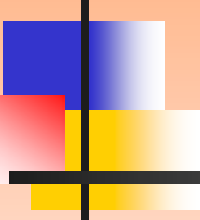


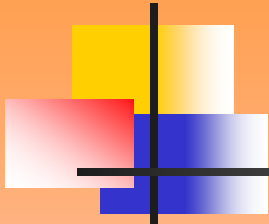


ESCWA



Where do Arab women stand in the development process ?

A Gender-based Statistical Overview



The following presentation depicts the main findings of the new publication entitled “Where Do Arab Women Stand in the Development Process?”

The publication is available in Arabic and English and can be downloaded from the ESCWA Gender Statistics Programmes Website at <http://www.escwa.org.lb/gsp>.



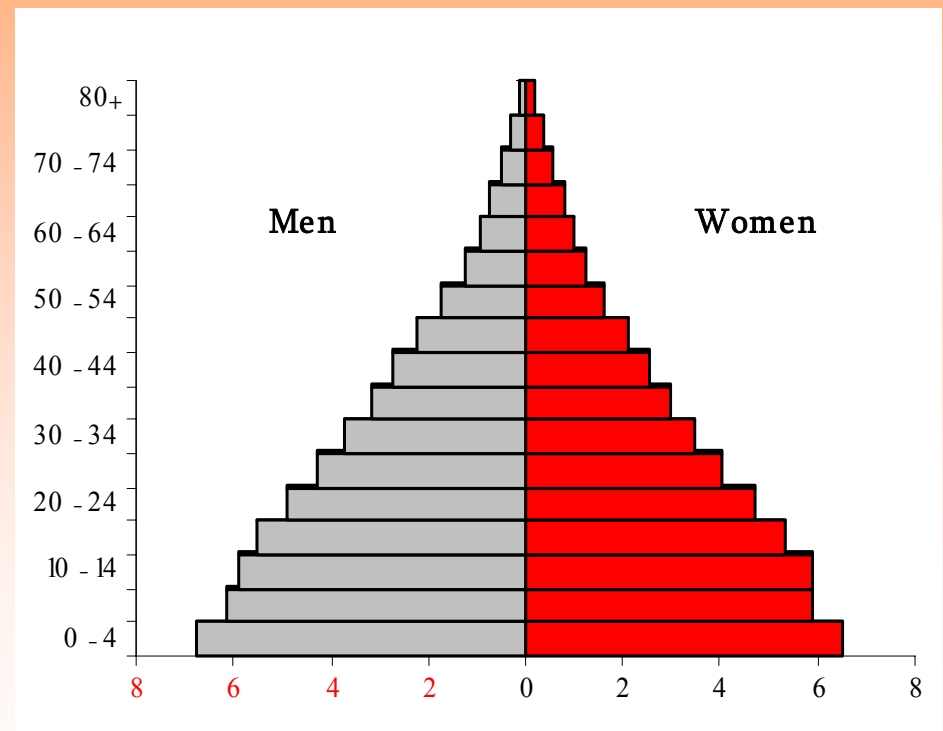
Gender equality and human development in the Arab region

- Achieving gender equality is central to the human development process
- In the last decade Arab women have made considerable gains, particularly in the areas of health and education
- However, Arab women remain less economically and politically empowered than women in other regions of the world

Women in population

- In 2003, the total Arab population was estimated at 307 million
- Women constituted almost 50% of the Arab population
- Arab population is fairly young; 37% are under the age of 15
- Almost 60% are of working age (15-64 yrs)

Population pyramid of the Arab region in 2003



Source: ESCWA Social Statistics Datasets, 2003.



Women in population

- Current **population growth rate** : 2.4% (approx. 7 million annually)
- Doubling time for population: 29 years
- This rate is substantially higher than corresponding projections for other developing regions which range between 0.8 and 1.6



Women in population

- **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** for 2000-2005 was estimated at 3.81 births per woman, down from 4.13 in 1995-2000
- The region's TFR is significantly higher than the average for developing countries (2.9 births per woman)
- High TFR prevail in a number of Arab countries, particularly Yemen (7.0 births per woman in 2000-2005)



Women and health

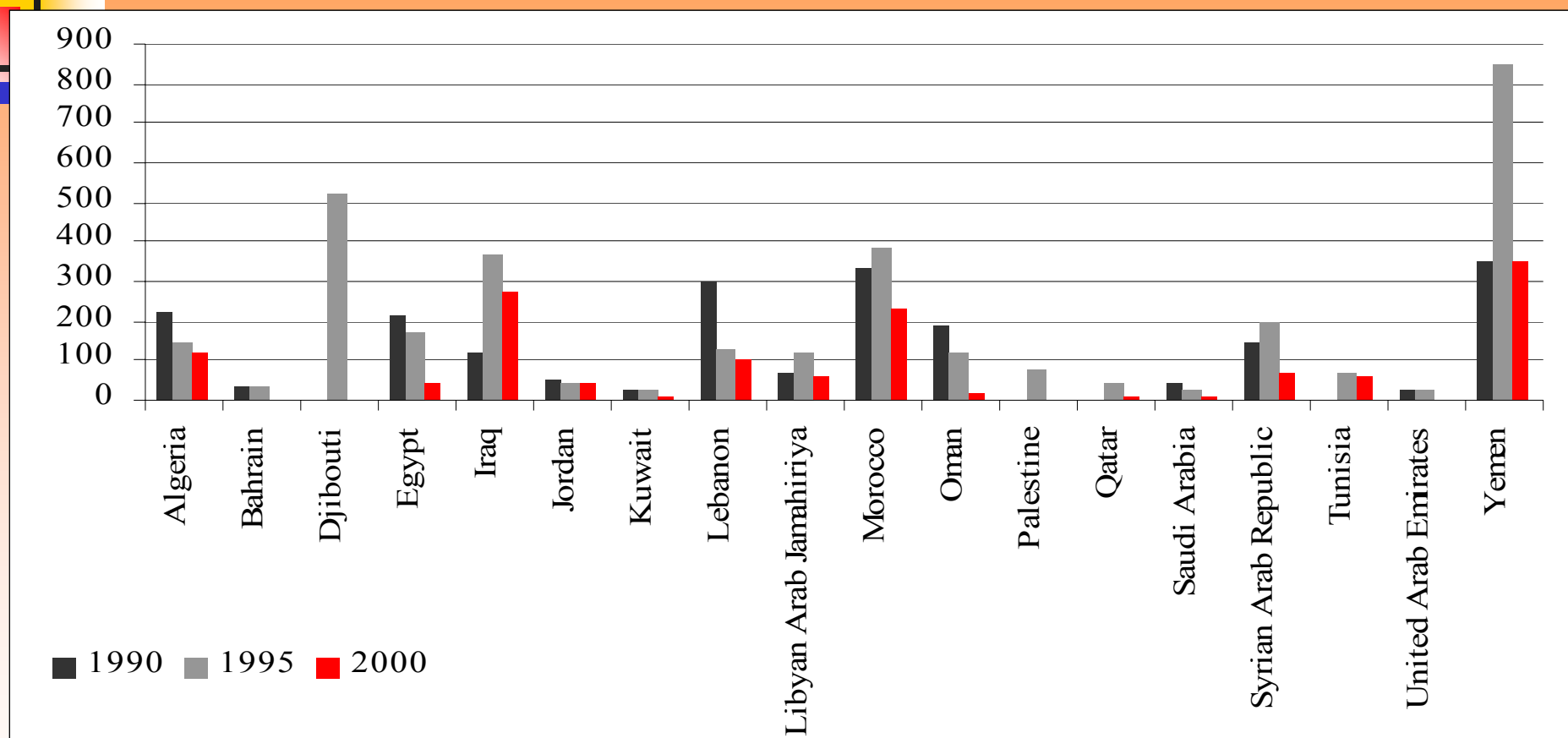
- For the period 2000-2005, **life expectancy** for women and men averaged 68.5 and 65.1 years respectively
- Women and men in ESCWA countries are generally expected to outlive their counterparts in non-ESCWA countries by approximately 10 years



Women and health

- Between 1990 and 2000 **maternal mortality ratios** (MMR) decreased dramatically in most Arab countries
- In this period the most dramatic decline was observed in Oman (from 190 to 14 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)
- In 2000, the lowest MMR was observed in Kuwait (5), while the highest MMR was recorded in Yemen (350 live births)
- MMR increased only in Iraq from 117 in 1990 to 274 deaths/100,000 live births in 2000

Maternal mortality ratios in selected Arab countries for selected years during the period 1990-2000



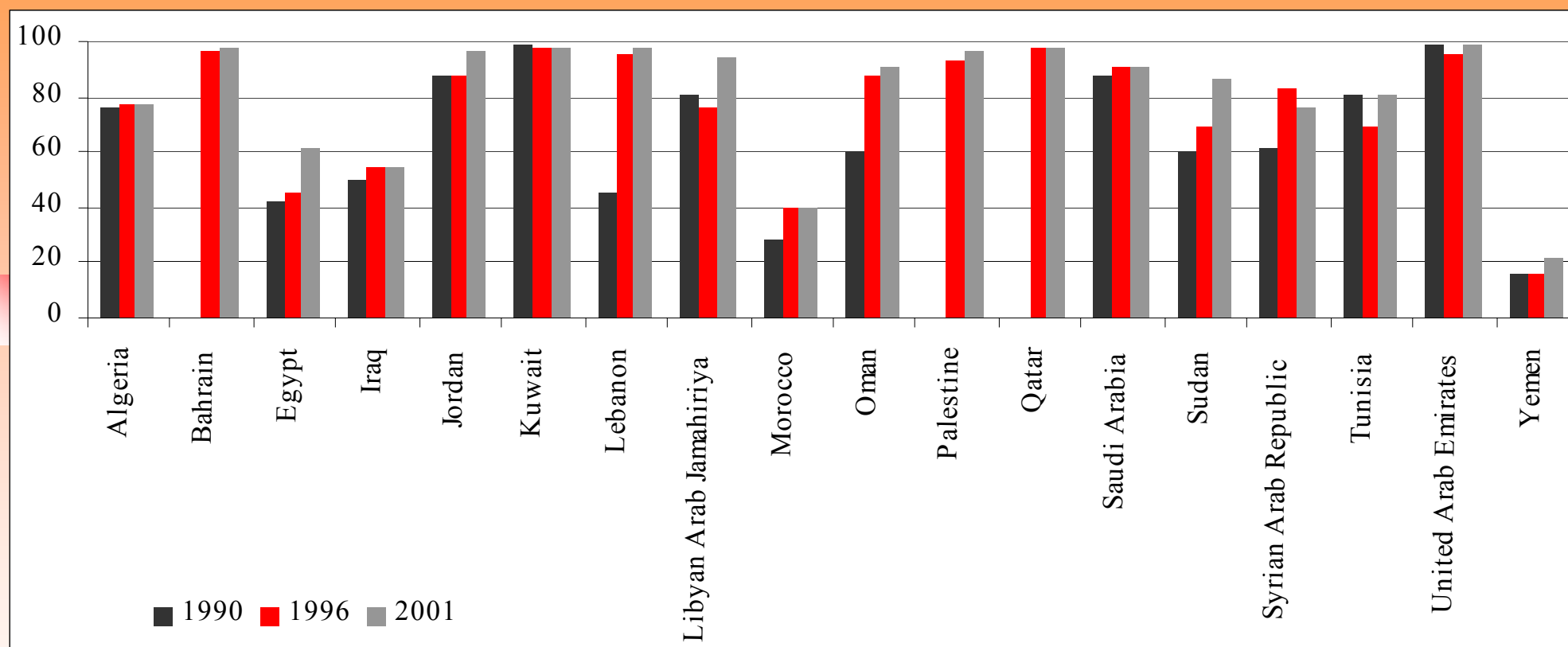
Source: ESCWA Social Statistics Datasets, 2003.



Women and health

- An upward trend in the **percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel** was observed between 1990 and 2001
- In 2001, the highest percentage was observed in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar and UAE (range of 97-99%)
- In 2001, the lowest percentages were observed in Morocco (40%) and Yemen (22%)
- In 2000, skilled health personnel attended barely over half of births in Iraq

Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel in selected Arab countries for selected years, 1990-2000



N.B. Data on the percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel in Bahrain, Palestine and Qatar in 1990 were unavailable. Data pertain to 1990, 1996 and 2000 in the case of Iraq; 1996 and 2000 for Palestine; and 1990, 1995 and 2001 for the Syrian Arab Republic. In some cases, data for three years were not available.

Source: ESCWA Social Statistics Datasets, 2003.



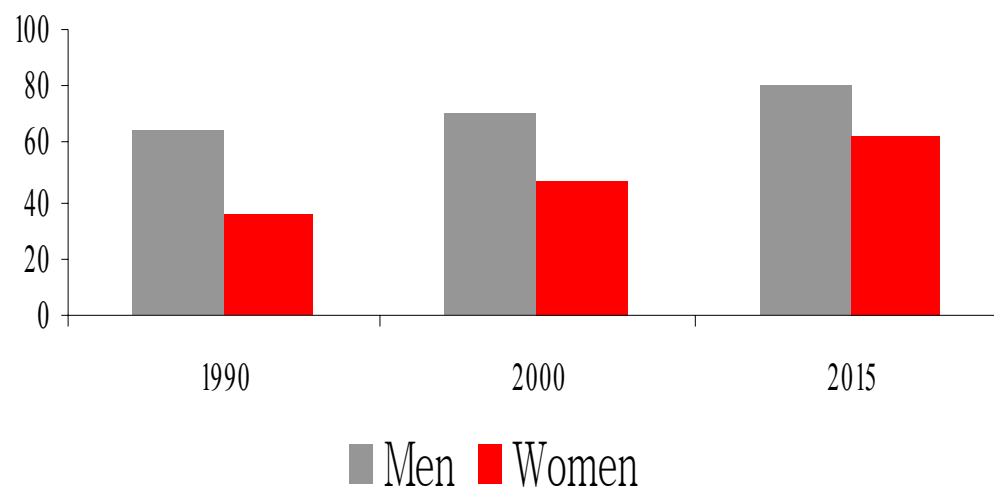
Women and literacy

- Adult and youth literacy rates have increased for both women and men
- However, in 2003, an estimated 44 million adult Arab women were illiterate
- Among the youth (15-24 yrs), 8.5 million women were illiterate

Women and literacy

- The adult literacy rate increased from 50% in 1990 to 60% in 2000 and is expected to exceed 70% by 2015

Literacy rate (15+) of the Arab region for the period
1990-2015



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).



Women and literacy

- In 2003, the **adult literacy rate** of Arab women was 51%, significantly lower than that of Arab men (73%)
- The highest adult literacy rate of Arab women was observed in Jordan at 86.6 % (Men 95.8 %)
- The lowest adult literacy rate of Arab women prevailed in Iraq at 24.4% (Men 55.9 %)



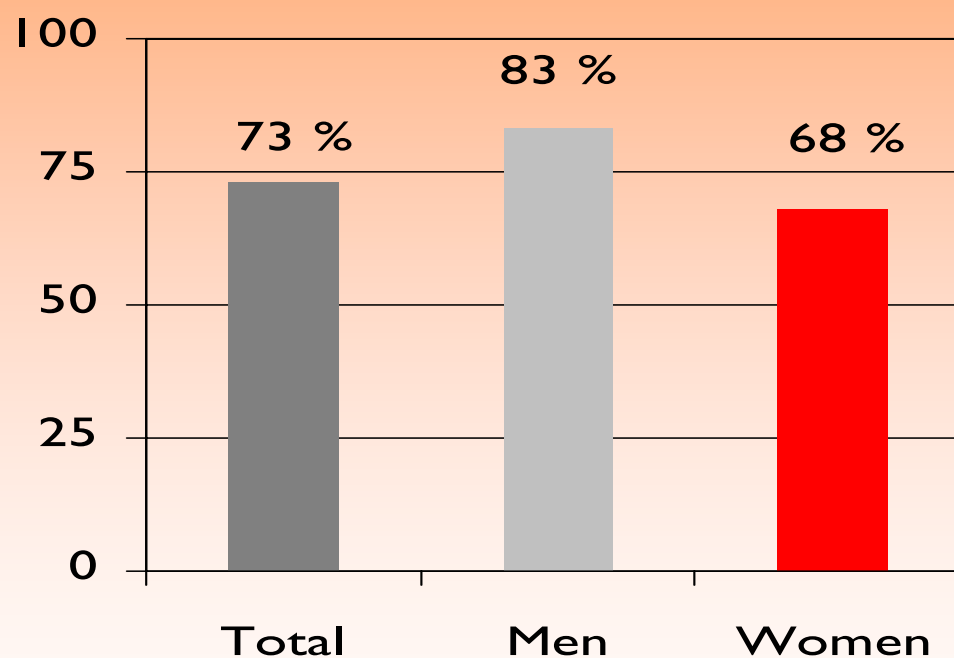
Gender gap in adult literacy

- The widest gender gap in favor of men in adult literacy was observed in Yemen where 70.5% of men were literate compared to 30.1% women
- Adult women were marginally more literate in Qatar and UAE, where corresponding rates among women were 85% and 81.4%, respectively, compared to 81.4% and 76% among men, respectively

Women and youth literacy (15-24 yrs)

- **Youth literacy rate** rose from 65% in 1990 to 76% in 2000 and is projected to rise to 85% by 2015
- Youth literacy rates ranged from 50 % or less in Iraq and Mauritania to 95% or more in Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Oman

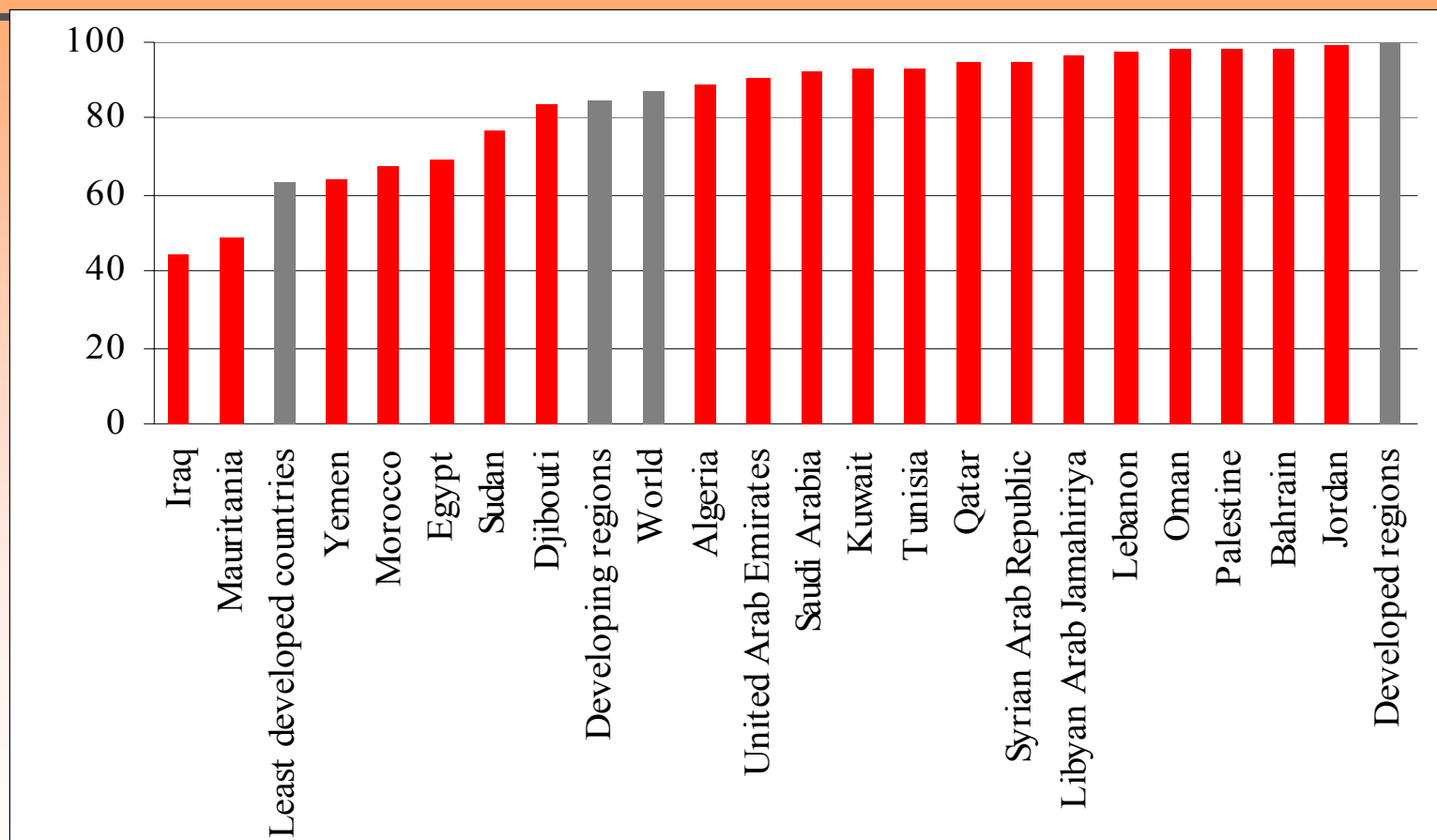
Youth literacy rate, 2000/01



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

Youth literacy rates of women and men in selected Arab countries in 2000 (%)

In 2000, the youth literacy rate of Arab women was 68% while that of men in the same age group was 83%



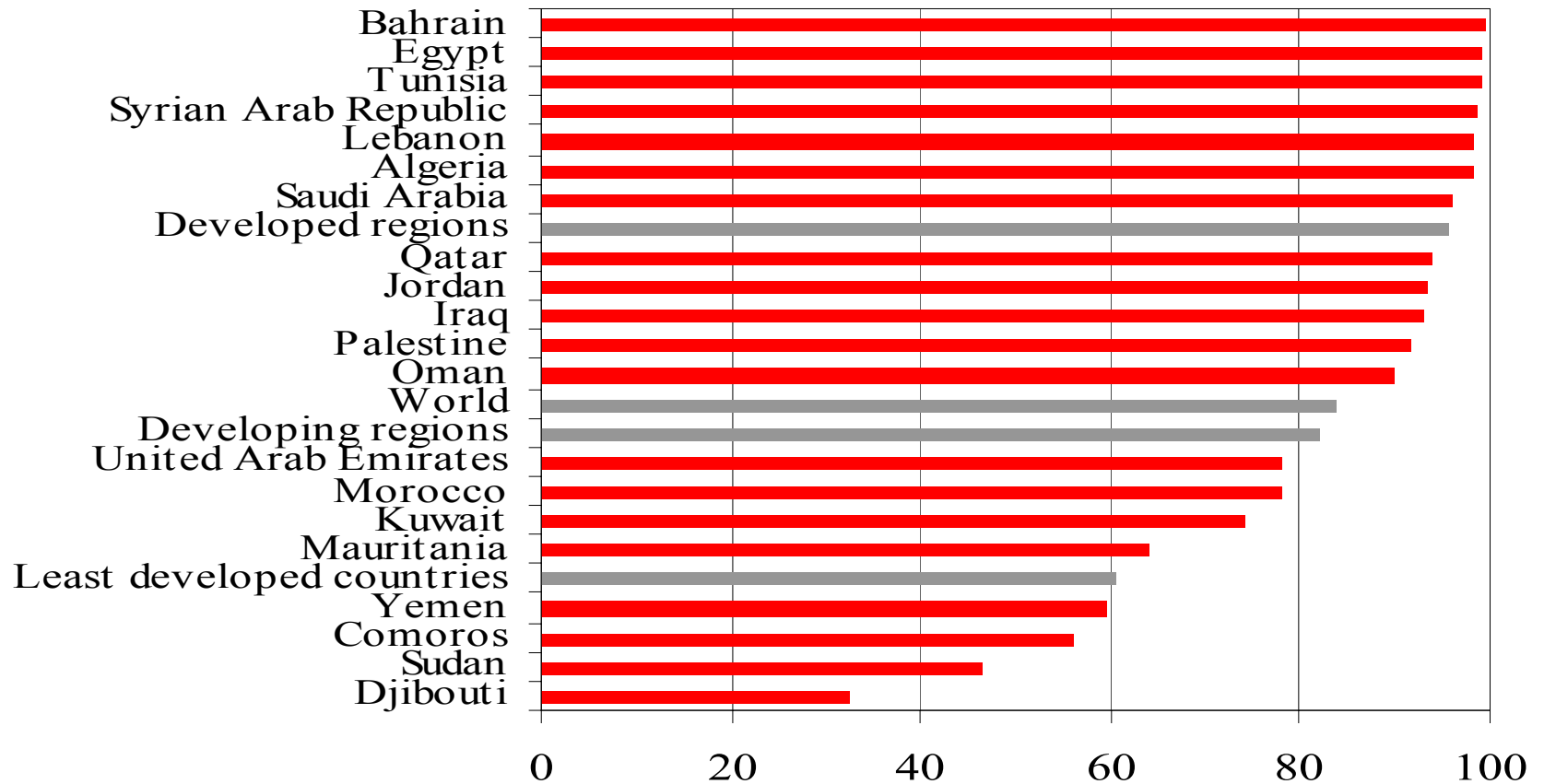
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).



Girls in primary education

- In 2000/01, total net enrolment ratio (NER) in primary education in the Arab countries was 80.9%
- 7.4 million children (1 out of 5) were out of school
- Of these children, 4.4 million were girls!

NER in primary education in selected Arab countries in 2000/01 (Percentage)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and ESCWA Social Statistics Datasets 2003.



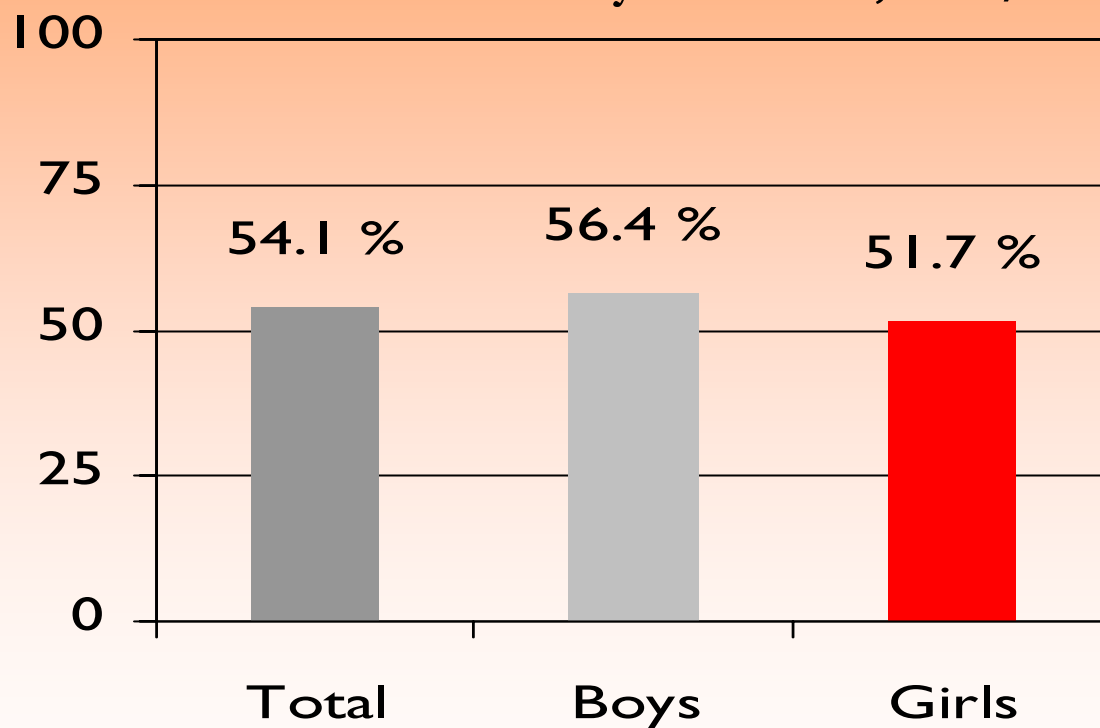
Gender equality in primary education

- In 2000/01 3 Arab countries were nearing gender equality in primary education (GPI in range of 0.95-0.99) }
 - Algeria
 - Palestine
 - Tunisia
- Gender equality (GPI=1) was achieved in 3 countries }
 - Bahrain
 - Lebanon
 - Oman
- 2 countries are still far from gender equality (GPI < 0.8) }
 - Djibouti
 - Yemen



Girls in secondary education

NER in secondary education, 2000/01



In 2000/01, 9 girls for every 10 boys were enrolled in secondary schools

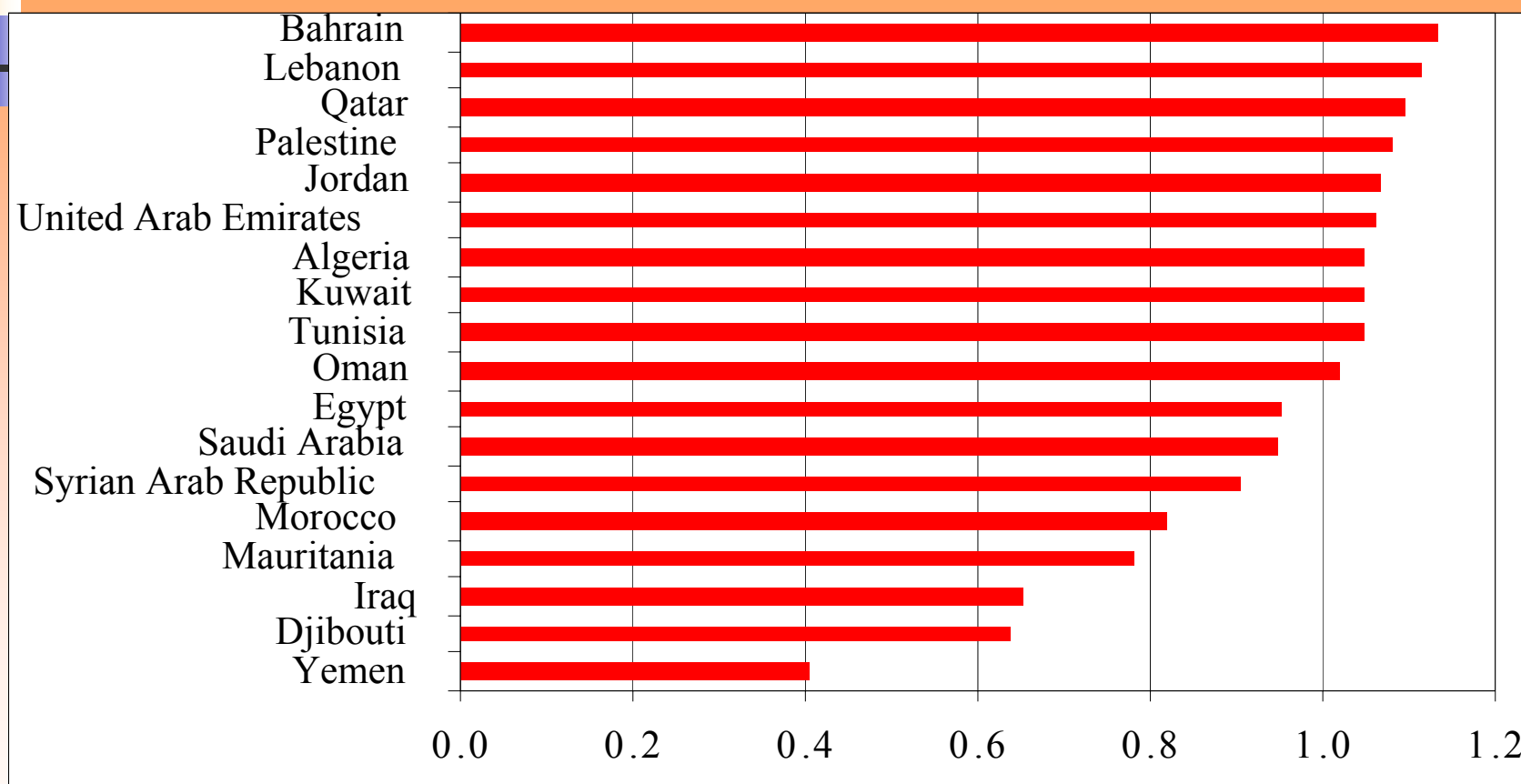
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.



Gender equality in secondary education

- In 2000/01 3 Arab countries were nearing gender equality (GPI 0.90-0.95)
 - Egypt
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Syrian Arab Republic
- A gender gap in favor of women was observed in 7 countries (GPI 1.02-1.13)
 - Algeria
 - Bahrain
 - Kuwait
 - Oman
 - Palestine
 - Tunisia
 - UAE
- The deepest gender gap in favour of men was observed in 1 country (GPI 0.64)
 - Djibouti

GPI for NER in secondary education for selected Arab countries, 2000/01



N.B. Country data pertain to the following years: Iraq, 1999/2000; Jordan, 1998/99; Lebanon, 1998/99; Morocco, 1999/2000; Qatar, 1998/99; and Yemen, 1998/99.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).

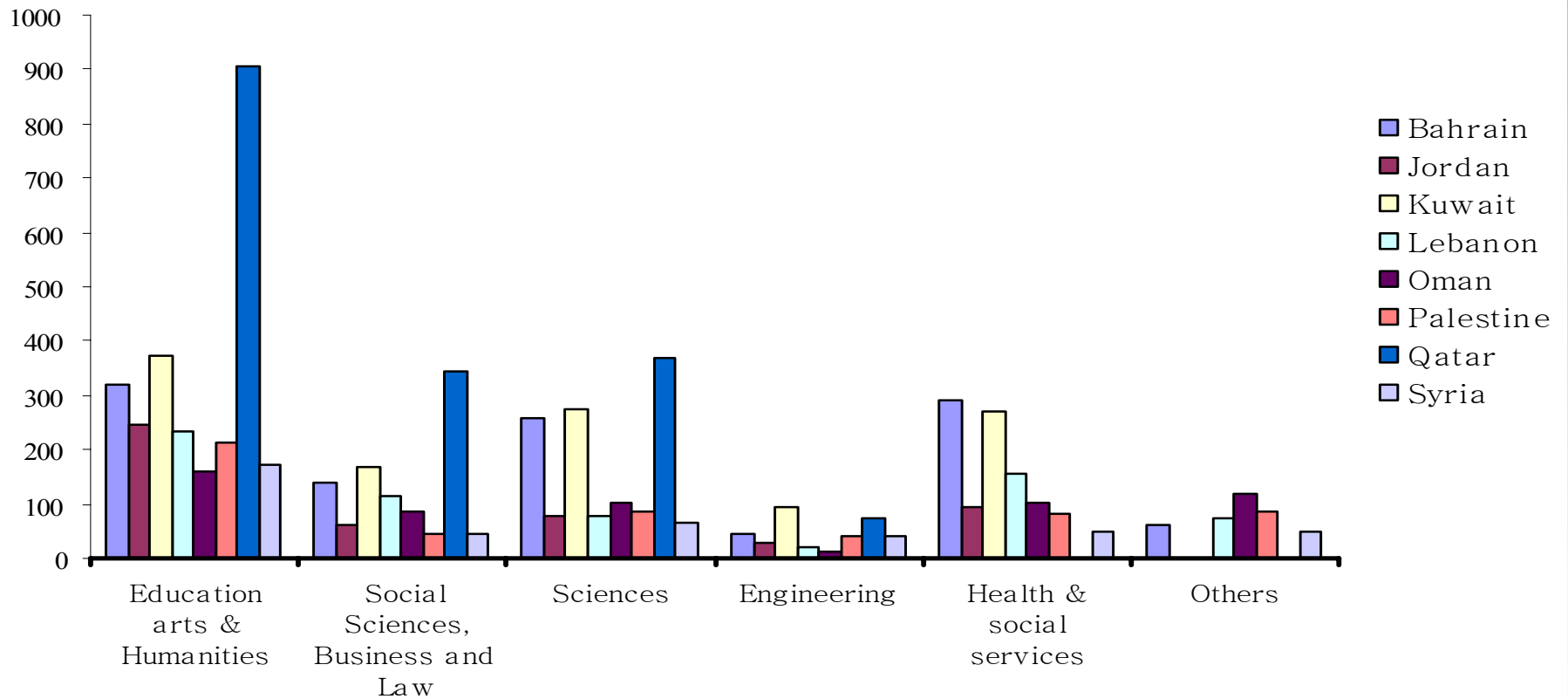


Women in tertiary education

- In 2000/01, total gross enrolment ratios in tertiary education reached 19.7%
- 17.8% of women and 21.6% of men were enrolled in tertiary education
- More women tend to join the fields of education, arts and humanities than men, who dominate in the field of engineering

Women in tertiary education

Number of women students for every 100 men students by field of study for selected Arab countries, 2000/2001



Sources: ESCWA Social Statistics Datasets, 2003; and UNESCO Institute for Statistics.



Women and economic activity

- In the year 2000, Arab women constituted only 29% of the region's labor force.
- The economic activity rate of Arab women remains lower than that of women in other developing regions of the world
- Women's share of the labour force was generally lower in high-income Arab countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE) ranging between 13%-23%
- The highest share of women in the labour force (43%) prevailed in Comoros, Mauritania and Somalia



Women and economic activity

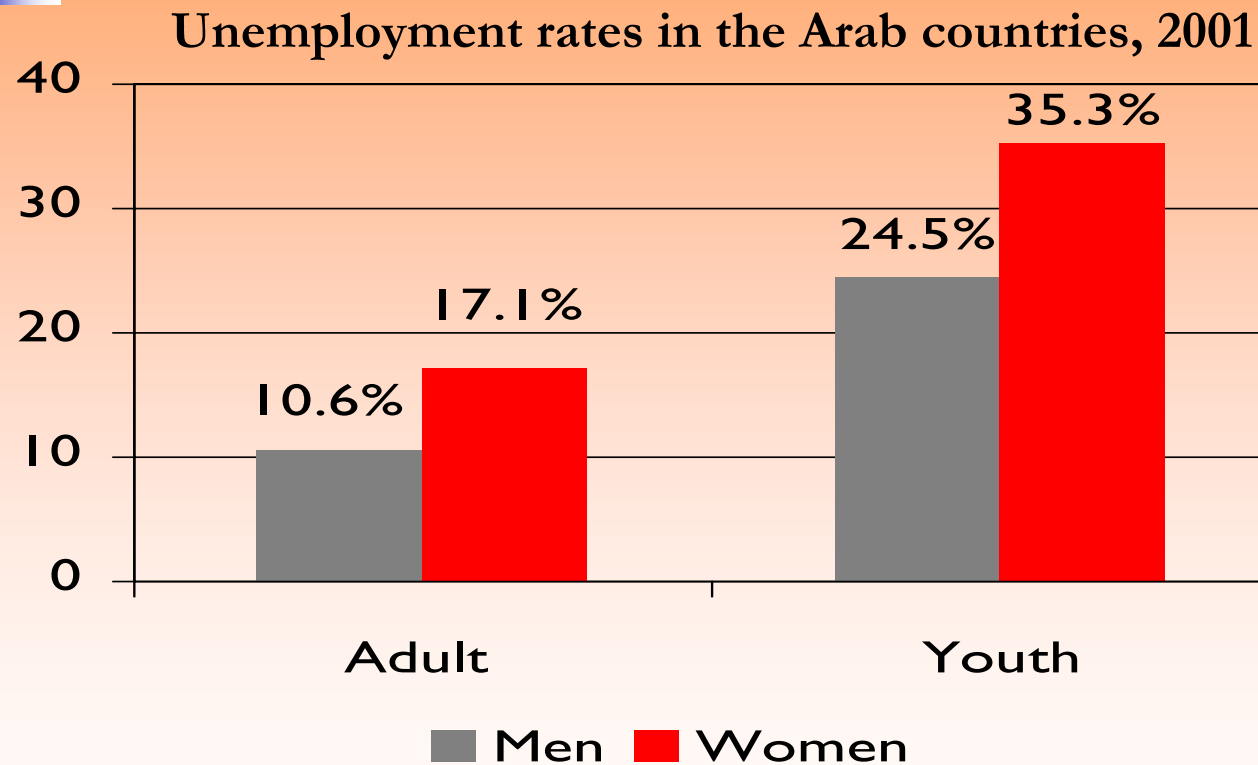
- In the GCC countries, the economic activity rate of women is more accurately a reflection of the proportion of foreign and migrant female workers in the Gulf Region
- The higher economic activity of women in service-oriented or agricultural-based economies outside of the GCC could be attributed to a number of factors:
 - (1) Comparatively higher cost of living
 - (2) Common perception that women are suited to work in the service and agricultural sectors



Women in economic sectors

- The majority of Arab women are employed in the services sector, particularly in the GCC countries
- In countries with a large agricultural sector, the proportion of women (as % of the total female labour force) working in agriculture sector exceeds the corresponding rate for men (e.g. Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen)
- The percentage of women working in industry (as % of the total female labour force) exceeded 10% in 5 countries (Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and UAE) reaching 98% in Qatar.
- In these countries, the percentage of men working in industry ranged between 23% to 57 %.

Women and unemployment



Women are more prone to unemployment than men.

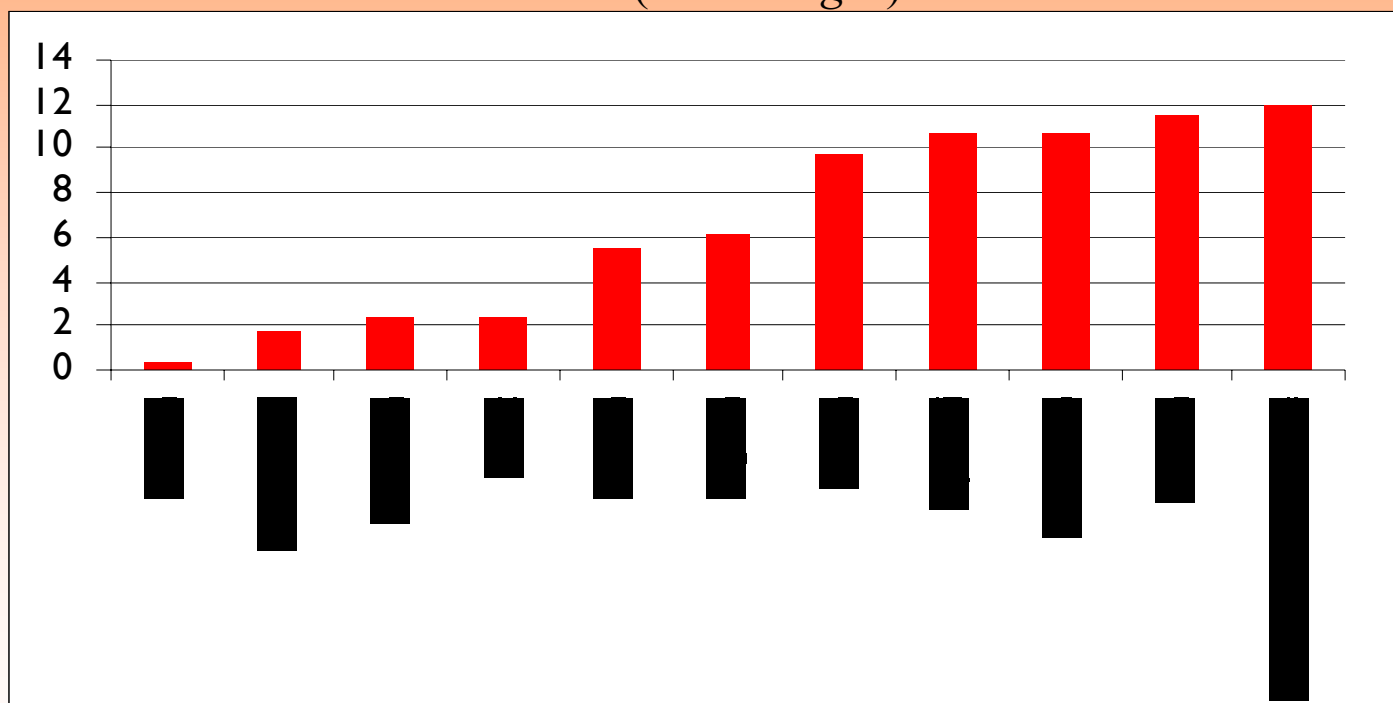
N.B. This average was calculated for countries with available unemployment data for the period 1996-2001, namely Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Country data pertain to 2001 with the exception of Lebanon and Yemen, for which corresponding unemployment data pertain to 1997 and 1999, respectively.

Source: ILO, Labour statistics database (LABORSTA), available at: laborsta.ilo.org/cgi-bin/brokerv8.exe.

Women and politics

Women's share of parliamentary seats in selected Arab countries in 2003 (Percentages)

At approx. 6%, the parliamentary participation of Arab women in 2003 was lower than rates in Asia (14.5%), sub-Saharan Africa (15.1) and the Pacific (10.9%).



Source: Inter-parliamentary Union, "Women in national parliaments – situation as of 30 November 2003", available at: <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>.



Future strategies

- Garnering political support
- Raising awareness through the media
- Improving legislative systems
- Reviewing educational curricula
- Providing equal access to vocational and technical training
- Creating decent work opportunities
- Engaging women in peace-making and democracy building
- Developing new measurements methods
- Instituting early warning system



For more gender statistics in the Arab region and gender related information please visit our Gender Statistics Programmes website
www.escwa.org.lb/gsp

Thank you.