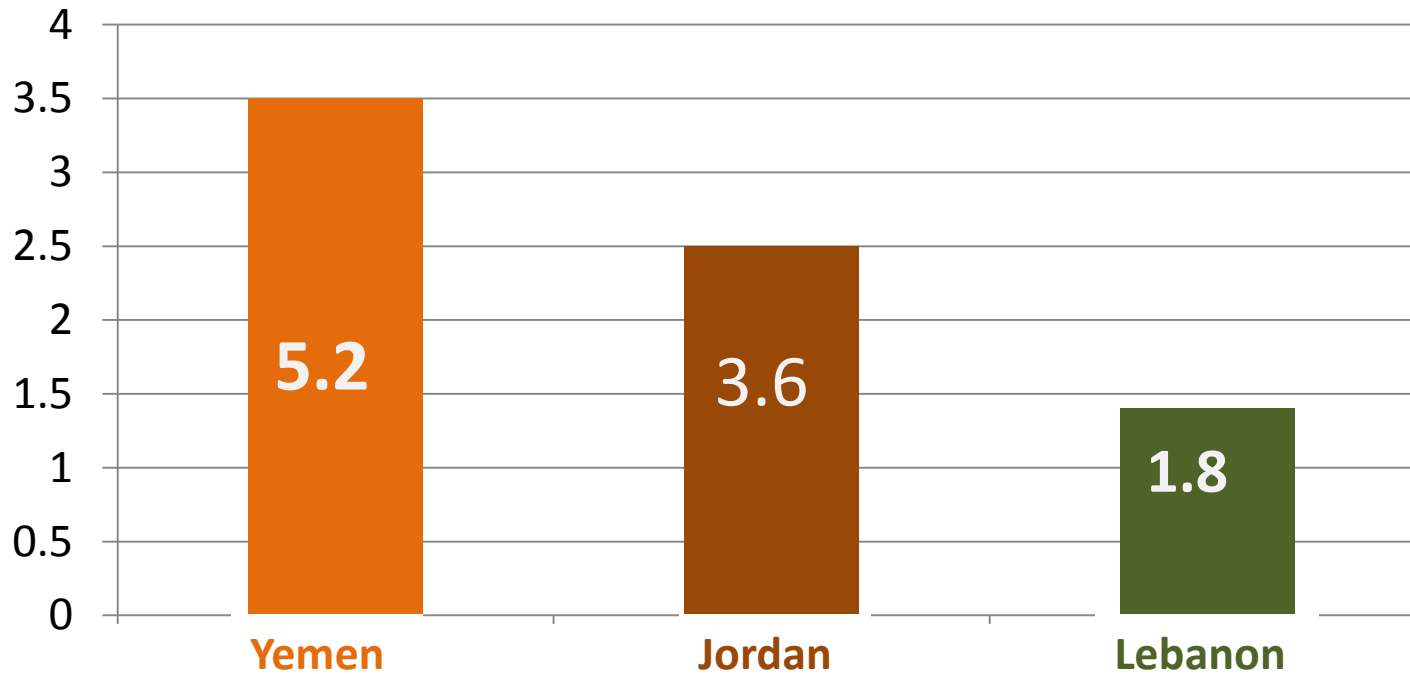


She wants to
be a doctor, a
mother and a
wife!

TFR Arab World

1975: 3.2%, 6.5 TFR **2010: 2.4%**, TFR 3.6

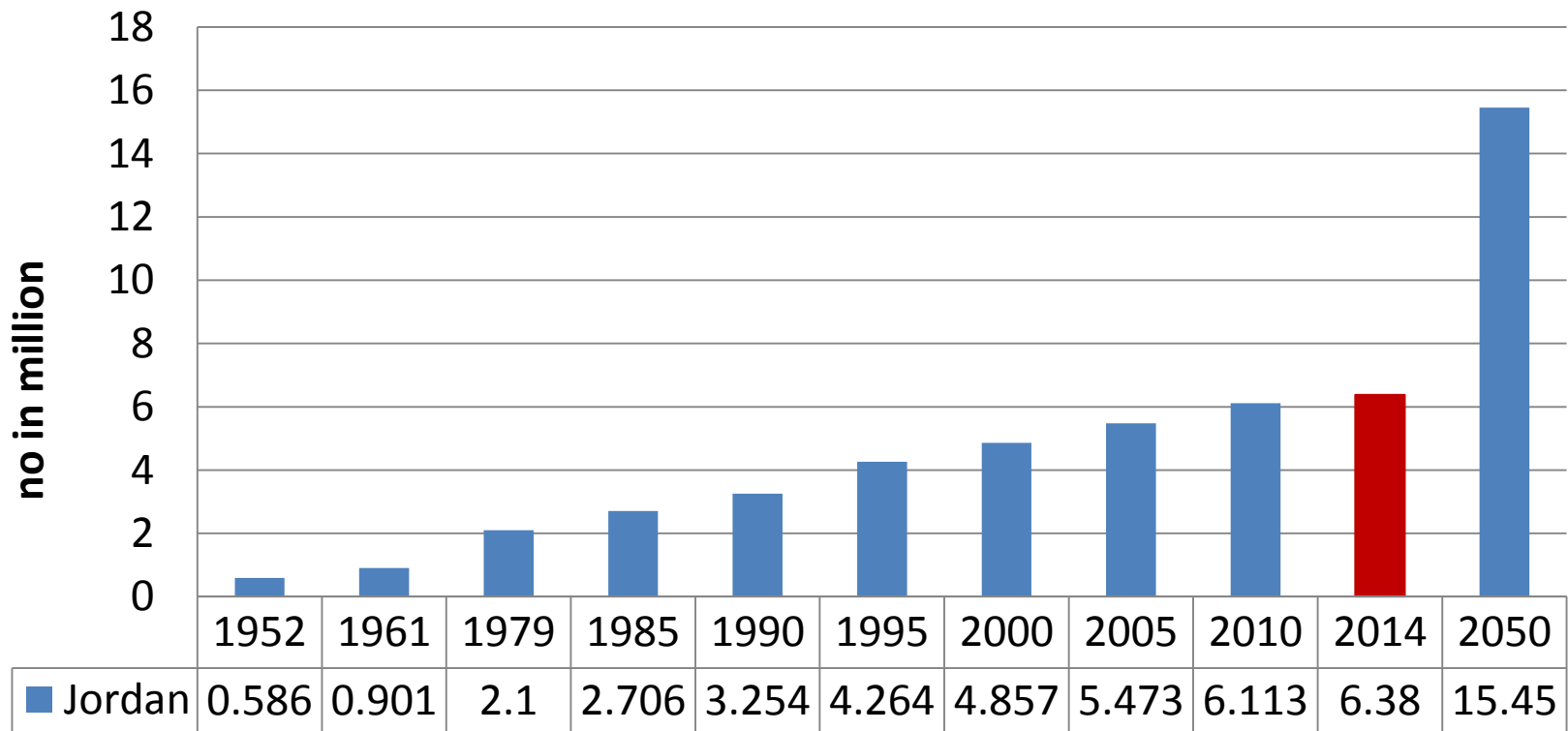
2002: 300 million  2015: 395 million



- ❖ 40 years of striking progress of rising life expectancy and falling infant mortality
- ❖ Stagnation in all major health indicators in last 7 years

Why demographic development matters!

Population growth & predictions



Source: Jordan Department of Statistics and estimate based on 3.6 TFR for 2050, 2014 figures excluding 600.000 Syrian refugees

Why demographic development matters!

Scarcity of resources

- ❖ Water & waste-water (ground-water mining by
- ❖ Solid waste management
- ❖ Energy (> 30% for water pumping, *13% GDP on energy: 96% imported*)
- ❖ Loss of biodiversity (47 globally threatened species)
- ❖ Urban sprawl (encroachment into agricultural land)
- ❖ Deforestation (0.9% forest cover)
- ❖ Inability of the labor market to absorb 50.000+ new job seekers/year

Why **Gender** matters for demographic development?

- ❖ Measures of **women's status** explain as much variance in fertility as all socio-economic predictors combined!
- ❖ Prevalent **Gender roles** determine women's and men personal identity and the families they aspire to have.

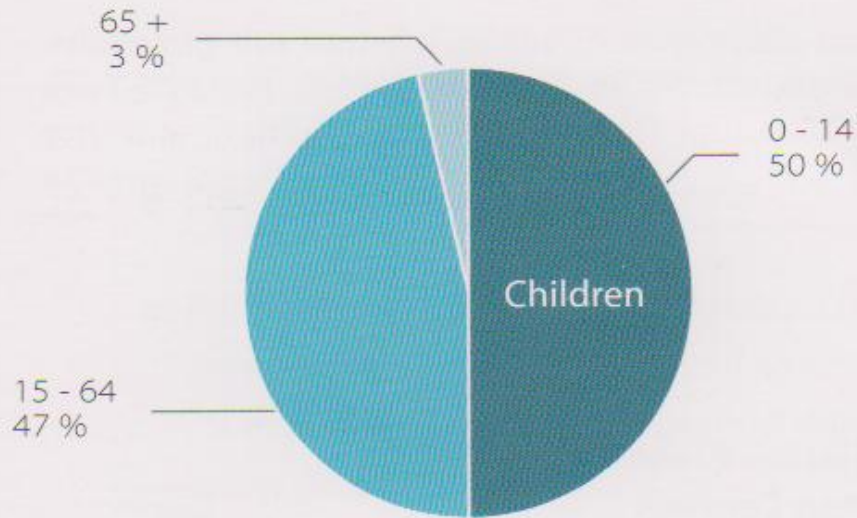
Why **Gender** matters for development?

| Human Development Index (2010) & Gender Gap Index (2013) | Jordan | Yemen |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| HDI | 100 (187) | 160 (187) |
| GGI | 119 (134) | 136 (136) |

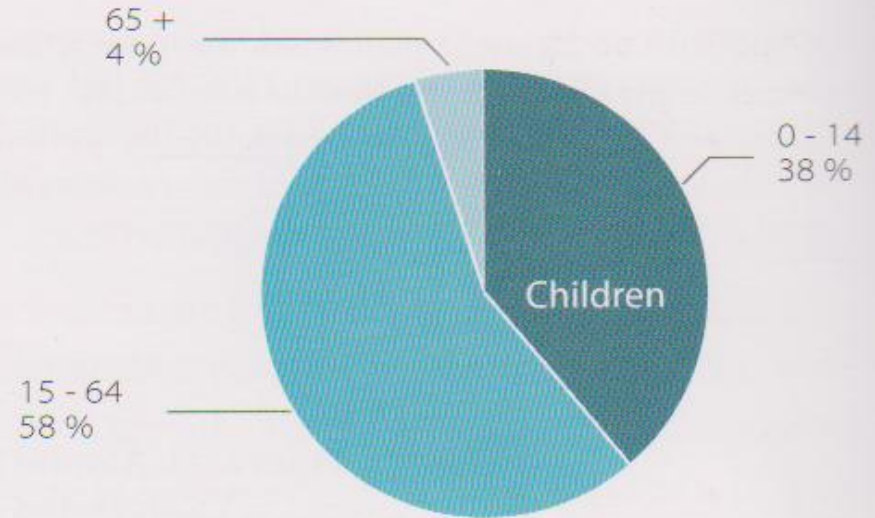
Source: Human Development Report 2010, WEF Gender Gap Report 2009

Jordan's Population by age group

1979 census



2007 census



The Demographic Opportunity – A policy Document, The Higher Population Council, October 2009, based on General Dep. of Statistics, Population and Housing Census 1979 & 2007

Effect of patriarchal/patrilinear family systems and gender norms on demography

- ❖ Strong son preferences (limits the extent or rapidity of fertility decline)
- ❖ Preferential resource access for sons/males (education, employment, health, nutrition, income etc.) (*key indicator for child survival*)
- ❖ Women's virtue guarantee family/tribe honor
- ❖ Motherhood is destiny for women
- ❖ Limited mobility for women (female honor/shame) (*key indicator of fertility*) (*limited access to contraceptives*)
- ❖ Limited access for both sexes to information on reproductive health

Effect of **patriarchal/patrilinear** family systems and gender norms on demography

- ❖ Strict gender role expectations (high value on reproductive role for women)
- ❖ Women's identity and self worth determined by her reproductive role of mother and wife
- ❖ High value on women's reproduction (higher ideal no of children # 4)
- ❖ Imbalance of female and male "power" in decision-making

Selected fertility indicators - Jordan

- ❖ High primary health care coverage
- ❖ 97% of women have physical access to health care facilities
- ❖ 49.3 % of MWRA use contraceptives
- ❖ 89 % of family planning needs are met
- ❖ 45.1 %: first year rate of discontinuation
- ❖ 75%: women reporting no intention of using contraceptives for fertility – related reasons (high ideal number of children)

Insights into gender dynamics in marginalized urban communities Jordan



Insights into gender dynamics in marginalized urban communities in Jordan

Winkie Williamson and Eman Nimri

Report on a qualitative study carried out by the
Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development
(JOHUD) – 2009

Supported by the Gender and Social Fund
Canadian International Development Agency

Gender roles

Women experience gender roles as constraints on:

- ❖ Decision-making
- ❖ Looks
- ❖ Mobility
- ❖ Freedom to associate and meet
- ❖ Access to resources and information

Jordan a country in transition: Women speak out - men try to reinforce existing gender norms (fear of exclusion)

Gender roles

For men & women marriage/parenthood are the norm!

For **women** this role

- ❖ defines their identity.
- ❖ Women share a daily routine based on child rearing and caring for others.
- ❖ Women occupy a limited space, centered on their own or their relatives' homes.

For **men** this role

- ❖ Implies obligation to provide financially for a family

Gender norms and impact on reproduction

Information on reproductive health:

- ❖ Lack of information about reproductive health / child birth / child rearing (including wedding night)
- ❖ Young men: access to information about reproductive / sexual matters through pornography on the internet and on DVDs.
- ❖ Young women: family and female friends (limited)

Ready for **marriage**:

- ❖ Men: linked to economic status (8 – 10.000 JD) 35+ age
- ❖ Women: after first menstruation (18-20 considered best marriage age) – 2014: 25 for women/ 29 men

Gender norms and impact on reproduction

- ❖ Motherhood is an imperative, the sooner the better;
- ❖ Mother in law: viewed as enforcing the reproductive role of child bearing / rearing
- ❖ Early conception: status for new wife and confirmation of the man's masculinity
- ❖ Failure to conceive: woman's fault
- ❖ Men's role in the failure to conceive is investigated much later
- ❖ A woman's failure to conceive is justification of the a second wife or divorce.

Gender norms and work (men)

- ❖ For men work is part of being a man: 'open to *'any job except women's work'*
- ❖ **Higher education:** *preparation for work and career*
- ❖ Men (most) negative on women and work (*religion, the physical or mental capacity of women, incompatibility with fulfilling her gender role*)
- ❖ Work that conforms to women's reproductive role (*caring for children, home-based*) and within a *framework* laid down by men is acceptable.
- ❖ **Reject:** women working in gender-mixed locations, travel, or evening work.

Gender norms and work (women)

- ❖ Reproductive role is primary – employment is not seen as a priority.
- ❖ ‘Window’ for work is between 18 and early 20s (i.e. after education and before marriage).
- ❖ Women work in a very limited range of jobs, mainly related to child-rearing/ girls’ education - wish to enter social work, and office work
- ❖ Have to seek permission and agree to ‘rules’ imposed by family / husband
- ❖ No interest in ‘male’ careers (e.g. engineering)
- ❖ **Higher education:** means to improve marriage prospects (parents select study subject)

Gender gap in education

Table : Distribution of Jordanians over 15 years by educational level and sex (2010)

| | Women (in %) | Men (in %) | Total (in %) |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Illiterate | 10.3 | 3.7 | 7.0 |
| Less than secondary | 48.4 | 57.6 | 53.0 |
| Secondary | 18.2 | 17.1 | 17.7 |
| Intermediate diploma | 10.3 | 6.3 | 8.3 |
| BA and above | 12.7 | 15.3 | 14.0 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

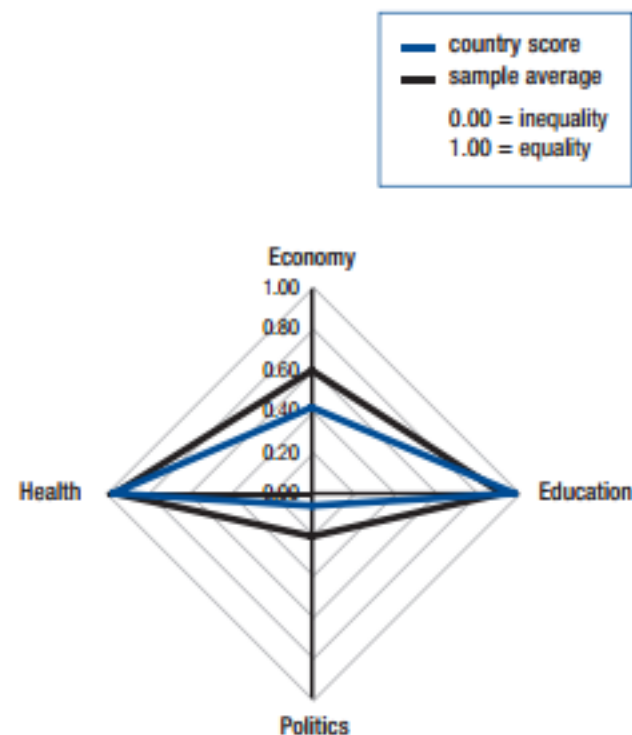
Jordan

Gender gaps

| | Rank (out of 136 countries) | Score (0.00 = inequality, 1.00 = equality) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Gender Gap Index 2013 | 119 | 0.609 |

Key Demographic and Economic Indicators

| | |
|--|-------|
| Total population (millions) | 6.18 |
| Population growth (%) | 2.19 |
| Fertility rate (births per woman) | 3.31 |
| Overall population sex ratio (male/female) | 1.06 |
| GDP (US\$ billions) | 16.00 |
| GDP (PPP) per capita (constant 2005, international \$) | 5,268 |
| Female adult unemployment rate (% of female labour force) | 21 |
| Male adult unemployment rate (% of male labour force) | 11 |
| Female part-time employment (% of total female employment) | — |
| Male part-time employment (% of total male employment) | — |
| Share of women employed in the non-agricultural sector (% of total non-agricultural employment) | 16 |
| Female workers in informal employment (% of non-agricultural employment) | — |
| Male workers in informal employment (% of non-agricultural employment) | — |
| Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (%) | 17 |
| Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (%) | 34 |
| Ability of women to rise to positions of enterprise leadership ¹ | 5 |
| Firms with female top managers (% of firms) | — |
| Share of women on boards of listed companies (%) | — |
| Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms) | 13 |



Note: 7% of married women are in employment

Policy response

- ❖ Increased gender equality (Personal Status Laws, resource allocation etc.)
- ❖ Challenge male sexualisation of work space – and harassment at work
- ❖ Invest in employment opportunities for women in areas of women's interest (social-work, family counseling, office work, banking)
- ❖ Help create women-safe markets (for buying & selling) to expose women to more ideas, supplies and products
- ❖ Build on window of opportunity for women's work (social marketing targeting husbands and family)
- ❖ Better education and information on reproductive health for young women and men
- ❖ CS lobby work and advocacy (awareness raising)