



Faculty of Health Sciences
American University of Beirut

AGING IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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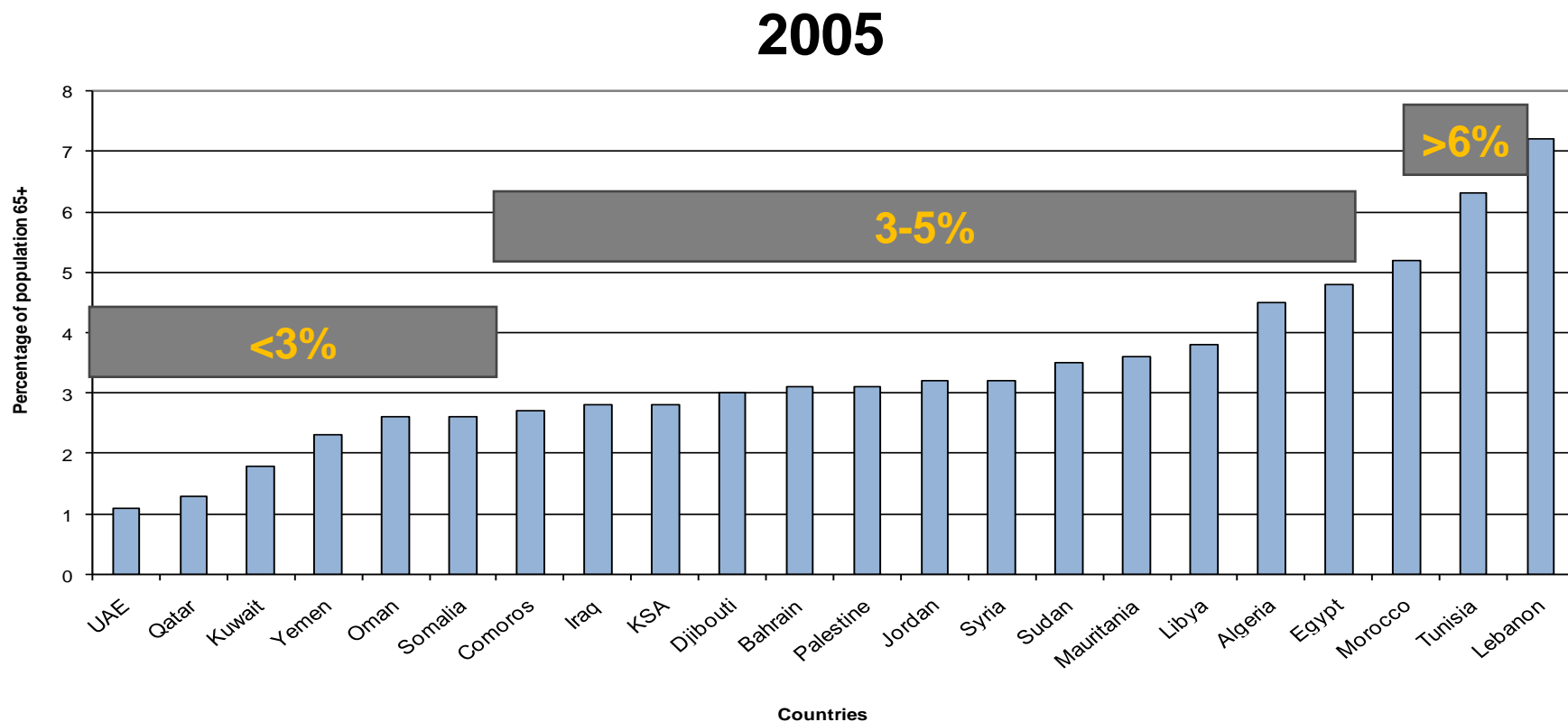
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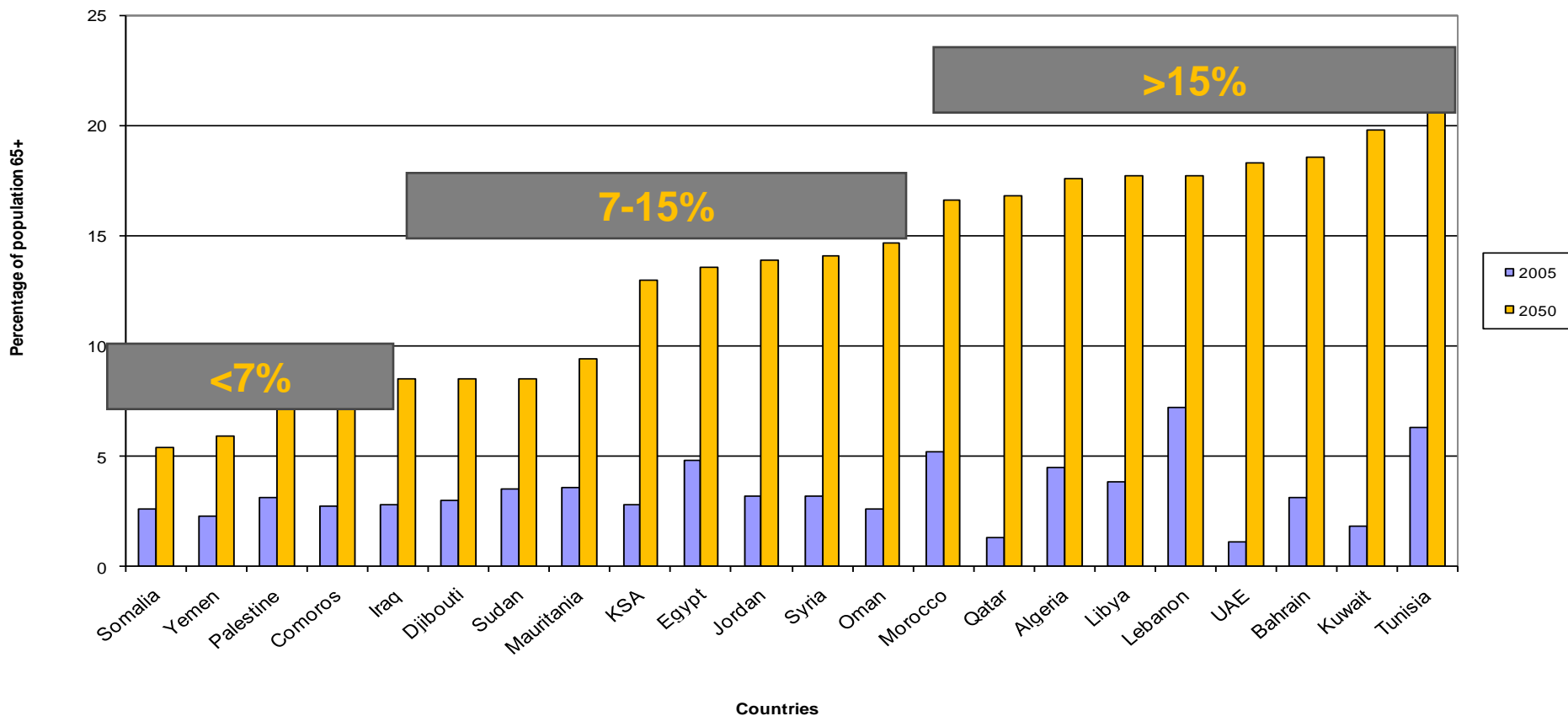
Demographic achievements in the Arab world

	1975	2000	2025
Total fertility rate	6.8	3.7	3.2
Crude mortality rate per 1000	12.8	7.1	6.4
Life expectancy at birth	55.0	67.0	73.4
Percentage older than 65 y/o	-	3.8%	6.7%
Elderly population 65 y+ (millions)	5.7	10.4	21.3

Percentage of population aged 65 years in Arab countries, 2005



Percentage of population aged 65 years in Arab countries, 2005-50



Challenges facing the older population in Arab countries

Levels of schooling attainment

- » **Low** schooling level among older adults
- » **Substantial variation** in schooling exists across Arab countries, these can range from as low as <1 per cent in Yemen to a high 50 per cent in Jordan
- » High **gender gap** in educational attainment

Challenges facing the older population in Arab countries

Economic challenges

- » Because of the absence or pervasively small old-age pensions in Arab countries, the majority of older men **continue to work** after the legal age of retirement and much beyond (in Lebanon and Jordan 10-14% continue to work beyond age 80, Yemen 21%,).
- » The vast majority of **Arab women work in the informal** sector and are obliged to be totally dependent, if available, upon the income and work-related benefits of the male breadwinner or upon charity

Challenges facing the older population in Arab countries

Social challenges

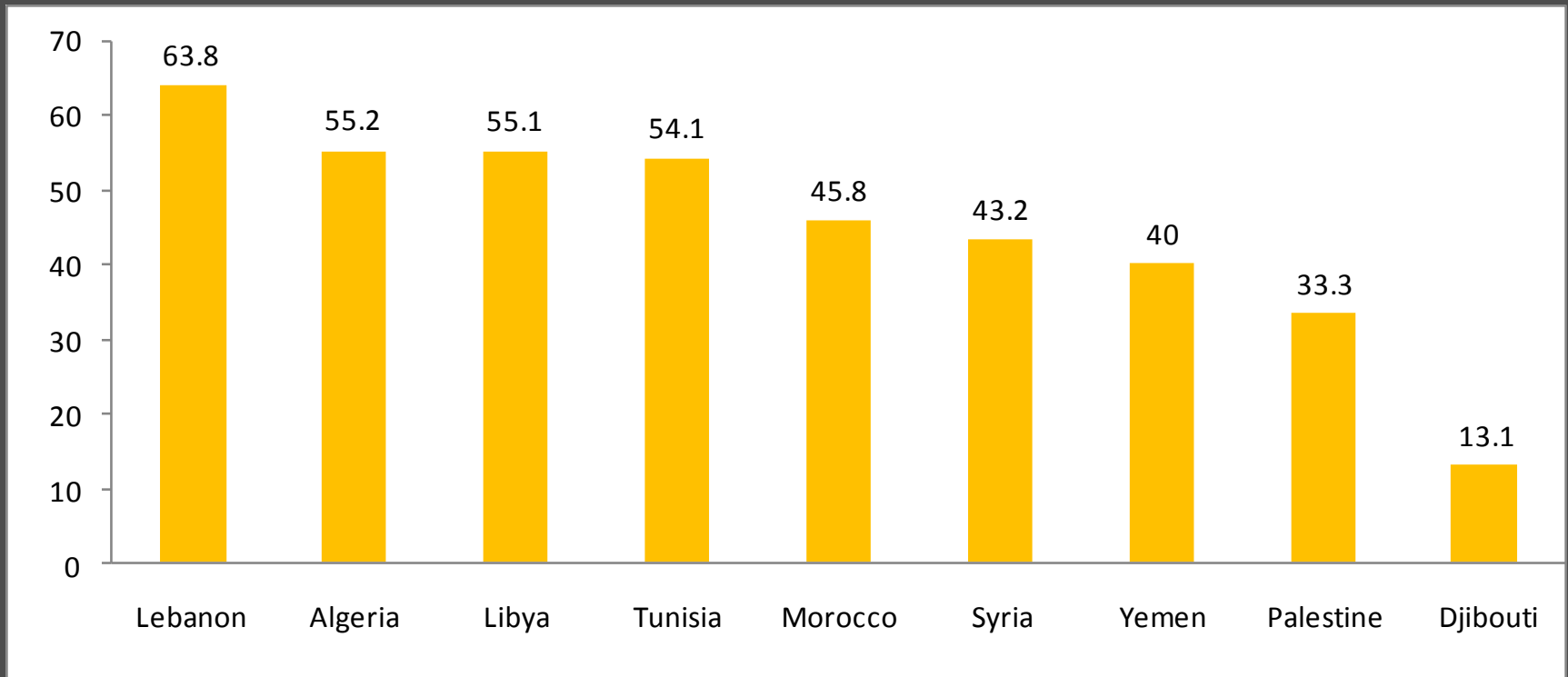
- » Owing to higher LE among women, a higher proportion of older women than men end up **living alone** (1% in Bahrain to 17% in Lebanon)
- » Disintegration of **customary family support** system
- » Family members increasingly are no longer able to care for their **frail elder** family members, and those with the most severe **disabilities**.

Challenges facing the older population in Arab countries

Health challenges

- » High levels of **chronic non-communicable disease** morbidity and mortality with the double burden of infectious diseases in certain countries
- » With higher levels of co-morbidity among women than men

Suffering from at least one chronic condition





Center for Studies on Aging

An Agent for Exchange and Change

Aim:

The aim of the CSA is to create a hub for research, education, policy formulation, advocacy and training on aging in Lebanon and the region.



Center for Studies on Aging

Translating Research into Policy and Practice (TRIPP)

Founding members:

Researchers and academicians, geriatricians, representatives from governmental and non-governmental, directors of older adults institutes and elderly homes and social workers.



Center for Studies on Aging

The main pillars of the Centre's strategic tools are:

1. Research, database, networks, and conferences

Objective: To raise **awareness/advocacy** of ageing issues

2. Human resource development

Objective: To promote good **practice** in the care of older people

3. Optimizing opportunities in development plans and policies

Objective: To promote **active participation and mainstreaming** of older people issues across all sectors

Activities so far

- ▣ Documentary evidence
- ▣ Data repository
- ▣ Conferences and roundtable debates
- ▣ Proceedings and policy briefs
 - Pensions: a right long overdue for the older citizens
 - Voices of the caregivers
 - Seniors in emergencies...

<http://www.csa.org.lb/>

Thank You