

# The Report in Numbers

*Selected data from the*

## Arab Human Development Report 2009

Challenges to Human Security in the Arab Countries



United Nations  
Development  
Programme

Regional Bureau  
for Arab States

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## The Report in Numbers

### *Selected data from the Arab Human Development Report 2009*

The present supplement provides an overview of several of the messages contained in the Arab Human Development Report 2009, using data and figures drawn from the same.<sup>1</sup> The key points illustrated are the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Notes interspersed throughout The Report in Numbers guide the reader to the related passages in the full Arab Human Development Report 2009. Detailed information on sources is available in the Statistical References and Annex III of the same volume.

# 1 Women's Security in Arab Countries Imperiled by Laws, Attitudes, and Impunity for Abusers

Despite its banning by some states, female genital mutilation (FGM) continues to be widespread in the Arab region. In several Arab countries, it is estimated that more than 90 per cent of women have undergone this cruel operation.

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Prevalence of female genital mutilation in 6 Arab countries

Country	Year	Estimated prevalence of FGM in girls and women 15-49 years (%)
Somalia	2005	97.9
Egypt	2005	95.8
Djibouti	2006	93.1
Sudan (northern)	2000	90
Mauritania	2001	71.3
Yemen	1997	22.6

Source: World Health Organization (WHO) 2008.

It is difficult to gauge the prevalence of physical violence against women in Arab societies. The subject is taboo and much of the violence is inflicted unseen at home. Even so, the evidence available is disturbing. In five Arab countries, it is estimated that over 30 per cent of women have experienced assault. A survey of women conducted for the 2008 Iraq National Human Development Report found that many married women accept their partners' violence against them as justified.

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Estimated physical violence against women in 7 Arab countries

Country	Percentage of women assaulted	Source	Year of study
Algeria	31.4%	UNHRC	2008
Egypt	35% (of married women)	UN-ESCWA	2007
Iraq	22.7% (South/Center)	WHO	2006/7
	10.9% (Kurdistan)		
Lebanon	35%	UNFPA	2002
OPT	32%	UNICEF	2000
Syria	21.8%	UNIFEM	2005
Yemen	50% (of married women)	UNFPA	2003

Source: United Nations 2008; UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) 2007; WHO 2007; UN Population Fund (UNFPA) 2005; UNICEF 2000; UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) 2005; UNFPA and Yemeni High Council for Women 2007.

## 2 Human Insecurity Endemic Among Vulnerable Groups in Arab Region

The Arab region is the site of both the world's longest-standing refugee question, that of the Palestinians, and its latest such problem, in Darfur. The region is home to more than 17 million people who have been forced to leave their homes due to violent conflict, with 10 million internally displaced in Sudan, Iraq, Somalia, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, as well as 7.5 million refugees from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan.

See pages 93-95

Total refugees by country of origin and residence, 2007

Refugees originating from	Residing in**			
	Syria	Jordan	Iran	Lebanon
Iraq	1,500,000	500,000	57,414	50,000
Somalia	Kenya	Ethiopia	Djibouti	Yemen
	192,420	25,843	5,980	110,616
Sudan	Chad	Ethiopia	Egypt	Eritrea
	242,555	35,493	10,499	729
OPT* (UNRWA refugees)	Jordan	OPT	Syria	Lebanon
	1,930,703	1,813,847	456,983	416,608

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 2008; United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) 2008.

Notes: UNHCR refugees include UNHCR-assisted refugees and people in refugee-like situations.

UNRWA refugees include registered refugees in official camps.

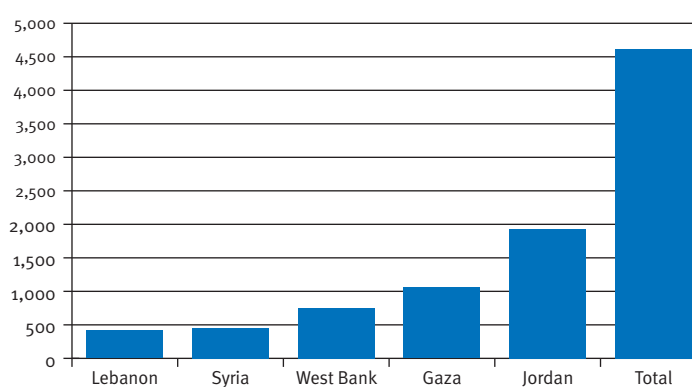
\* Data as of June, 2008. Under a UNRWA operational definition, Palestine refugees are persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine between June 1946 and May 1948, and who lost both their homes and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

\*\* The number residing in countries that are the main destination countries of the refugees.

Some 4.6 million uprooted Palestinians live in camps in neighboring countries—with the largest concentration being in Jordan. The entire refugee experience is fraught with risks to human security, stemming from such challenges as the inability to obtain work or income, exposure to discrimination and oppression, and social exclusion.

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Location of UNRWA-registered Palestinian refugees in thousands, 2008



Source: UNRWA 2008.

Arab states play varying roles in the multi-billion dollar human trafficking industry. Medium and high levels of incidence are reported in Arab countries as places of origin, transit and destination of trafficked persons.

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Incidence of reported trafficking in persons (in alphabetical order)					
Countries	Country of origin	Country of transit	Country of destination	Profile of victims	Purpose of trade
Algeria	Medium	Low	Very low	Women and children	Sexual exploitation
Bahrain	NR	Very low	Medium	Women and children (girls and boys)	Forced labour and sexual exploitation
Egypt	Very low	Medium	Low	Women	Sexual exploitation
Djibouti	Low	NR	Very low	Women and girls	Sexual exploitation
Iraq	Low	NR	Low	Women and children (girls and boys)	Forced labour and sexual exploitation
Jordan	Low	Very low	NR	Women	Sexual exploitation
Kuwait	NR	NR	Medium	Women and children (girls and boys)	Forced labour and sexual exploitation
Lebanon	Low	Very low	Medium	Women and children (girls and boys)	Forced labour and sexual exploitation
Libya	NR	NR	Low	Women	NR
Morocco	High	Low	Very low	Women and girls	Sexual exploitation and forced labour
Oman	NR	NR	Low	Children (girls and boys)	Forced labour and sexual exploitation
Qatar	NR	NR	Medium	Women and children (girls and boys)	Forced labor and sexual exploitation
Saudi Arabia	NR	Very low	High	Women and children (girls and boys)	Forced labor and sexual exploitation
Somalia	Low	NR	NR	Women, children (boys and girls), men	Forced labor and sexual exploitation
Sudan	Low	NR	Very low	Women, men and children (mainly boys)	Sexual exploitation and forced labour
Syria	Very low	NR	Medium	Women	Sexual exploitation
Tunisia	Low	NR	NR	Women and children	Sexual exploitation
UAE	NR	NR	High	Women, children (girls and boys), men	Sexual exploitation and forced labour
Yemen	Very low	NR	Low	Women and children	Forced labour and sexual exploitation

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2006.

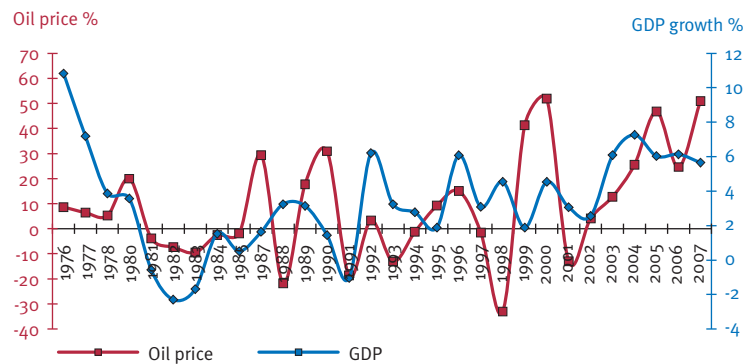
\*NR: Not reported.

### 3 Dependence on Oil Imperils Human Security in Arab Countries by Weakening Economies, Fueling Volatility and Creating Job-less Growth

GDP growth in the Arab countries since the 1970s has been closely tied to a rise in export revenues, dominated by oil exports. Oil exports constituted 75, 72.6 and 81.4 per cent, respectively, of merchandise exports of the high income (HIC), middle income (MIC) and low income (LIC) groups in 2006. Moreover, in many Arab countries, the shares of non-oil productive sectors in GDP have been decreasing. The fitful ups-and-downs in the Arab economies—from high growth in the 1970s to economic stagnation throughout the 1980s, then back to extraordinary growth in the early 2000s—directly reflect the turbulent cycles of the oil market.

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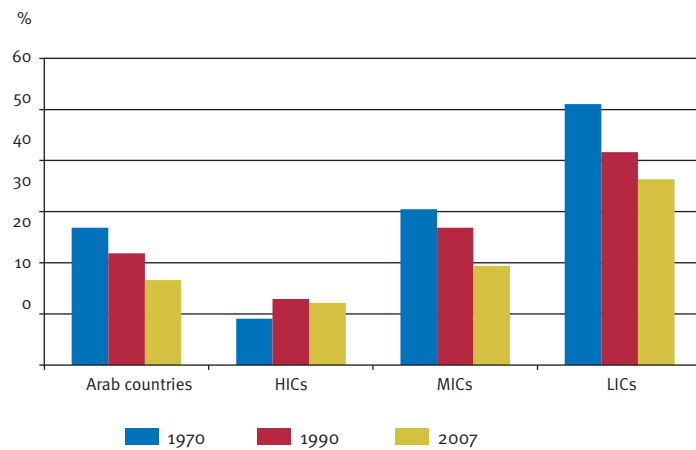
Regional GDP growth based on constant 1990 oil prices and growth in nominal oil prices, 1976-2007



Source: United Nations Development Programme/Arab Human Development Report (UNDP/AHDR) calculations based on UN Statistics Division 2008 and British Petroleum 2008.

Notes: Data for 1979 and 1986 were removed from the graph as they were significant outliers.

Non-oil productive sectors' share of GDP (%) in Arab countries, by country group, for 1970, 1990 and 2007

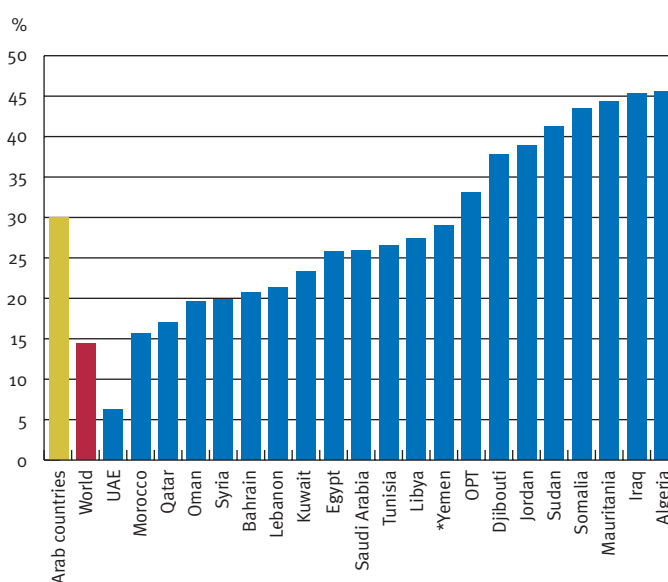


Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on UN Statistics Division 2008.

Estimates for 2005 or 2006 show that Arab youth unemployment rates vary from a high of about 46 per cent in Algeria to a low of 6.3 per cent in the UAE. With the exception of the latter, high income Arab countries suffer from double-digit youth unemployment rates. Relatively high youth unemployment rates are also recorded for the middle and low income Arab countries. Overall, in the years 2005 or 2006 the unemployment rate among the young in the Arab countries is nearly double that of the world at large—at 30 per cent compared to 14 per cent. At over 50 per cent, the share of Arab youth in total unemployment is also higher than that of the world average.

See pages 108-111

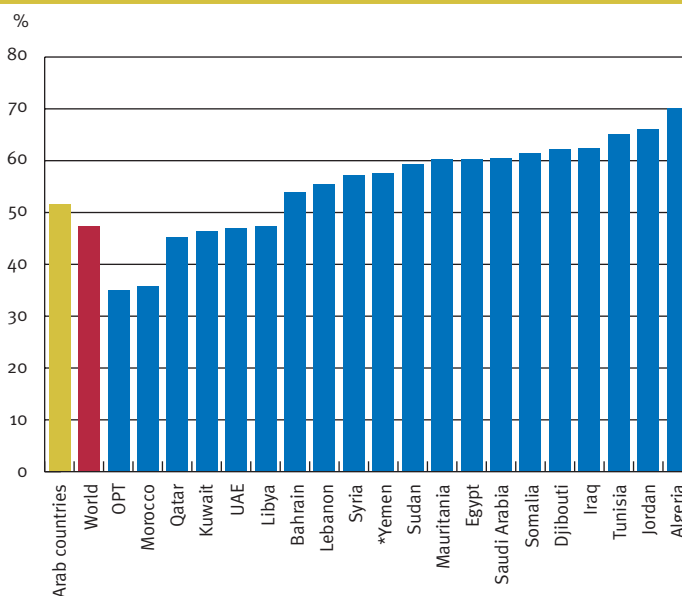
Unemployment rate (%) among Arab youth, 2005/2006



Source: Arab Labour Organization (ALO) 2008.

\* Data source for Yemen from the World Bank and the Social Fund for Development, 2009.

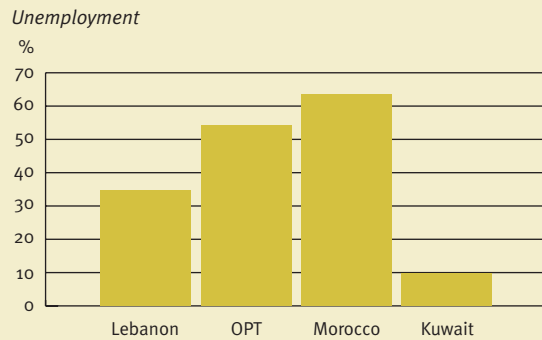
Arab youth as (%) of total unemployment, 2005/2006



Source: ALO 2008.

\* Data source for Yemen from the World Bank and the Social Fund for Development, 2009.

1) Is someone in your family unemployed and looking for work?

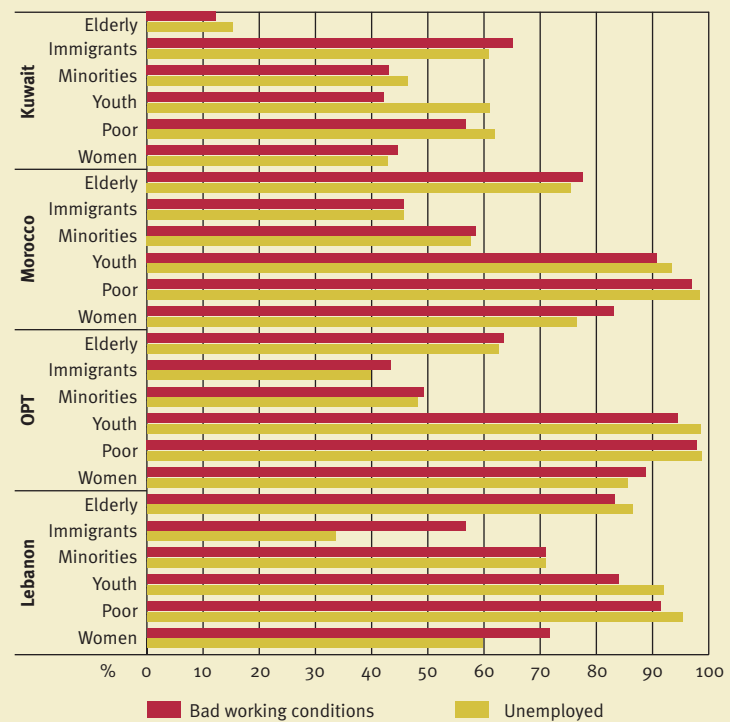


Taking into account the average size of households, answers in the affirmative to the first question suggest unemployment rates ranging between 30-35 per cent in Morocco and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and 15-20 per cent in Lebanon.

2) Is unemployment worse for particular groups in society?

3) Which groups encounter the worst working conditions when employed?

Employment conditions by group in selected Arab countries



On the second question, concerning labour market discrimination against particular groups, respondents believed that the poor, the young, the elderly and women encounter the steepest hurdles, with youth coming off the worst. Since being poor is at least as much a consequence of unemployment as it is a factor in it, and since the category includes the other groups, the predicament of young people stands out as most acute.

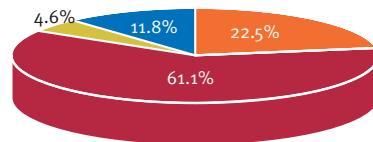
Responses to the third question showed respondents believed that there was a strong correlation between discrimination and poor working conditions in most cases. Answers indicated people in Kuwait thought youth faced the worst conditions, while in Lebanon they thought immigrants fared the worst. Moroccans believed women had to undergo the poorest working conditions.

Source: Human Security Survey 2008.

The vast majority of the Arab regional GDP falls into the high and lower middle income country groups, while over 80 per cent of the Arab population live in the low and lower middle income countries.

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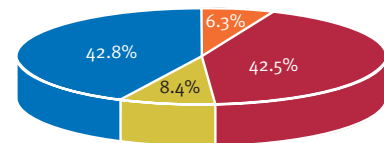
**Distribution of regional population: by country group, 2007**



High income  
Upper middle income  
Lower middle income  
Low income

Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on International Monetary Fund 2007; World Bank 2008.

**Distribution of regional GDP: by country group, 2007**



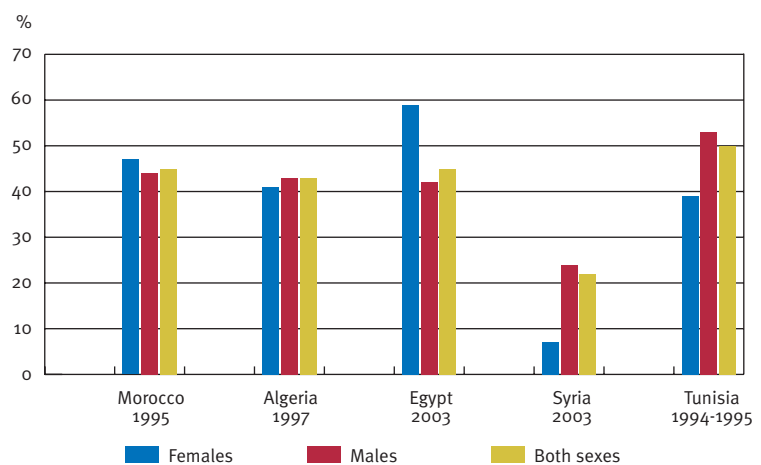
High income  
Upper middle income  
Lower middle income  
Low income

Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on International Monetary Fund 2007; World Bank 2008.

The most recent UNDP figures available show that Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia have very large informal sectors that account for 40 to 50 per cent of non-agricultural employment. Compared to men, the rate for women is lower in Syria, Algeria, and Tunisia—and higher in Egypt and Morocco.

See page 111

**Workers in the informal sector as a % of non-agricultural employment in 5 Arab countries, 1994-2003**



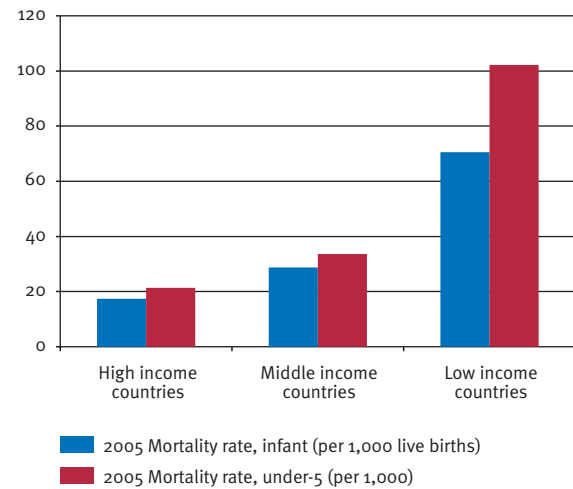
Source: UNDP 2007.

## 4 Shortcomings in Healthcare in the Arab Region Threaten Human Security, Especially for Women

Between the 1960s and the start of the new millennium, life expectancy increased by 23 years, and infant mortality rates plummeted from 152 to 39 per thousand births in the Arab countries. These encouraging trends in aggregate indicators, however, belie sharp disparities among different Arab countries and within national populations. Life expectancy ranges from 47 to 78 years in the region and infant mortality rates in high income Arab countries are less than one-third of those of low income Arab countries.

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Arab infant and under-5 mortality rates per 1,000 births, 2005

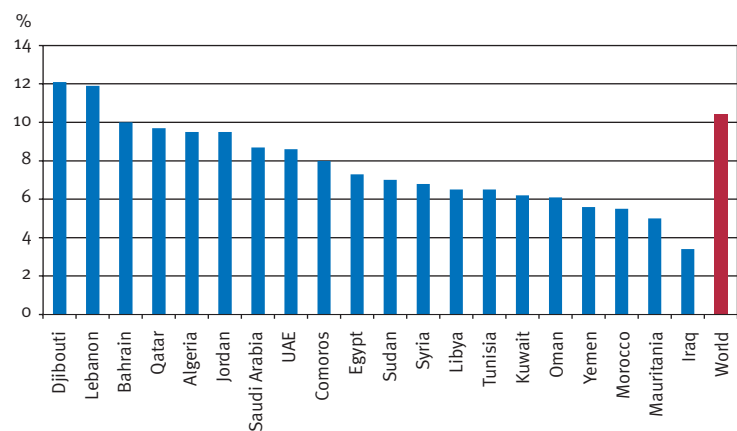


Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on World Bank 2008.

The Arab region falls far short of the health outcomes its income and resources could allow. Healthcare—and women’s health in particular—are not prioritized in national budgets, resulting in significant under-funding. The great majority of Arab countries dedicate a smaller portion of their government spending on public health than the world average.

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Public health expenditure as % of total government spending in 20 Arab countries, 2005

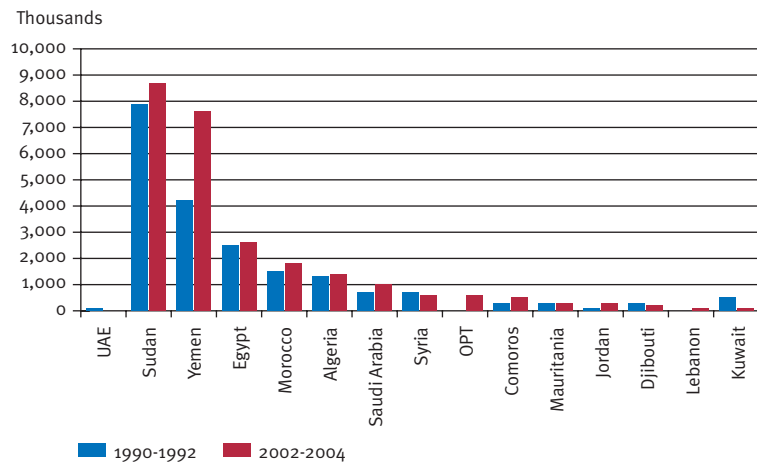


Source: World Bank 2008.

The Arab region is one of the two world regions where the number of undernourished has risen since the 1990s. The 25.5 million undernourished people in the region represent nearly one in every 10 people in the Arab countries.

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### Counting the hungry in 15 Arab countries, 1990-1992 and 2002-2004

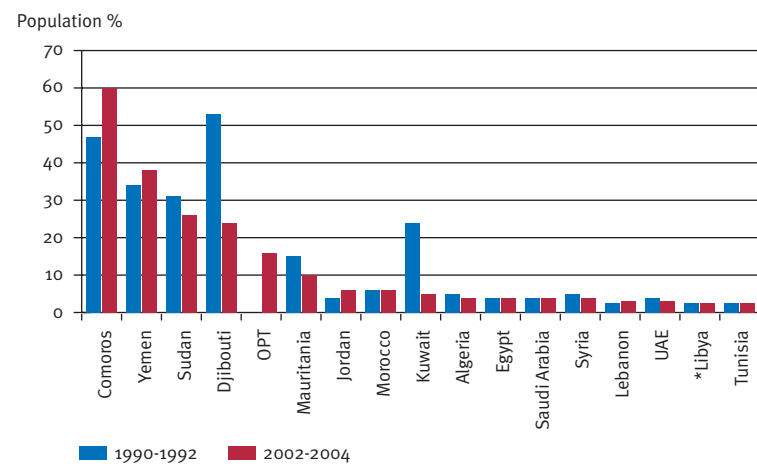


Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2008.

The Arab region as a whole has made no progress towards Target 2 of Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals—to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger—though there are considerable disparities in progress across individual countries. The picture would be even bleaker if there were reliable data for the countries in the region experiencing occupation, military intervention or civil strife.

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### Prevalence of under-nourishment, 1990-2004



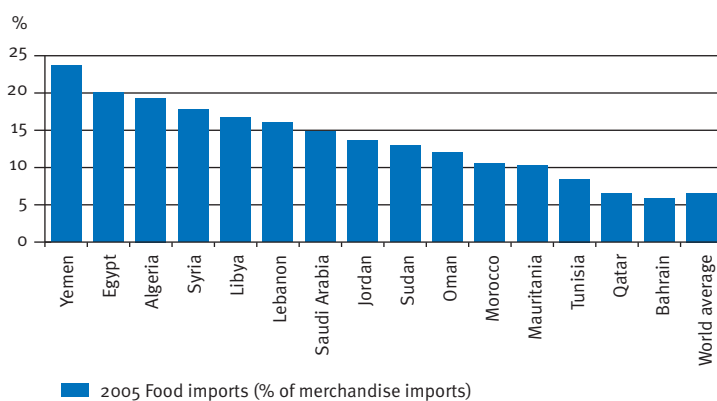
Source: FAO 2008.

\*Data for Libya < 2.5

A lack of adequate water supply and arable land has contributed to the Arab region's dependence on aggregate food imports. In 2005, at least 14 Arab countries relied on food imports to an extent greater than the world average.

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#### Reliance on food imports, 15 Arab countries, 2005\*



Source: World Bank 2008.

\*Values for Lebanon and Libya are for 2004.

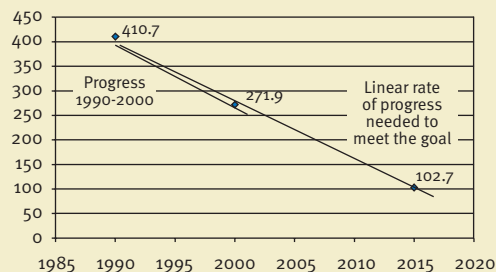
Arab countries are on track toward improving maternal health and achieving Millennium Development Goal 5. However, great disparities exist in maternal mortality rates in the region, with the low-income countries experiencing significantly higher rates than the others.

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#### Arab States on track for improving maternal health and achieving Millennium Development Goal 5

**MDG 5, Target 6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio**

**Maternal mortality ratio, Arab region (per 100,000 live births)**

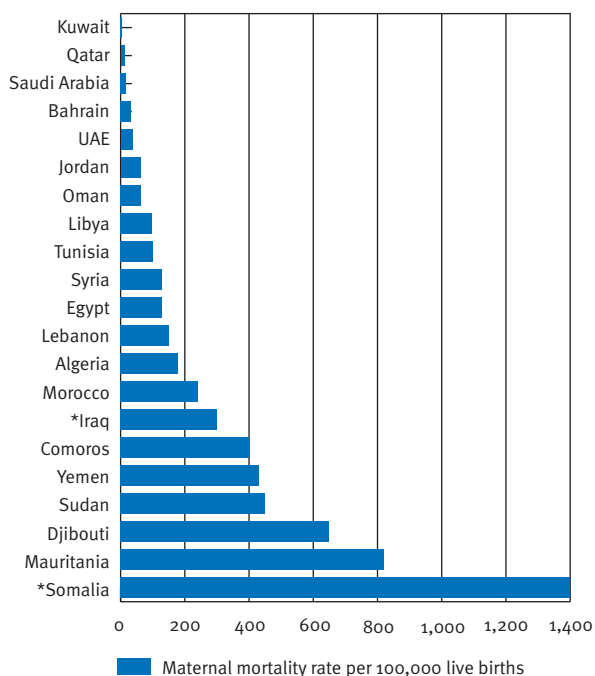


Source: UN-ESCWA, The Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region 2007: A Youth Lens, an Overview, 2007.

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in the Arab countries fell to about 272 per 100,000 live births in 2000, a decrease of almost 34 per cent from its 1990 level. Assuming that the rate of progress achieved between 1990 and 2000 can be maintained, the Arab countries as a whole will meet the goal of reducing the MMR by three quarters by 2015. The considerable decline in maternal mortality is linked to the significant increase in births attended by skilled health personnel. In fact, this ratio rose by over 16 percentage points over the decade. In addition, the reduction in adolescent pregnancy—associated with high risks—has contributed to the overall decline in maternal mortality. Indeed, adolescents aged 15-19 are twice as likely to die during childbirth as are women in their twenties, and those under 15 are five times as likely.

Source: UN-ESCWA 2007a.

### Maternal mortality ratio in 21 Arab countries, 2005

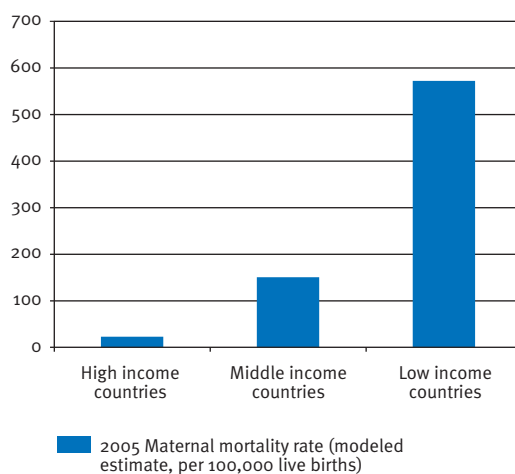


Source: UNDP 2007.

\* Data for Iraq and Somalia are for 2005 from UNICEF, 2008.

The above maternal mortality ratios are adjusted based on reviews by UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to account for well-documented problems of under-reporting and misclassifications.

### Disparities in Arab maternal mortality rates per 100,000 live births, 2005



Source: UNDP/AHDR weighted-average calculations based on World Bank 2008.

Note: Categorization based on GDP per capita, purchasing power parity (current international \$) with the following thresholds: Low income = \$1,100 - \$2,200; Middle income = \$3,600 - \$11,000; and High income = \$20,000 - \$44,000.

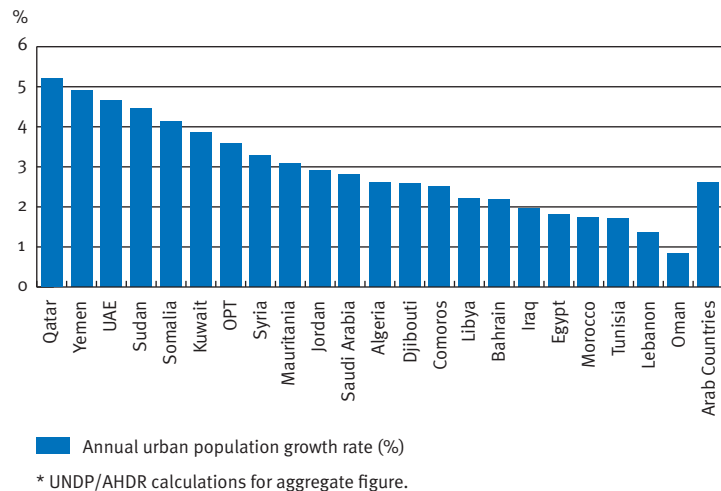
Low income countries include: Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen  
 Middle income countries include: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, OPT, Syria, Tunisia  
 High income countries include: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

## 5 Population Pressures, Water Scarcity and Climate Change Threaten Human Lives in the Arab Region

For most of the latter half of the 20th century, population growth rates in the Arab countries were among the highest rates in the world. For the period 2005-2010, the population of the Arab region is projected to grow by 2.0 per cent per year, and, over 2010-2015, the projection is 1.9 per cent per year. This is nearly double the world average for those periods. Further, it is estimated that 60 per cent of the Arab population will be living in urban areas by 2020, straining already-overstretched infrastructure and creating overcrowded, unhealthy and insecure living conditions in many cities.

See page 35

Average annual urban population growth (%) by country, 2000-2005\*

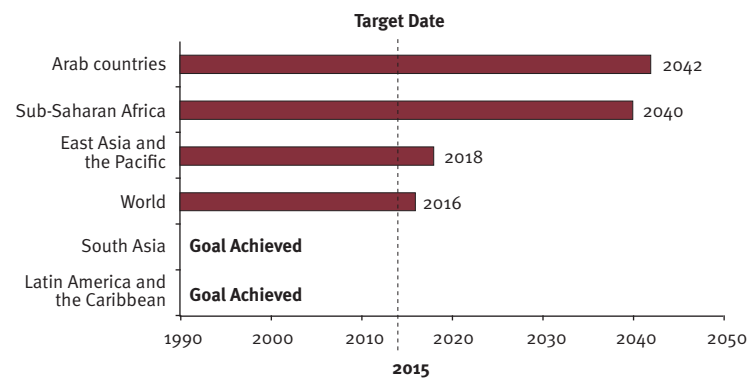


Source: United Nations Population Division 2006, 2007.

The Millennium Development Goals call for all countries to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. At current rates, the Arab countries collectively are projected to reach that goal only in 2042 – 27 years past the MDGs target date.

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Anticipated achievement date of Millennium Development Goal for access to safe drinking water by region

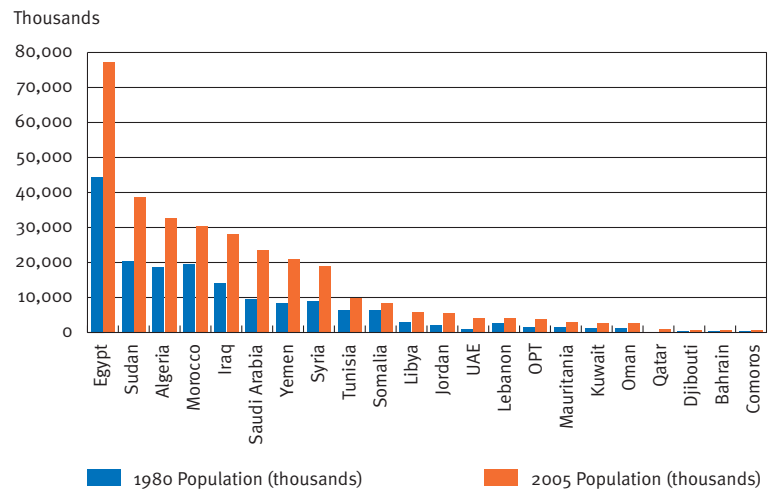


Source: UNDP 2006.

The United Nations Population Division estimates that the Arab countries will be home to some 385 million people in 2015, compared to about 331 million in 2007, and 172 million in 1980. In a region where water and arable land are increasingly scarce, population growth at these rates will put intense pressures on the carrying capacity of Arab lands and further threaten environmental sustainability.

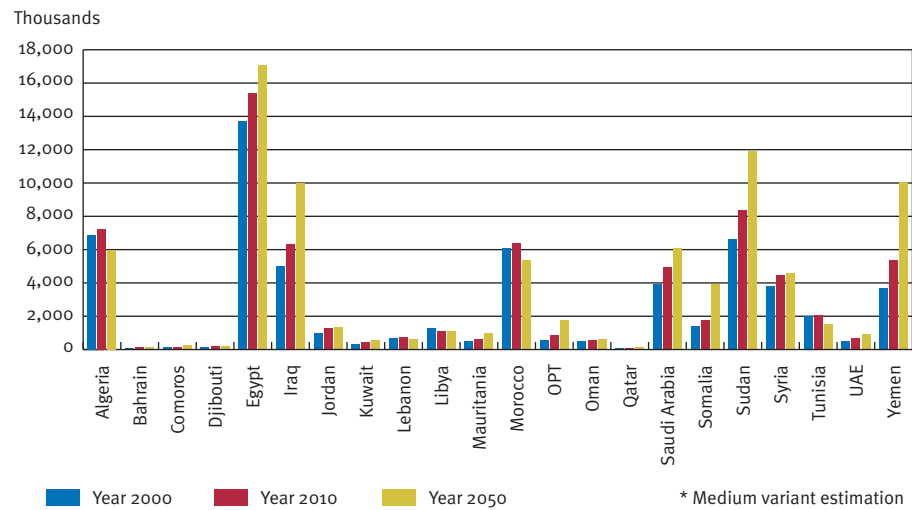
See pages 35-36

### Population growth in Arab countries



Source: United Nations Population Division 2008.

### Projected Arab population aged 15-24 through 2050\*



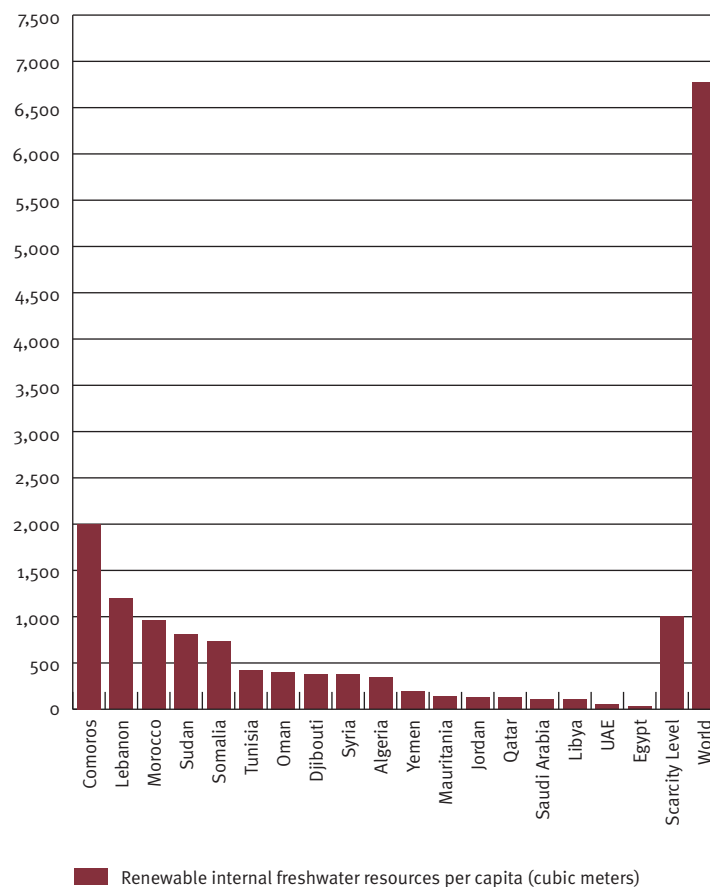
\* Medium variant estimation

Source: United Nations Population Division 2008.

Arab countries suffer from scarcity of water resources because most are in arid or semi-arid regions. The problem is grave: internal freshwater resources in Arab countries are well below the world average and often below scarcity levels. In thirteen Arab countries studied, nine were classified as experiencing significant to critical water stress. The vast majority of withdrawn water in the Arab region is used for agricultural purposes.

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Arab internal freshwater resources, 2005



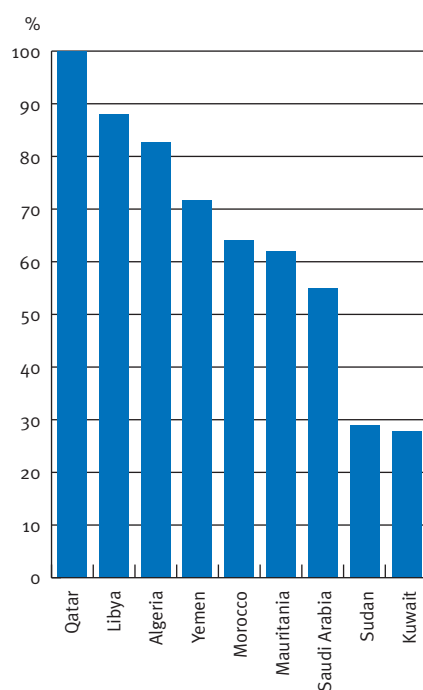
Source: World Bank 2008.

Levels of water stress in 13 Arab countries, 2006

Critical water stress (More than 10,000 persons per million cubic metres)	Serious water stress (Between 5,000 and 10,000 persons per million cubic metres)	Significant water stress (Between 2,500 and 5,000 persons per million cubic metres)	Slight water stress (Less than 2,500 persons per million cubic metres)
Kuwait	Bahrain	Jordan	Egypt
UAE	Iraq	Saudi Arabia	Lebanon
	Occupied Palestinian Territory		Oman
	Qatar		Syria
	Yemen		

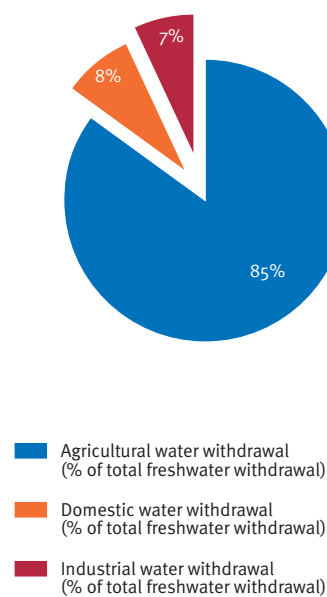
Source: UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 2007.

**Land affected by desertification (%) in 9 Arab countries, 1996**



Source: League of Arab States and United Nations Environment Programme 2004.

**Use of withdrawn water in Arab countries (%) by sector, 1999-2006\***



\* Latest values available for all 22 Arab countries.

Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on FAO, AQUASTAT database 2009.

**Climate change scenarios – impact on water and agriculture**

Scenario	Type of change	Effects on human security	Affected area
WATER	2 °C rise in Earth temperature	1 to 1.6 billion people affected by water shortages	Africa, the Middle East, Southern Europe, parts of South and Central America
	3 °C rise in Earth temperature	Increased water stress for additional 155 to 600 million people	North Africa
	Climate change	Repeated risk of drought known in recent years, with economic and political effects	Mauritania, Sudan and Somalia
	Climate change	Reduced average rainfall	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and OPT
	Rising sea levels	Risk of flooding and threats to coastal cities	Gulf coast of Arabian peninsula
	Climate change	50% decline in renewable water availability	Syria
	1.2 °C rise in Earth temperature	Decreased water availability by 15%	Lebanon
	1 °C rise in Earth temperature	Reduced water runoff in Ouergha watershed by 10%	Morocco
	Climate change	Greater water shortages	Yemen
	Climate change	Reduced water flow by 40-60%	Nile river
AGRICULTURE	3 °C rise in Earth temperature	Increased risks of coastal surges and flooding	Cairo
	2-3 °C temperature rise in tropical regions	A drop by 25-35 % in crop production (with weak carbon enrichment) and by 20-15% (with strong carbon enrichment)	Africa and West Africa (Arab countries included)
	3 °C rise in Earth temperature	Reduced agricultural productivity and unsustainable crops	North Africa
	1.5 °C rise in Earth temperature	70% drop in yields of Sorghum	Sudan (Northern Kordofan)
Climate change	Flooding of 4,500 km <sup>2</sup> of farmland and displacement of 6 million people	Lower Egypt	

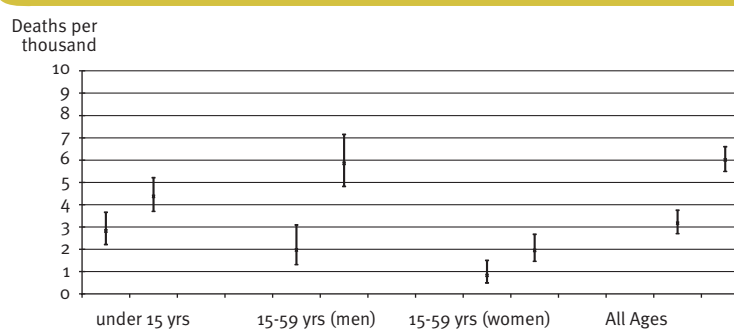
Source: UNDP 2006; Stern 2006.

## 6 Occupation and Military Intervention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Iraq and Somalia Threaten the Human Security of People Throughout the Arab Region

Mortalities soared after the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Based on the Iraq Family Health Survey, the mortality rate, in general, nearly doubled from 3.17 per 1,000 inhabitants before the invasion to 6.01 per 1,000 afterwards and the number of violent deaths increased tenfold.

See pages 168-169

Estimated mortality rates per 1,000 residents of Iraq, before and after the 2003 military incursion, 2002-2006\*



Source: The New England Journal of Medicine 2006.

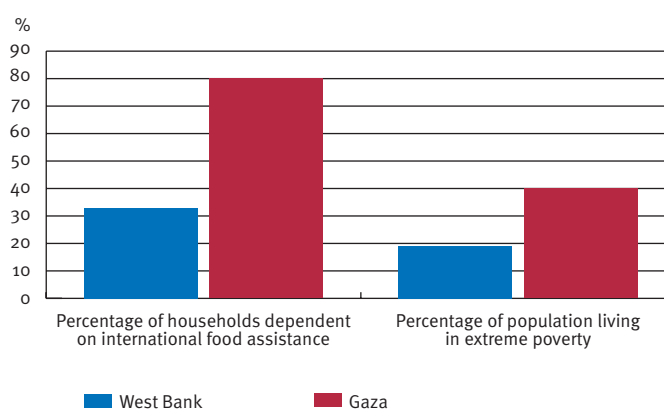
\* All age groups: pre-invasion shown in vertical bar on the left side of category; post-invasion on the right

\* Mortality rates are for all causes of death, violent or otherwise

According to the International Labour Organization, approximately half of all Palestinian households are dependent on food assistance provided by the international community. Some 33 per cent (or 700,000 people) of what was formerly a middle-income society in the West Bank now relies on food aid. Worse still, the figure for Gaza stands at 80 per cent of households, or 1.3 million people.

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Food dependence and poverty, West Bank and Gaza, 2007

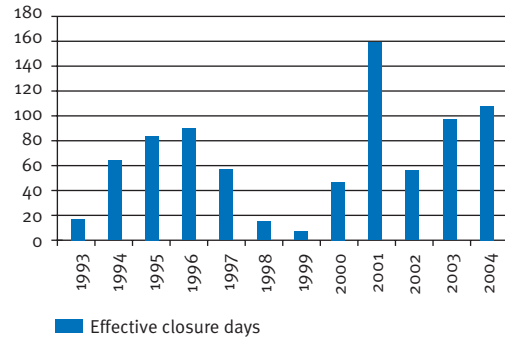


Source: International Labour Organization 2008.

Closures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory have at times exceeded 100 days per calendar year. A single full-day closure inflicts a \$7 million dollar income-related loss in the West Bank and Gaza. Such losses are reflected in an unemployment rate that exceeded 25 per cent in 2002-2004.

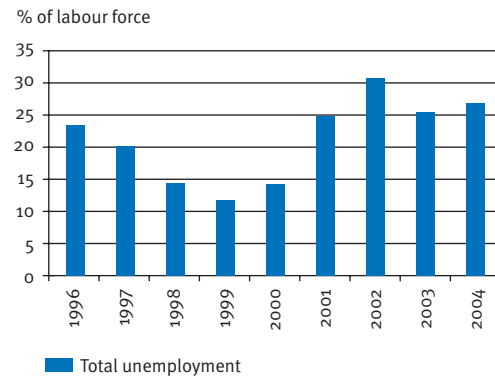
See page 178

### Lockdowns in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 1993-2004



Source: World Bank 2008.

### Unemployment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 1996-2004



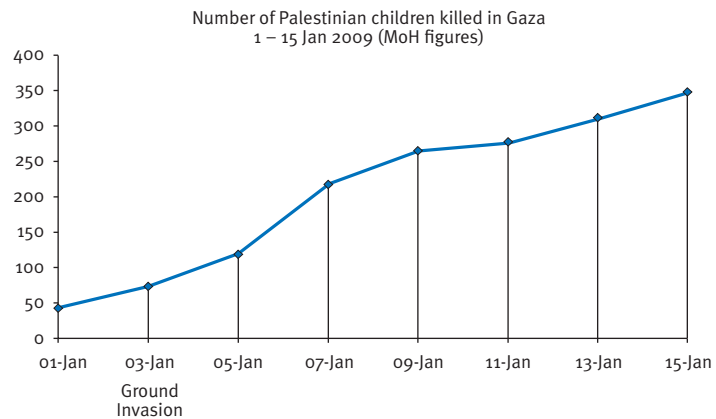
Source: World Bank 2008.

## 7 Human Security of Children and Adolescents in the Arab Region under Threat

The Arab region has an extraordinarily youthful population (six of every 10 people are under the age of 25). As such, children and adolescents have been greatly affected by the violent conflicts in the region. Nearly a third of those who died in the December 2008-January 2009 Israeli operation in Gaza were children, and approximately 1,709 children were wounded.

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Number of children killed in Gaza during the December 2008-January 2009 Israeli assault



Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 2009.

Low-weight birth rates in the Arab countries are double that of the East Asia and the Pacific region. Also, children in the least developed Arab countries disproportionately suffer from malnutrition. In Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, more than 30% of children under five are of below-average weight.

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Effects of hunger on children – Arab countries v/s other regions, country groups					
Country	Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)		Prevalence of children under 5 of less than average weight	Prevalence of children under 5 with stunted growth	Prevalence of low-weight births
	1990-1992	2002-2004	2000-2006	2000-2006	2000-2006
Algeria	5	4	10.2	21.6	6
Egypt	4	4	5.4	23.8	14
Jordan	4	6	3.6	12	12
Kuwait	24	5	..	..	..
Lebanon	2.5	3	3.9*	11*	6
Libya	2.5	2.5	..	..	..
Mauritania	15	10	30.4	39.4	..
Morocco	6	6	9.9	23.1	15
Saudi Arabia	4	4	..	..	..
Somalia	..	..	33*	23.3*	11
Oman	..	..	..	..	8
Sudan	31	26	38.4	47.6	..
Syria	5	4	6.9*	18.8*	9
Tunisia	2.5	2.5	4*	12.3*	7
UAE	4	3	..	..	..
OPT	..	16	4.9*	9.9*	7
Yemen	34	38	45.6*	53.1*	..
North Africa & Middle East	6	7	14.6*	22.2*	12
Lower middle income countries	16	11	10.7	24.8	7
East Asia and the Pacific	17	12	12.9	26.2	6
Developed countries	3	3	..	..	..

Source: World Bank 2007.

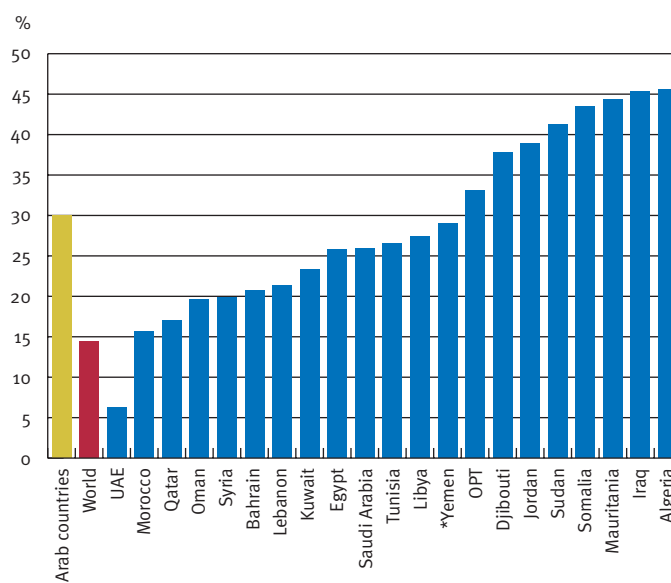
\*Data refers to the period 2000-2005.(most recent year available)

.. data not available.

New jobs in the Arab region will be needed to absorb young entrants to the labour force, who will otherwise face an empty future. Arab Labour Organization estimates for the year 2005 or 2006 show that youth unemployment rates vary from a high of about 46 per cent in Algeria to a low of 6.3 per cent in the UAE. With the exception of the UAE, high income Arab countries suffer from double-digit youth unemployment. Relatively high youth unemployment rates are recorded for the middle and low income Arab countries. Overall, in the year 2005 or 2006 the unemployment rate among the young in the Arab countries was nearly double that of the world at large—30 per cent compared to 14 per cent. Unemployment in the Arab countries not only affects youth disproportionately; it also often wears a female face. At 31.2 per cent, the unemployment rate for young Arab women is among the highest in the world.

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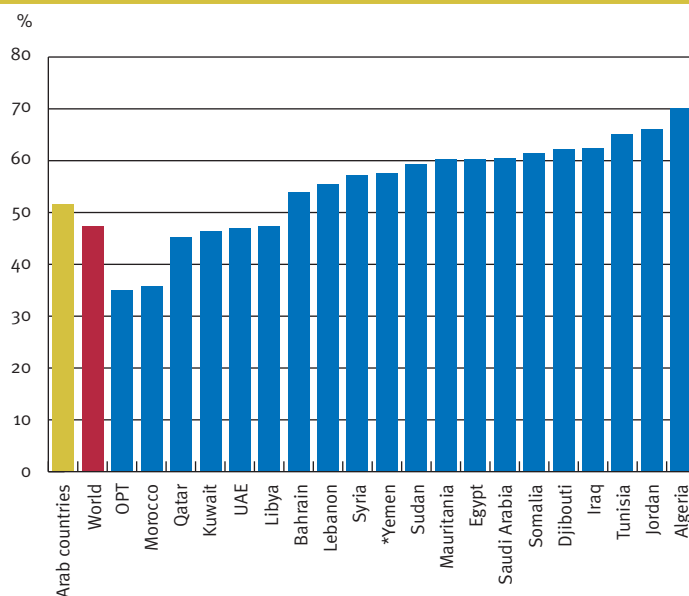
#### Unemployment rate (%) among Arab youth, 2005/2006



Source: ALO 2008.

\* Data source for Yemen from the World Bank and the Social Fund for Development, 2009.

#### Arab youth as (%) of total unemployment, 2005/2006



Source: ALO 2008.

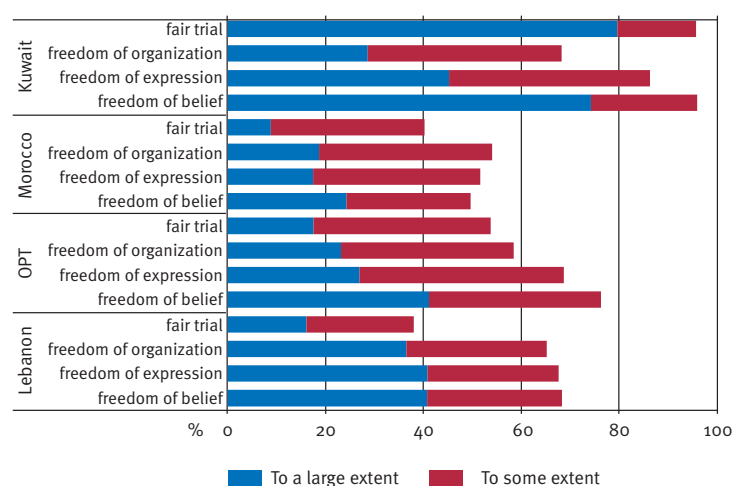
\* Data source for Yemen from the World Bank and the Social Fund for Development, 2009.

## 8 Human Security in Arab Countries Often Imperiled by the State Itself

Arab states have not, by and large, succeeded in creating democratic institutions that allow for representation, inclusion, equitable access to resources, respect for cultural diversity, and power-sharing. The Human Security Survey conducted for the Arab Human Development Report 2009 found that those who express a strong level of trust in state institutions are in the minority in all four Arab countries included in the study.

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To what extent does the state respect your basic rights?



Source: Human Security Survey 2008.

In six Arab countries, there is outright prohibition on the formation of political parties. In others, restrictions and extended emergency rule often amount to *de facto* prohibition. Thousands of political prisoners are incarcerated across the Arab region.

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Number of political prisoners in 5 Arab countries, 2005 and 2007

State	Number of political prisoners, 2005	Number of political prisoners, 2007
Iraq	26,000 (reduced to 14,000)	24,661
Egypt	10,000	--
Lebanon	--	5,870
OPT	9,000	11,000
Yemen	1,000	--

Source: Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) 2008.

Arab countries under a declared state of emergency in 2008

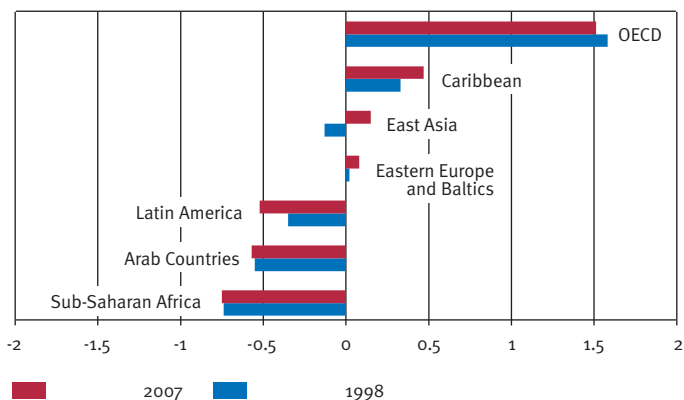
State	Year of declared state of emergency
OPT	2007
Sudan	2005 (in the Darfur region), extended to the whole country in May 2008
Iraq	2004
Algeria	1992
Egypt	1981
Syria	1963

Source: AOHR 2008.

The rule of law indicator rates the Arab region as the second worst in the world. Performance on that indicator deteriorated for the region between 1998 and 2007.

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#### The rule of law – Arab countries v/s other regions, 1998 and 2007



Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on World Bank 2008.

Note: The rule of law governance indicator has a range of -2.5 to 2.5; higher is better. It is a subjective indicator aggregated from a variety of sources and measuring perceptions of legal impartiality and popular observance of the law.

## 9 Despite Arab Region's Comparative Wealth, Poverty and Hunger Are Widespread

In 2005, one in five people in the Arab region were living below the two-dollars-a-day international poverty line, which is better than the world average. By this measure, the percentage of people living in poverty has gone down in the Arab region over the last two decades. However, when considering the proportion of the population under the national poverty line – which is a lower threshold and gives a sense of those living in extreme poverty – the average poverty rate in nine Arab countries increased from 17.6 per cent to 18.3 per cent between the periods 1991-1999 and 1999-2006.

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Incidence of extreme poverty based on national lower poverty lines (1991-1999 and 1999-2006)

Country	Survey year	Poverty incidence (%)	Pop. average (1995-2000) in millions	Estimated number of poor (millions)	Survey year	Poverty incidence (%)	Pop. average (2000-2005) in millions	Estimated number of poor (millions)
Lebanon	1997	10	3.6	0.4	2005	7.97	3.9	0.3
Egypt	1999	16.7	63.6	10.6	2005	19.6	69.7	13.7
Jordan	1997	15	4.6	0.7	2002	14.2	5.2	0.7
Syria	1997	14.3	15.6	2.2	2004	11.4	17.7	2.1
Algeria	1995	14.1	29.4	4.1	2000	12.1	31.7	3.8
Morocco	1991	13.1	27.9	3.7	1999	19	29.7	5.6
Tunisia	1995	8.1	9.3	0.8	2000	4.1	9.8	0.4
MICs		14.6	153.9	22.4		15.9	167.6	26.6
Mauritania	1996	50	2.4	1.2	2000	46	2.8	1.3
Yemen	1998	40.1	16.9	6.8	2006	34.8	19.6	6.8
LICs		41.4	19.2	8		36.2	22.4	8.1
Total		17.6	173.1	30.4		18.3	190	34.7

Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on UNDP 2005, 2007, 2008; World Bank 2007, 2008.

The incidence of human poverty in the Arab region shows great variation, with lower income countries sharing the greatest burden.

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Incidence of human poverty in 18 Arab countries, 2006

Income group (number of countries)	Value of HPI (%)	Probability of not surviving to 40 (%)	Adult illiteracy rate (% 15 years and older)	Population without access to safe water (%)	Children under weight for age (%)
Low (4)	35.0	22.8	40.5	31.7	42.1
Lower middle (7)	20.4	7.2	28.9	8.3	6.8
Upper middle (3)	12.0	5.0	11.0	18.0	8.0
High (4)	11.7	5.1	14.7	8.2	13.7
Total (18)	22.3	10.4	29.1	13.9	15.4

Source: UNDP/AHDR calculations based on UNDP 2007.

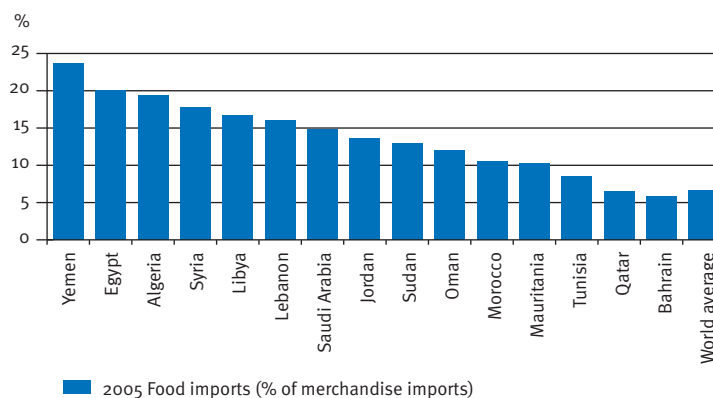
Note: Note: The HPI values in this chapter are based on UNDP's revised 2009 values.

HPI = Human Poverty Index. The HPI, a composite index, is built on three components: a) longevity, b) knowledge and c) standard of living.

Lack of adequate water supply and arable land has contributed to the Arab region's dependence on aggregate food imports. In 2005, at least 14 Arab countries relied on food imports to an extent greater than the world average.

See pages 131 and 122

Reliance on food imports, 15 Arab countries, 2005\*



Source: World Bank 2008.

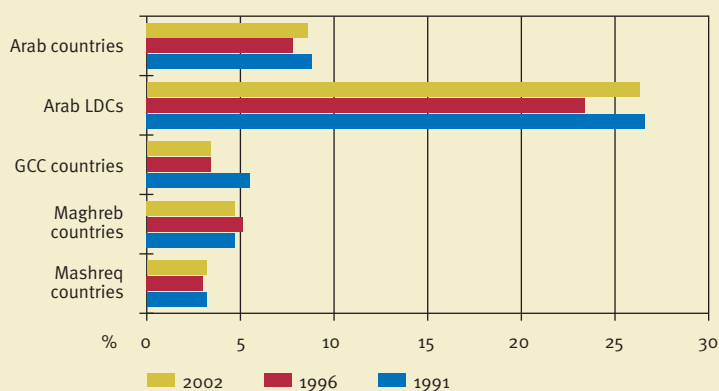
\*Values for Lebanon and Libya are for 2004.

**MDG 1, Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger**

The region's malnutrition rate decreased sluggishly, indicating critical malfunctions in the region's development efforts. The proportion of underweight children under five years of age remained relatively high in 2000 at 12.7 per cent with no noticeable improvement from its 1990 level of 13.2 per cent. This is due to the slow pace of progress in the economic and social determinants of the indicator: modest growth performance of the region as a whole; relatively high female illiteracy rate, particularly in the Arab LDCs; low access of the poor and underprivileged to primary health care services; comprehensive sanctions imposed on Iraq; and conflicts in OPT, Somalia, and Sudan.

The Arab sub-regions and individual countries exhibited wide differences in reducing the proportion of underweight children under-five years of age. In the Mashreq and the Maghreb, the proportion of underweight children declined from 10.8 per cent to 9.1 per cent and from 8.4 per cent to 7.5 per cent between 1990 and 2000, respectively. The Arab LDCs continued to suffer from the highest malnutrition rate in the region, at 27.4 per cent in 2000, down from 37.6 per cent in 1995.

**Proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption (%)**



Source: UN-ESCWA 2007

In 1991, food deprivation was a disconcerting threat to overall social welfare in the region and remained so in 2000. Individuals living on less than the minimum level of dietary energy consumption accounted for 8.8 per cent of the Arab population in 1991 and 8.6 per cent in 2002. According to these rates, the number of food-deprived persons rose from approximately 20 million in 1991 to around 23.3 million in 2002. *This implies that the MDG target is unlikely to be met by 2015.*

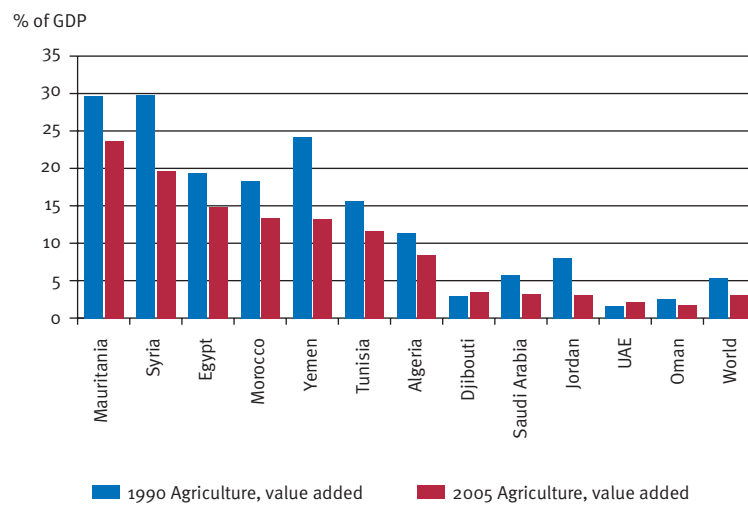
The negligible change in the region's proportion of food-deprived persons is the result of stagnant rates in the Mashreq, Maghreb and the Arab LDCs. The relatively high levels of food deprivation in the Arab LDCs pulled the regional average significantly above the three other sub-regional averages. In the Maghreb and Mashreq, the proportion of people living below the food deprivation line remained low in 1991 and 2002. The Arab LDCs also did not make any noticeable progress in this area. The number of food-deprived persons amounted to 26.5 per cent of the population in 1991 and 26.3 per cent in 2002. Only the GCC countries showed good progress on this front, though all of it took place in the first five years. Available information shows that the proportion of the food-deprived in the GCC countries dropped from 5.5 per cent in 1991 to 3.4 per cent in 1996, but remained unchanged after that.

Source: UN-ESCWA 2007a.

The Arab region is well-known for its small ratio of usable land to total land area. At 35 per cent, this ratio is the lowest in the world. Desertification and the deterioration of agricultural land are two of the most important challenges to agricultural production. In general, the contribution of agriculture to the region's economic performance is declining.

See page 139

#### Declining value added of agriculture in economic output, 12 Arab countries, 1990 and 2005



Source: World Bank 2008.

## 10 The Human Security Survey: Human Security Offers New Way to Understand Development Challenges in Arab Region

The Human Security Survey conducted for the Arab Human Development Report in Morocco, Lebanon, Kuwait, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory found great variation in participants' perceptions of threats to human security. With over 50 per cent of respondents in two of the four countries describing their present conditions as "not safe at all", the gravity of the human insecurity obstacle to development in the Arab region becomes more evident.

See pages 26-27

Principal perceived threats to human security (%)

Threats	Countries	Kuwait	Lebanon	Morocco	OPT
Environmental pollutants		91.2	77.8	74.9	..
Water shortages		73.5	80.5	76.9	82.3
Deterioration of agricultural land		..	..	..	78.4
Occupation and foreign influence		..	85.1	..	96.2
Governmental failure to protect citizens		..	87	..	86.9
Arbitrariness of government		..	80.1	..	..
Lack of social protection		..	73.4	..	71
Poor health services		..	80.9	72.3	73.4
Poor educational services		..	..	..	..
The spread of corruption		..	86.3	..	89.4
Slow legal procedures and difficulty in obtaining rights		..	73.2	..	73.7
Weak solidarity among members of society		..	70.2	..	..
Tense relations among different groups		..	80.8	..	83.7
Religious extremism		..	79.9	..	..
Disintegration of the family		..	74.7	..	75.2
Lack of access to basic services		..	81.1	..	75.4
Epidemics and communicable diseases		..	86.2	70	75.6
Unemployment		..	86.5	81.2	91
Poverty		..	86.4	86	90.6
Hunger		..	88.7	75.9	85.4
Assaults on persons and private property		..	89.1	..	80.4

.. = not available

Source: Human Security Survey 2008.

THE HUMAN SECURITY SURVEY – How safe do citizens feel?

