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Demographic Profile of the Arab Region
Realizing the Demographic Dividend



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Introduction

The demographic transition is a change in patterns of population growth, from high rates of fertility and mortality to low rates of fertility and mortality. At an early stage, this transition leads to a shift in the population's age composition whereby the number of working-age persons exceeds that of economically dependent persons. More resources are then available for investment in human capital (health and education), physical capital, and economic and social development. This phase is referred to as the demographic dividend or demographic window of opportunity. Its duration varies between countries, and it is affected by various factors such as the speed of fertility decline (the faster the better), and employment and productivity rates.

Today, Arab countries are registering declining fertility rates and increases in life expectancy, although at different paces and starting from different levels. They are thus at different stages of the demographic transition and of the window of opportunity.

This study, aimed at analysing the demographic changes that Arab countries are undergoing, classes them in four categories: (a) Arab least developed countries (LDCs): Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen; (b) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates; (c) Mashreq countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic; and (d) Maghreb countries: Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. It gives an overview of population dynamics and trends in the Arab region and assesses the window of opportunity during which each country could reap the benefits of its changing population structure.

Reaping the benefits of the demographic dividend is not automatic and requires an enabling policy environment. The study thus presents four case studies on countries that benefitted from their demographic window of opportunity by implementing sound policies, making recommendations for the Arab region.

I. POPULATION DYNAMICS IN THE ARAB REGION

The population of the Arab region has been growing over the past decades, due to the combined effect of rapidly declining mortality rates and less rapidly declining fertility rates. This trend is likely to continue in the near future, though at a slower pace, influencing the age composition of the population, which will remain relatively youthful. This will translate in a bulge in the population of working age, a key parameter for the socioeconomic future of the region.

A. Population size and growth rates

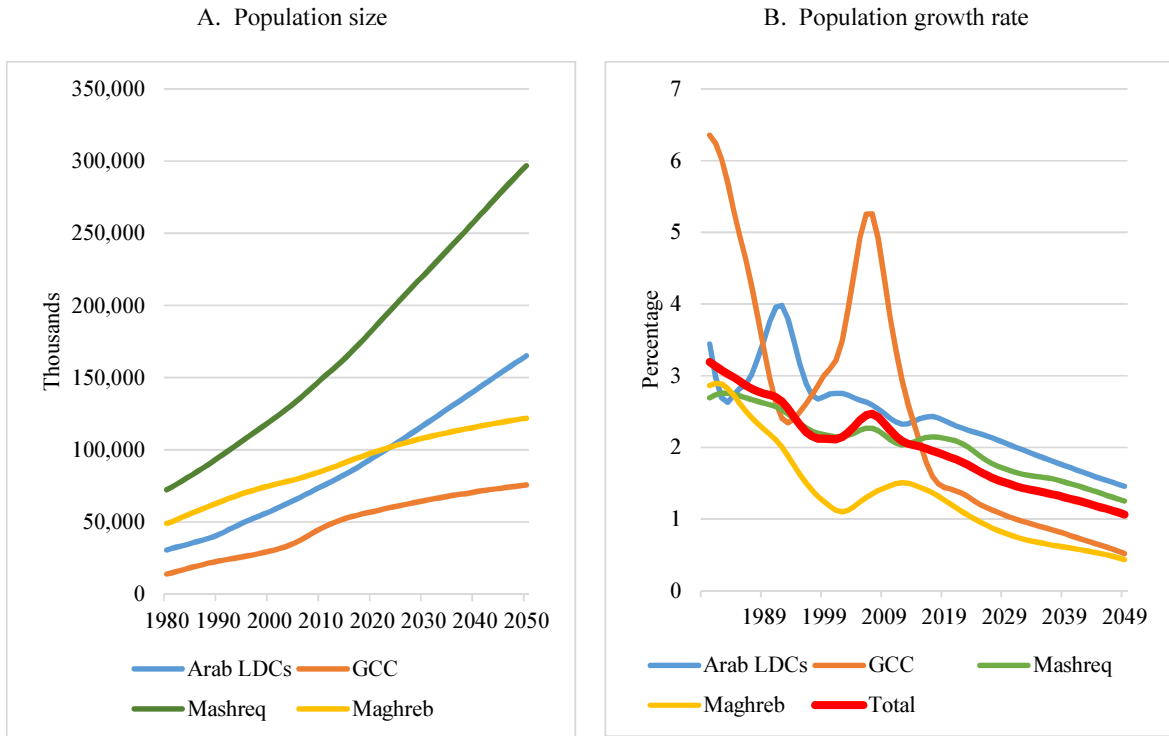
In 2015, the population of the Arab region was estimated at about 390 million, growing from 166 million in 1980.¹ It is expected to reach 660 million in 2050 in the medium fertility variant scenario (annex table 1A). Population growth has slowed down. While the number of people had doubled between 1980 and 1998, the 2015 population is not expected to double in the coming 35 years (until 2050) under the medium fertility variant (figure 1). Under the high fertility variant, the population in the Arab region would reach 732 million in 2050, i.e. 11 per cent more than under the medium variant; it would reach 591 million under the low fertility variant, i.e. 10 per cent less than under the medium variant (annex table 2A).

The four Arab subregions have different rates of population growth. Arab LDCs had 31 million inhabitants in 1980 and 84 million in 2015. Projections show that the population will almost double in the next 35 years to reach 165 million. The number of inhabitants has more than tripled in GCC countries between 1980 and 2015, increasing from 14 to 53 million. In 2050, it is expected to reach 76 million under the medium fertility variant. The Mashreq subregion is the most populated: the number of inhabitants has more than doubled, from 72

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, population data are taken from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015. Low and high fertility variants only differ from the medium variant with respect to underlying country specific fertility assumptions.

million in 1980 to 165 million in 2050, and it is expected to reach 300 million in 2050. The population in the Maghreb subregion has been growing at a slower pace, from 49 million in 1980 to 92 million in 2015 and 122 million in 2050 under the medium fertility variant.

Figure 1. Total population and average annual rate of population growth, Arab subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

The absolute numbers of inhabitants in the four subregions show linear increasing trends from 1980 to 2050, unlike growth rates, which have been declining quite rapidly. On average, the Arab region was growing at a rate of 3 per cent annually in the early 1980s, a figure that has decreased to 2 per cent in 2015. Under the medium fertility variant, the average annual growth rate of the Arab region will reach 1 per cent by 2050.

Between 2002 and 2007, the average regional population growth rate increased, most likely owing to return migration from the United States of America and European countries after the World Trade Center attack on 11 September 2001.² There was an increase in the population of the Mashreq and Maghreb subregions because of lower GCC demand for Arab workers, who were replaced by more wage-competitive Asian workers.³ GCC countries seem to have experienced two main waves of population growth due to incoming migrant workers: one in the early 1980s, during which the annual population growth rate exceeded 6 per cent, and one around 2005, during which it exceeded 5 per cent. Arab LDCs had a peak in population growth in the early 1990s, mostly due to the crisis in Ethiopia and Somalia and incoming flows of refugees to the Sudan and Yemen.

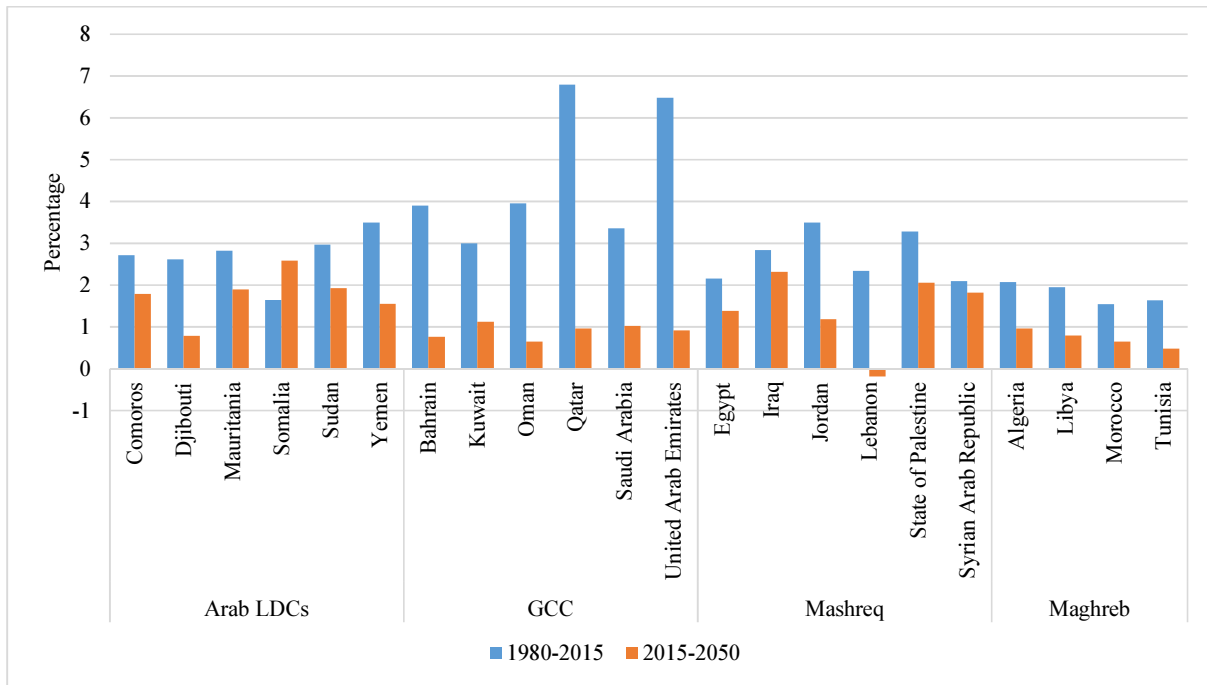
A comparison of population growth rates between the past and the coming 35 years (1980-2015 and 2015-2050) reveals interesting population dynamics in individual countries (figure 2). The populations of

² ESCWA, 2013.

³ International Organization for Migration and the League of Arab States, 2004.

Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, which grew at an average annual rate that exceeded 6 per cent from 1980 to 2015, should expand at much lower rates in the future, averaging to less than 1 per cent annually during the period 2015-2050. This change is due to further declines in fertility rates, owing to larger expatriate populations, higher averages of marriage age and increased educational attainment among women.⁴ The countries that are likely to grow most at a relatively fast pace, with a rate exceeding 2 per cent, are Somalia, Iraq and the State of Palestine. The countries that may witness average annual growth rates below or close to 1 per cent between 2015 and 2050 are Djibouti, all GCC countries and Maghreb countries, and Lebanon among Mashreq countries. Lebanon would actually be the only Arab country experiencing negative population growth in the coming 35 years.

Figure 2. Average annual population growth rates of Arab countries, 1980-2015 and 2015-2050
(medium fertility variant)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Comparing the 2012 and 2015 rounds of estimations and projections by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs reveals that population figures are noticeably higher in the latter (figure 3). The difference stems mostly from the Mashreq, particularly Egypt and Iraq, which were showing signs of stalling fertility declines in the last 5 to 10 years.⁵

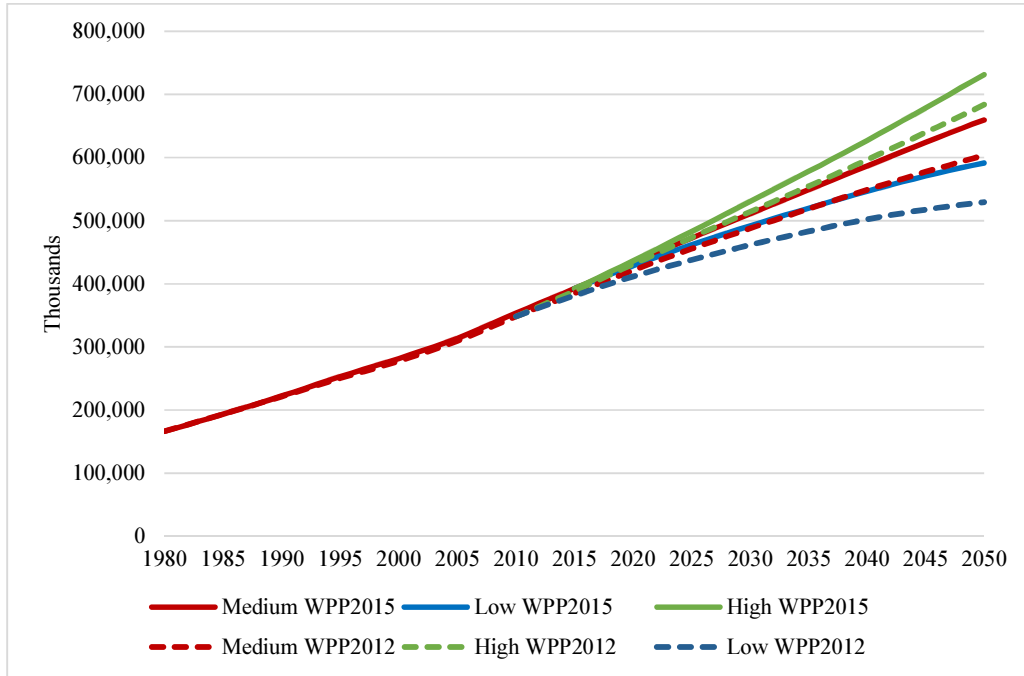
In 2015, more than three quarters of the population of the region was concentrated in seven countries: Egypt, the Sudan, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen (listed in descending order of population size). The share of this group of countries is stable across the period 1980-2050. Under the medium fertility variant, Egypt will have the largest population in the region in 2050—a little over 150 million—followed by Iraq (84 million) and the Sudan (80 million). Besides Algeria, the population of which is expected to reach 56 million, all other Arab countries are likely to have less than 50 million inhabitants in 2050 under the medium fertility

⁴ Al Awad and Chartouni, 2010.

⁵ El-Zanaty and Way, 2009; Egypt, Ministry of Health and Population, El-Zanaty and Associates and ICF International, 2015; Iraq, Central Organization for Statistics & Information Technology, and Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office, 2007 and 2012.

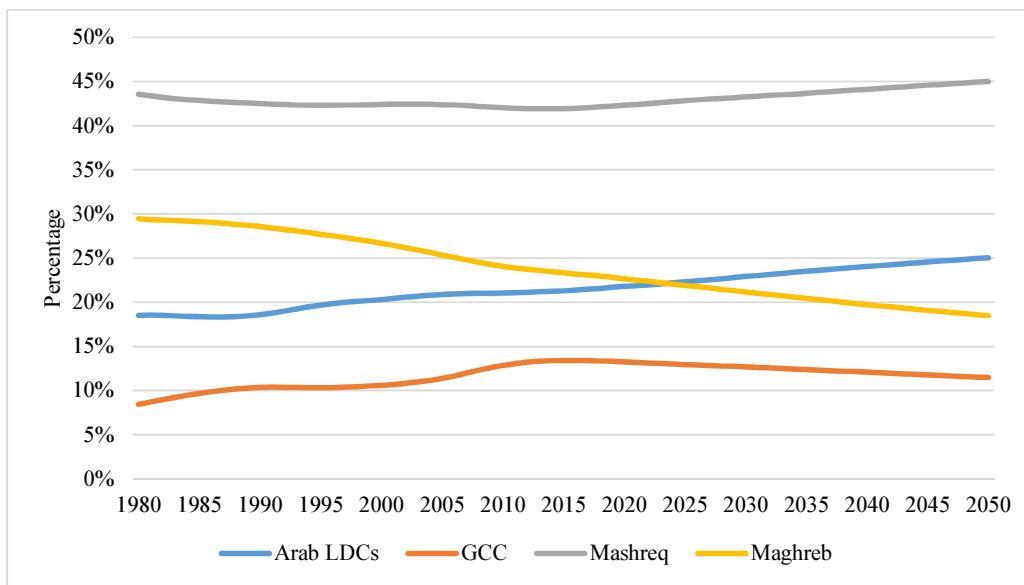
variant. The smallest 10 countries in terms of population size are likely to have populations of less than 10 million, ranging from 1.2 million in Djibouti to 9.8 million in the State of Palestine.

Figure 3. Total population of Arab countries, 1980-2050: 2012 estimations and 2015 projections, medium, low and high fertility variants



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects (WPP): The 2012 Revision and The 2015 Revision*.

Figure 4. Relative share of population by subregion, 1980-2050 (medium variant)

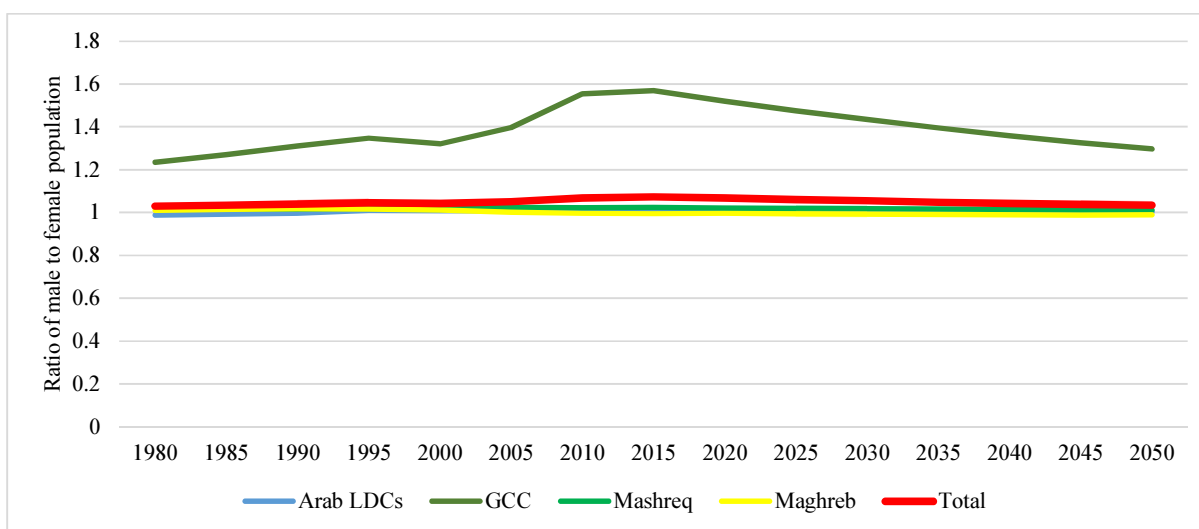


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Mashreq and GCC countries are home to a relatively stable number of inhabitants over the period 1980-2050. The share of the Mashreq subregion in the region's population had slightly decreased from 1980 to 2015 (44 to 42 per cent), but it is projected to increase slightly in the future. The share of GCC countries had slightly increased, from 9 per cent in 1980 to 13 per cent in 2015. More important changes will occur in the Maghreb and Arab LDCs, with the share of the former continuously declining from 29 per cent in 1980 to 23 per cent in 2015 then 18 per cent in 2050, and the share of the latter increasing from 19 per cent in 1980 to 21 per cent in 2015 then 25 per cent in 2050. This difference in trends is mostly due to differences in the transition to lower fertility levels (figure 4).

A breakdown of the population by sex shows that the number of males increased from 84 million in 1980 to 203 million in 2015; it is expected to reach 335 million in 2050. Likewise, the female population increased from 82 million in 1980 to 189 million in 2015, and is expected to be 324 million in 2050. Figure 5 shows that the sex ratio, which had recorded an increase from 1980 to 2015, mostly due to the GCC countries, is expected to decline during the period 2015-2050.

Figure 5. Sex ratio, Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050
(medium variant)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

B. Fertility levels and trends

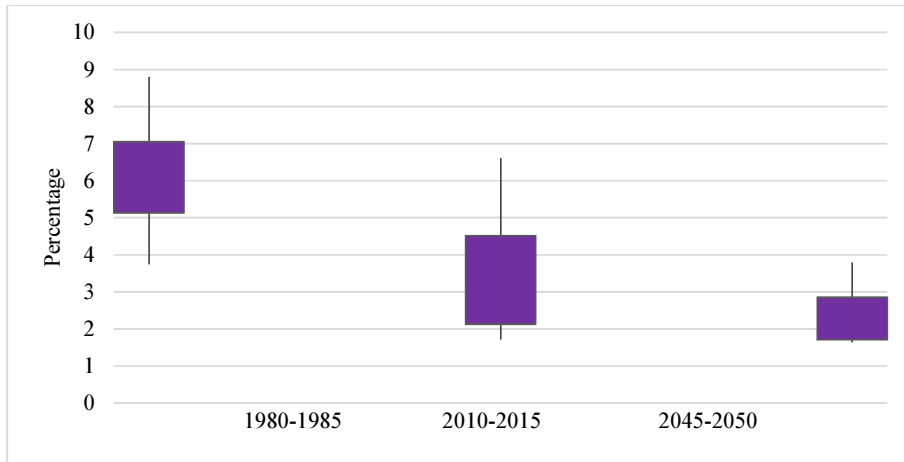
In the period 1980-1985, Arab countries exhibited different fertility patterns, but women had in general what was then considered exceptionally high numbers of children, particularly in relation with the level of socioeconomic development (figure 6, annex tables 3A and 4A).⁶ The lowest level of fertility, measured by the total fertility rate (TFR),⁷ was observed in Lebanon (3.7), and the highest in Yemen (8.8), with most other countries ranging between 5.1 and 7.0. The 1980-1985 TFR was also above 7 in the Comoros, Somalia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and Jordan. In 2010-2015, with the exception of Somalia where women had on average more than six children, TFR ranged between 2.1 and 4.5. Countries with more than four children per woman were mostly Arab LDCs (Comoros, Mauritania and the Sudan), and fertility was also high in such Mashreq countries as Iraq and the State of Palestine. A few countries had a TFR close to the

⁶ Courbage, 1999.

⁷ The total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children a hypothetical cohort of women would have at the end of their reproductive period if they were subject during this period to the fertility rates observed in a given year. Its calculation assumes that there is no mortality. TFR is expressed as a number of children per woman.

replacement level of about 2.1, and some were even below that level, such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon, which had the lowest TFR with 1.7 children per woman on average in 2015. In most Maghreb countries, TFRs ranged between 2.2 and 2.9. Further declines are projected for 2045-2050 in all countries, with TFRs ranging between 1.7 and 2.9 and with Maghreb and GCC countries, and Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic all below the replacement level.

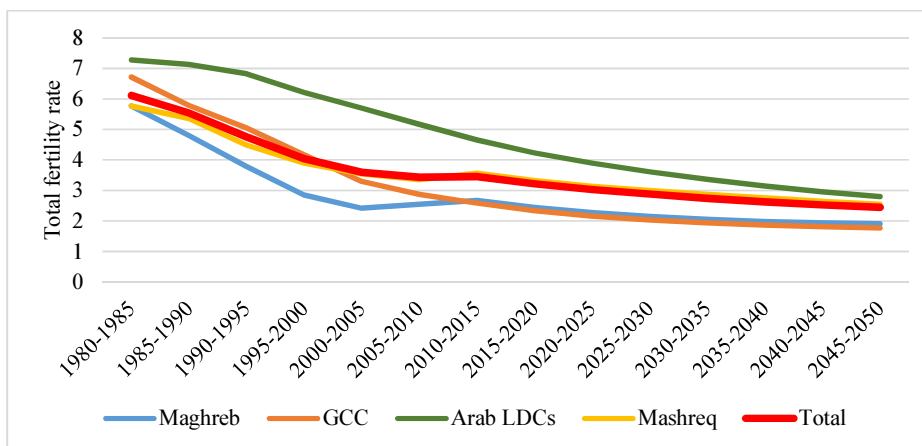
Figure 6. Total fertility rates in the Arab region: minimum, maximum and 20 to 80 per cent range, 1980-1985, 2010-2015 and 2045-2050 (medium variant)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Figure 7 shows the rapid declines of TFRs that have been observed since the 1980s in most subregions, and since 1990 in all, including in Arab LDCs. However, there was a rise again in the Maghreb and Mashreq in the period 2005-2015, particularly in countries that experienced uprisings since December 2010 such as Tunisia and Egypt. Between 2008 and 2014, the total fertility rate increased in Egypt from 3.0 to 3.5 children.⁸ A slight increase in fertility was also observed in other Maghreb countries such as Algeria and Morocco, and a stall was observed in Iraq.

Figure 7. Total fertility rates in the Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium variant)

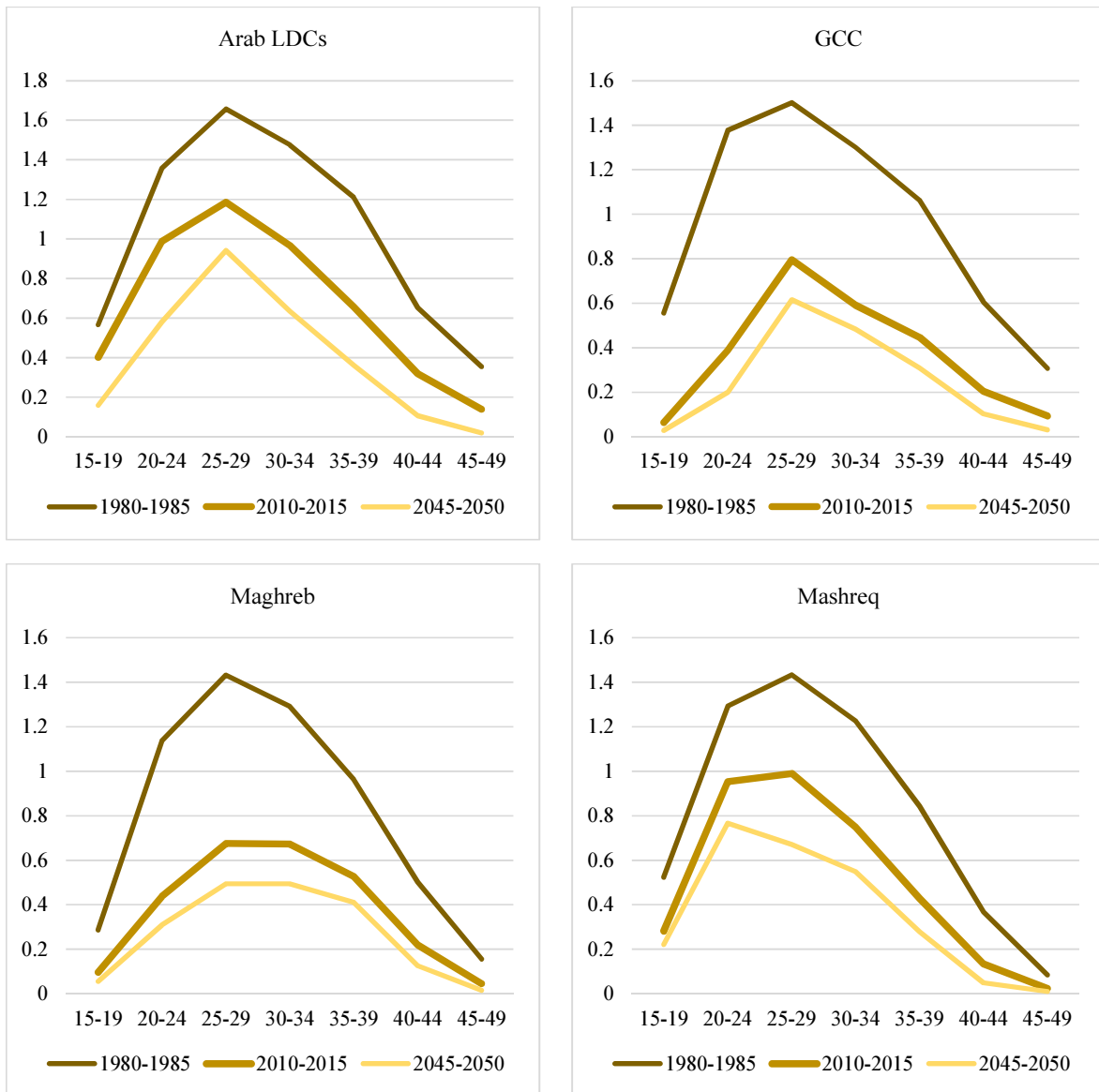


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

⁸ El-Zanaty and Way 2009; Egypt, Ministry of Health and Population and others, 2015.

The pattern of fertility in the different age groups is also interesting and varies between the Arab subregions (figure 8). In Arab LDCs and Mashreq countries, the fertility decline registered between 1980-1985 and 2010-2015 was more important in the 25-29 age group (-31 per cent) compared with the 20-24 age group (-26 per cent). This is unusual: in the more “classical” pattern of fertility transition, fertility declines among women of the 20-24 age group before it does among those aged 25-29 years. Higher averages of marriage age, together with non-demographic determinants such as family planning and participation in higher education and the labour force, lead to the postponement of fertility declines to later ages. This pattern reveals the persistence of quite high fertility at a young reproductive age in Arab countries, which could hinder further rapid fertility declines. In the GCC countries, fertility has declined between 1980-1985 and 2010-2015 for the age group 15-24, and women aged 25-29 years were the most fertile. The pattern was quite different in the Maghreb, where fertility peaked in 2010-2015 for both the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups.

Figure 8. Age-specific fertility rates by subregion, 1980-1985, 2010-2015, 2045-2050
(medium variant, percentage)

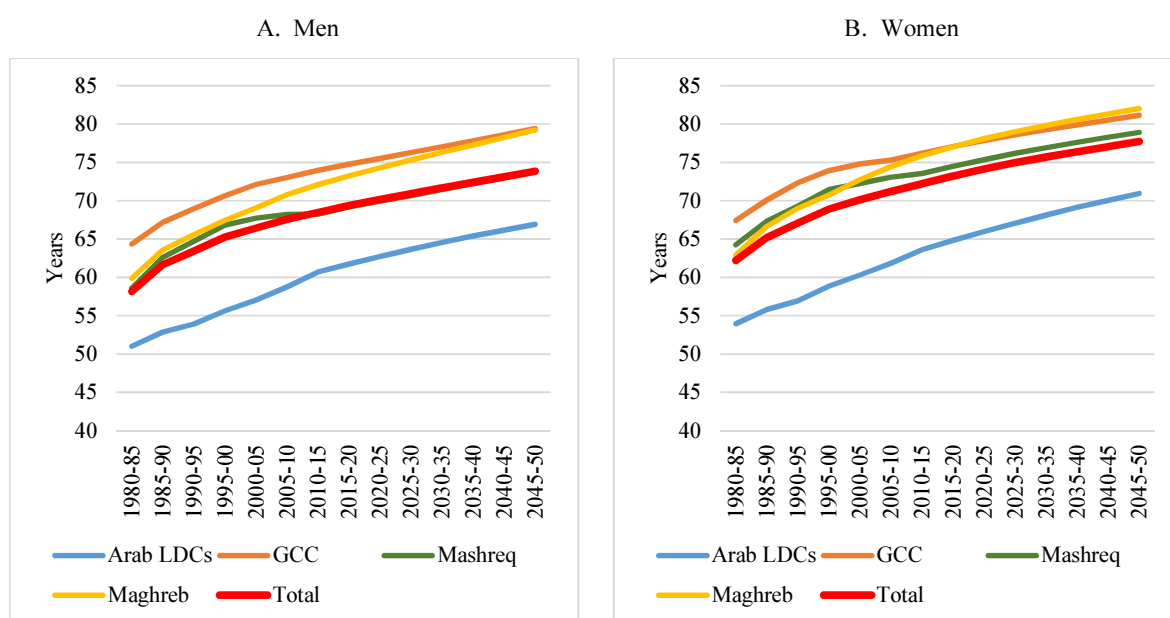


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

C. Mortality levels and trends

With life expectancy improving for men and women since the 1980s, the Arab region has generally been registering lower crude death rates (annex table 5A). Socioeconomic development has translated into progress in the reduction of deaths from infectious diseases and injuries in most countries, which are witnessing an epidemiological transition and the mounting burden of non-communicable diseases, such as heart diseases and mental disorders.⁹ Figure 9 shows that the Maghreb subregion has registered the biggest progress in terms of life expectancy and is on the path to achieving levels similar to those of the GCC countries. The Mashreq, on the other hand, has been experiencing a stall in mortality decline since 2005, due to the war in Iraq which has caused a two-year loss in life expectancy for men between 2000-2005 and 2005-2010 (0.9 years for women), and the war in the Syrian Arab Republic which has caused a loss of 8 years of life expectancy (1.1 years for women) between the same two periods. Arab LDCs still lag behind the other subregions in terms of life expectancy and are expected to bridge the gap very slowly in the coming years.

Figure 9. Life expectancy at birth by sex and subregion, 1980-2050 (medium variant)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Note: Data weighted by population.

In 2045-2050, Arab LDCs and Iraq will register life expectancies below 75 years for both sexes (Iraq, 74; Comoros, 70; Djibouti, 68; Somalia, 65; Sudan, 70; Mauritania, 67; and Yemen, 69). At the other end of the scale, life expectancy at birth will be above 80 years in Lebanon (87); Algeria (81); Morocco (81); Bahrain (81); Oman (84); Qatar (84); and the United Arab Emirates (83).

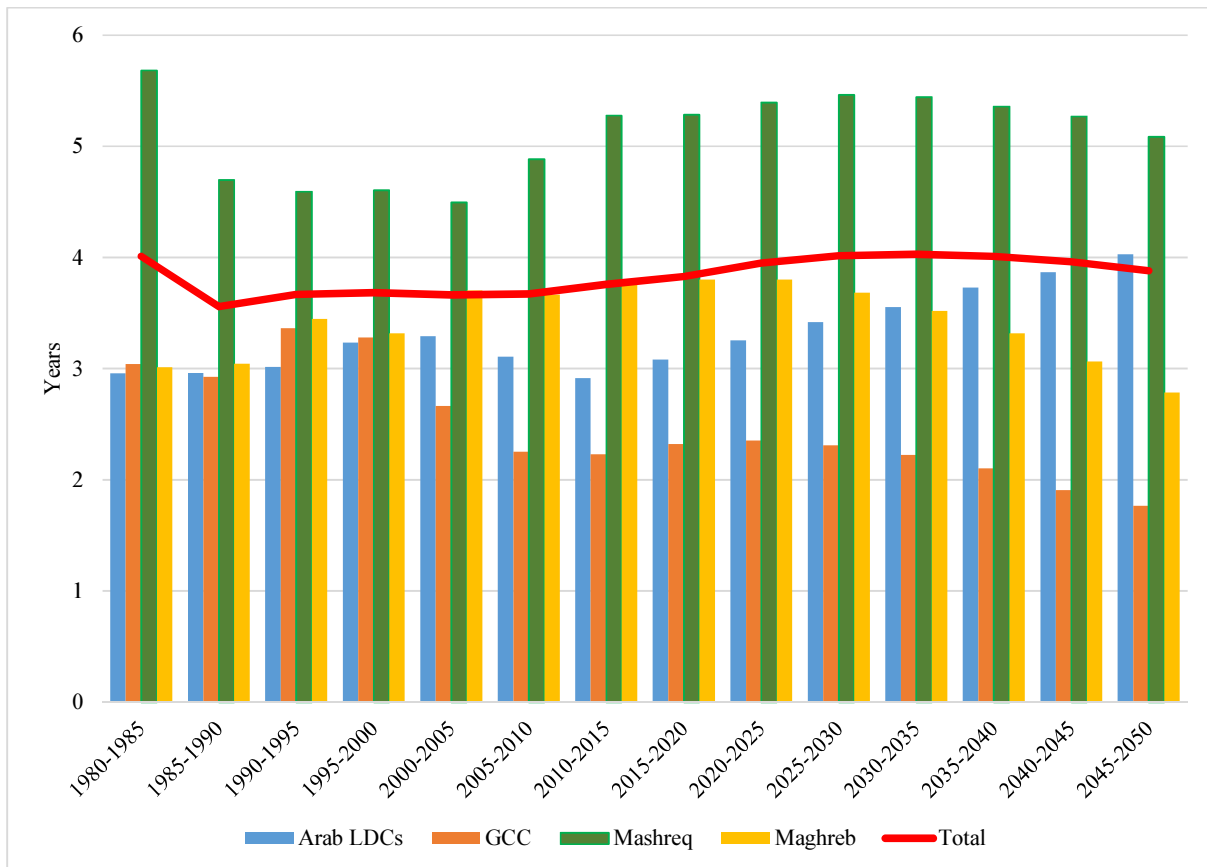
The difference in life expectancy between men and women is following different paths in the subregions (figure 10, annex tables 6A and 7A). In 1980-1985, women on average had a life expectancy of three years more compared with men in the Maghreb, GCC countries and Arab LDCs. In 2010-2015, the difference narrowed down to 2.2 years in GCC countries, increased to 3.8 years in the Maghreb, and stayed more or less constant at about 3 years in Arab LDCs. Mashreq countries stand out: the difference between men and women in terms of life expectancy is much bigger there. It was around 5.7 years in 1980-1985, mostly due to the high death toll of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). The gap was then narrowing down but was still above 4.5 years,

⁹ Mokdad and others, 2014.

but it started widening again after 2005 because of the wars in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, by which men are more affected than women.

The difference between life expectancies of women and men is expected to continue to decline in the GCC countries under the medium variant (+1.8 years in 2045-2050). It is also expected to decrease in the Maghreb after 2020 (+2.8 years in 2045-50). It is likely to increase in Arab LDCs to +4 years, but would still be largest in the Mashreq, with +5 years of life expectancy at birth for women compared with men.

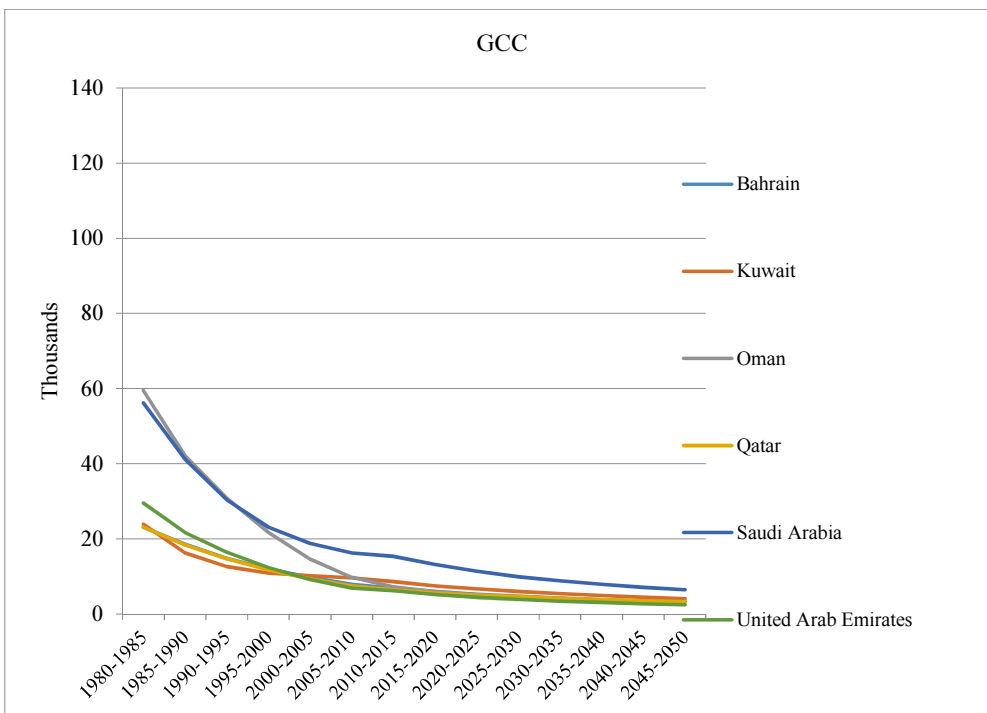
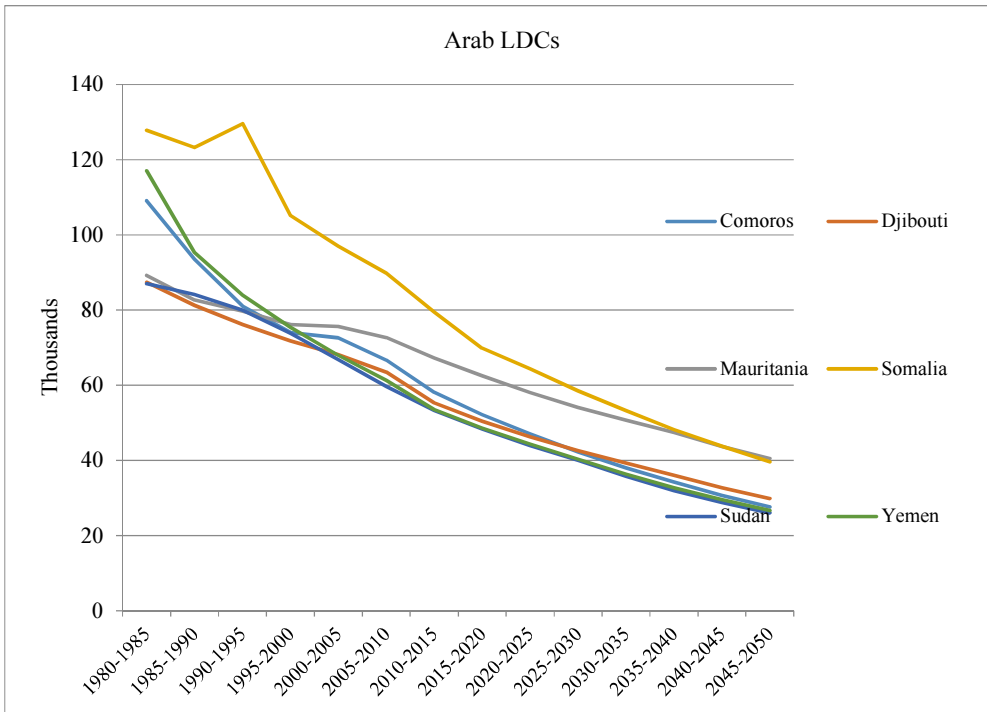
Figure 10. Gender gap in life expectancy at birth in the Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium variant)

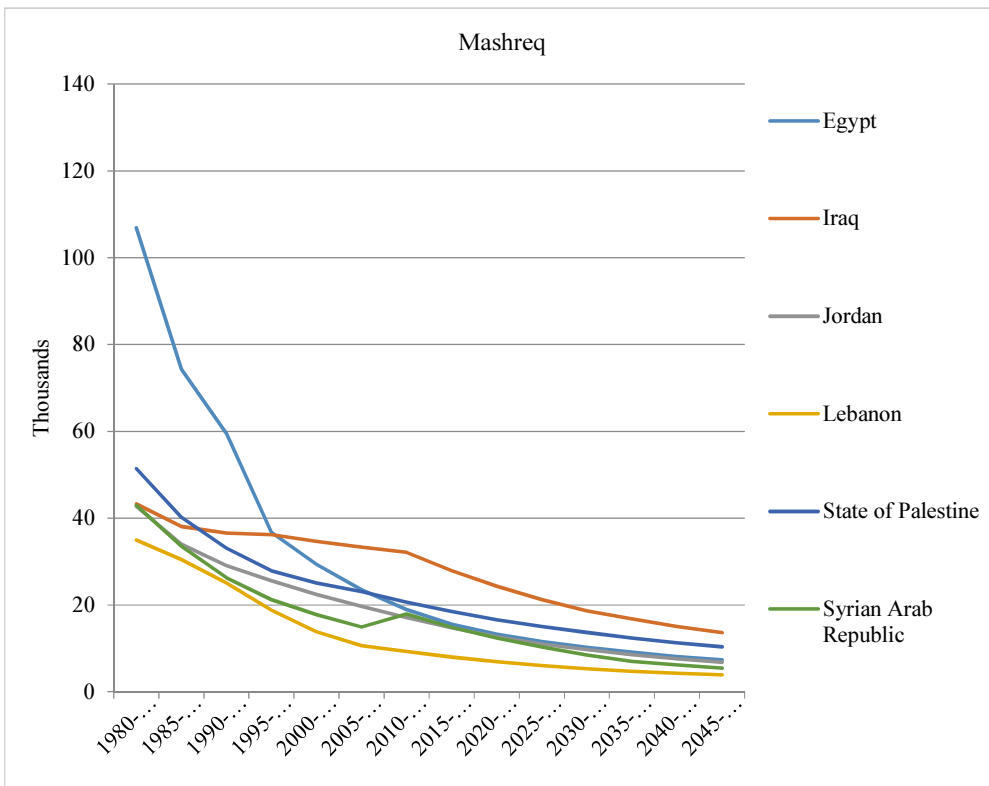
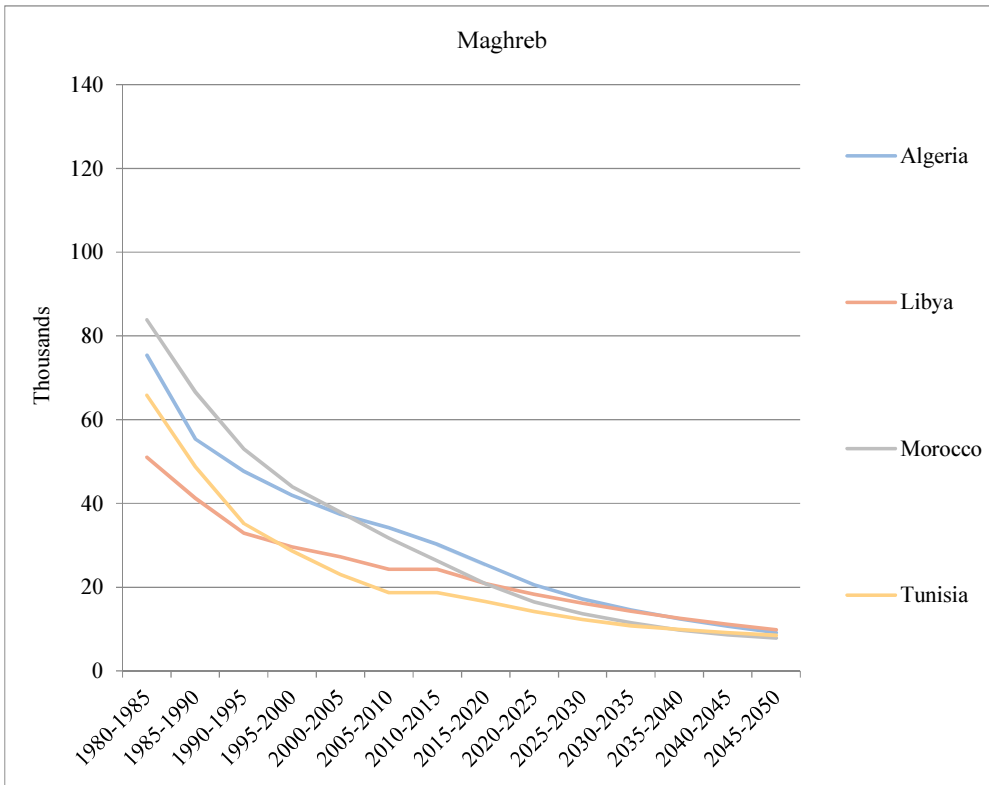


Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Infant mortality rates (annex table 8A) and child mortality rates (annex table 9A) show similar trends. The overall decline is the result of the increase in the level of socioeconomic development. Egypt had one of the highest infant mortality rates in the early 1980s and managed to reduce it by more than 80 per cent in 2015, from 107 to 19 deaths per 100,000 live births. Mortality was also greatly reduced in the GCC countries, with rates for infants of less than 9 deaths per 100,000 live births in all countries except Saudi Arabia (15 deaths per 100,000 live births). Children are also victims of war and have experienced a sudden increase in their mortality rates in countries such as Iraq, Libya, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic (figure 11).

Figure 11. Infant mortality by country, 1980-2050 (medium variant)





Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

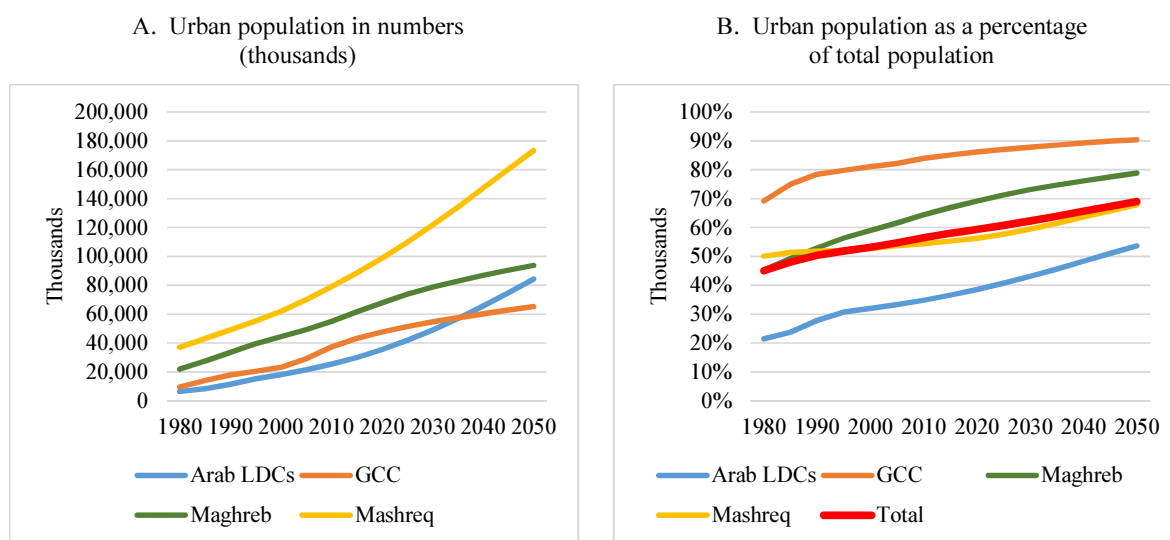
D. Population distribution

1. Urbanization

More than half of the Arab region's population has been living in urban settings since the 1990s. Only Arab LDCs remain mostly rural and are likely to be so until 2045, according to United Nations projections.¹⁰ The GCC subregion has been one of the most rapidly urbanizing in the world and has used its oil resources to achieve that change.¹¹ In 2015, 85 per cent of its population resided in an urban setting. Absolute numbers of city dwellers have also increased throughout the region (figure 12). The urban population of the Mashreq is estimated to have more than doubled between 1985 and 2015, from 43 to 89 million people. As for Arab LDCs and GCC countries, their urban population reached in 2015 more than four times its 1980 size.

In the Maghreb, the increase in the urban population has been occurring mostly in cities with 1-5 million inhabitants (figure 13). There are only seven large cities in the subregion: Casablanca, in which the number of inhabitants has increased from 2.1 million in 1980 to 3.5 million in 2015, Algiers (2.6 million inhabitants in 2015), Rabat (2.0 million), Tunis (2.0 million), Fes (1.2 million), Marrakech (1.1 million) and Tripoli (1.1 million). In Arab LDCs and GCC countries, some cities are growing to house 5-10 million people, such as Riyadh (6.4 million) and Khartoum (5.1 million). The Mashreq is the subregion with the highest concentration of large and megacities, such as Cairo (18.8 million inhabitants),¹² Bagdad (6.6 million), Alexandria (4.8 million), Aleppo (3.6 million), Damascus (2.6 million) and Beirut (2.2 million). Further urbanization is likely to take place until 2030, but no new megacities are likely to appear. These 2014 United Nations urbanization estimates do not take the impact of the wars in the Mashreq subregion into consideration. Vast proportions of the population of major Syrian cities have been internally displaced, or have left the country as refugees and have mostly fled to other Mashreq cities in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

Figure 12. Urban population in the Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050



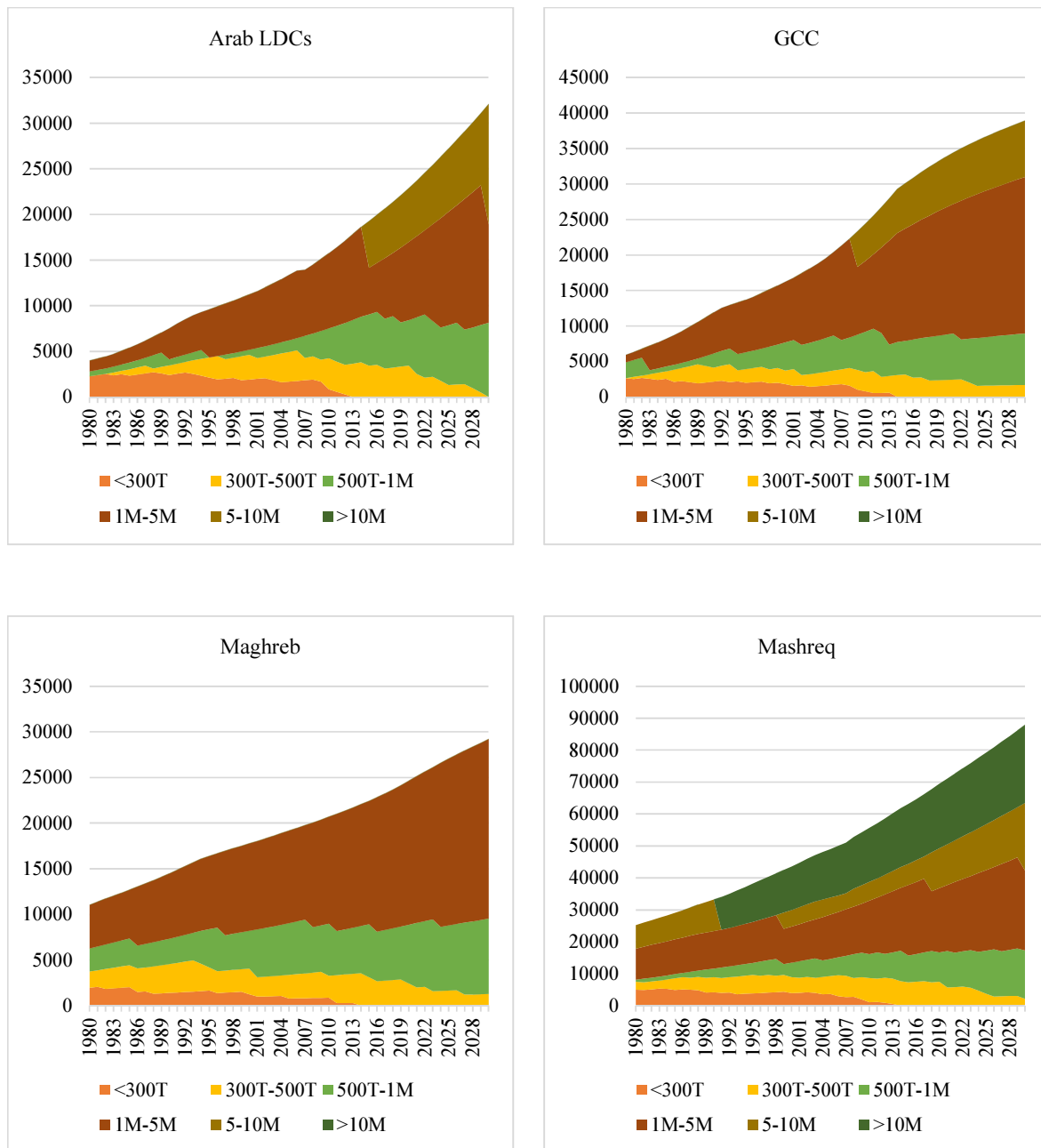
Source: United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision. Available from <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup> (accessed 30 September 2015).

¹⁰ Data from the World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision. Available from <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup>. Accessed 30 September 2015.

¹¹ El-Arifi, 1986.

¹² Typically megacities have above 10 million inhabitants.

Figure 13. Population of urban agglomerations with 300,000 inhabitants or more in 2014, Arab subregions, 1980-2030 (thousands)



Abbreviations: T, thousands; M, million.

Source: United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision. Available from <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup> (accessed 30 September 2015).

2. Rural-urban migration

In the period 1980-2000, rural zones of the Arab region were losing large segments of population, mostly as a result of migration to urban agglomerations. Such migration flows were less important after 2000, as shown in

annex table 10A, particularly in Djibouti, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Oman and Saudi Arabia, where the rate of decline of the percentage rural¹³ was less than -2 per cent, and in most cases -1 per cent.

3. *International migration*

International migration has always shaped the demographic profile of the Arab region, today even more so due to with the flows of asylum-seekers from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. Arab countries have also long been major destination countries for labour migrants. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in 2013, the region was hosting 13 per cent of the world's migrants and 3 in 10 migrants of the developing region (table 1).¹⁴ Between 2000 and 2013, Arab countries hosted 14 million new international migrants, bringing the total to nearly 30 million. In 2013, migrants represented 8 per cent of the population of Arab countries. Out of the 20 countries with at least one million inhabitants and hosting the highest proportion of international migrants in 2013, 8 were Arab countries. Among those were three Arab oil-producing countries: the United Arab Emirates, in which 84 per cent of the population were migrants, Qatar (74 per cent) and Kuwait (60 per cent). The share of international migrants and refugees is also above 40 per cent of the population in Jordan. In absolute terms, 3 Arab countries were among the 20 countries with the highest number of migrants in the world in 2013, namely Saudi Arabia (9.1 million migrants), the United Arab Emirates (7.8 million) and Jordan (2.9 million).

There are three distinct migration flows in the Arab region. Maghreb countries such as Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia have been important countries of origin of migrants to European countries since the 1960s. More recently, those countries have experienced new forms of migration and have become transit and destination countries for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

Mashreq countries have mostly been countries of origin for migrants to the oil-producing GCC countries, while also hosting refugees. GCC countries have been among the major world destinations of migrant workers since the oil boom in the 1970s. Those workers came mostly from Asia, notably India and Pakistan, but also from other Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Yemen. In 2013, 74 per cent of all migrants living in the Arab countries lived in the GCC countries, and Saudi Arabia alone accounted for 30 per cent. As for the Arab LDCs, they have mostly been countries of origin of migrants to the Maghreb and GCC countries.

The Arab region has one of the lowest shares of female migrants (37 per cent) compared with other regions, where women usually account for half of the migrant population. Only in the Comoros and the State of Palestine can one find a slightly higher share of women compared with men in 2013 among the stock of migrants. The share of women in the migrant population is declining across all countries compared to 2000, except in the case of the State of Palestine. However, women's share is expected to increase because of demand for employees in the health sector, and care and domestic services, especially in the GCC countries.

¹³ The percentage rural is the rural population as a percentage of the total population.

¹⁴ This section is based on Goujon and Barakat, 2010. Most data do not take into account the migration flows that have occurred after 2013 (the latest year for which United Nations data on migration are available), as a result of the continuing civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic and the turmoil in neighbouring countries, particularly in Iraq. There were about 4 million Syrians refugees in 2015. It is estimated that some 300,000 to 400,000 had fled to Europe, and that Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon hosted 90 per cent of Syrian refugees (Banulescu-Bogdan and Fratzke, 2015).

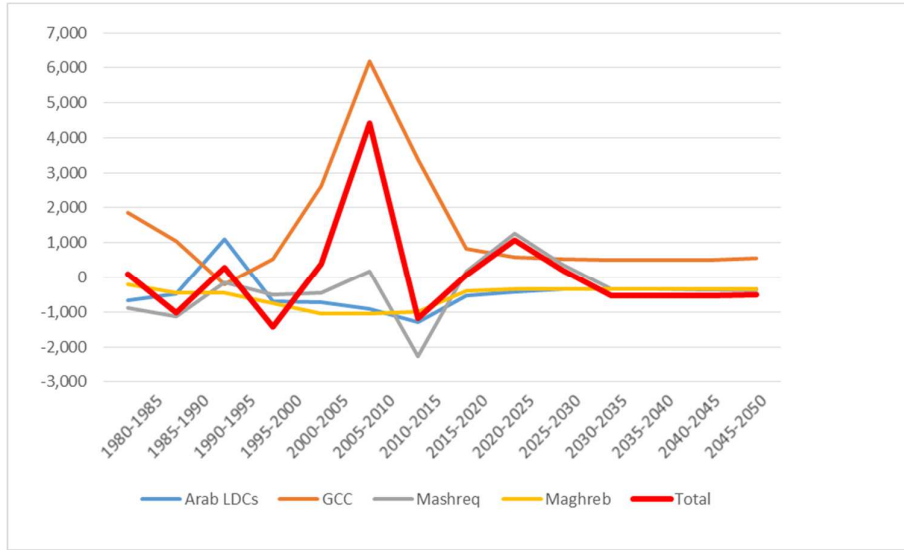
Table 1. Estimated number of international migrants in Arab countries, 2000, 2010 and 2013

Country	International migrants at mid-year	% women	% population	% refugees	Net migration rate(a) 1995-2000	International migrants at mid-year	% women	% population	% refugees	Net migration rate (a) 2005-2010	International migrants at mid-year	% women	% population	% refugees	Net migration rate (a) 2010-2015
	2000	2000	2000	2000		2010	2010	2010	2010		2013	2013	2013	2013	
Comoros	13799	52.8	2.6	0.1	-2.3	12618	52.0	1.8	0.0	-3.0	12511	51.7	1.7	0.0	-2.7
Djibouti	110201	47.1	15.2	21.1	-4.8	114188	44.9	13.7	13.2	-5.0	123537	44.5	14.2	16.5	-3.7
Somalia	20087	47.1	0.3	2.8	-2.9	23995	46.2	0.2	8.1	-7.8	24593	45.8	0.2	8.5	-7.9
Sudan	801883	49.7	2.3	51.7	-3.7	612663	49.1	1.7	29.1	-2.9	446707	49.2	1.2	31.2	-4.2
Mauritania	62593	42.0	2.3	0.5	0.8	89178	41.6	2.5	30.0	-1.2	90206	41.4	2.3	29.4	-1.0
Yemen	143495	43.8	0.8	42.2	-1.2	285837	40.7	1.3	66.5	0.0	314683	40.7	1.3	68.2	-0.4
Bahrain	244937	30.8	36.7	0.0	14.0	666172	27.8	53.2	0.0	59.5	729357	27.8	54.7	0.0	4.5
Kuwait	1500442	32.5	78.7	0.2	11.0	1871537	30.0	62.6	0.0	39.2	2028053	30.0	60.2	0.0	29.8
Oman	623608	20.8	28.4	0.0	-18.8	1017696	19.9	36.3	0.0	13.6	1112032	19.0	30.6	0.0	65.2
Qatar	470731	28.0	79.3	0.0	15.7	1456168	20.1	83.2	0.0	131.4	1600955	20.8	73.8	0.0	36.3
Saudi Arabia	5263388	33.2	26.1	0.1	0.6	8429983	29.6	30.9	0.0	6.2	9060433	29.0	31.4	0.0	5.7
United Arab Emirates	2446675	28.2	80.8	0.0	35.9	7316611	25.3	86.7	0.0	109.1	7826981	25.3	83.7	0.0	9.3
Egypt	169149	46.8	0.3	4.0	-0.6	280714	43.8	0.4	33.9	-0.7	297448	43.6	0.4	32.0	-0.5
Iraq	146910	31.1	0.6	87.4	-0.2	83111	30.1	0.3	41.7	-3.2	95780	29.8	0.3	36.7	3.3
Jordan	1927845	49.0	40.4	81.5	-8.3	2722983	49.2	42.2	87.1	15.2	2925780	49.3	40.2	87.7	6.5
Lebanon	692913	49.0	21.4	54.8	-1.9	820655	47.9	18.9	56.4	8.8	849721	47.6	17.6	55.9	49.1
State of Palestine	275202	54.7	8.6	..	4.8	258032	55.6	6.4	..	-4.7	256517	55.6	5.9	..	-2.0
Syrian Arab Republic	832273	49.0	5.1	46.6	-1.7	1661922	48.9	7.7	89.1	3.8	1394227	48.9	6.4	89.0	-41.1
Algeria	250110	45.2	0.8	67.0	-1.1	244964	45.2	0.7	38.4	-2.1	270407	45.0	0.7	34.8	-0.8
Libya	558770	35.5	10.8	2.0	0.3	699144	34.5	11.6	1.1	-2.7	755974	34.1	12.2	1.3	-16.0
Morocco	53124	50.1	0.2	2.8	-4.0	50113	48.3	0.2	1.6	-3.7	50771	47.7	0.2	1.4	-1.9
Tunisia	36212	49.8	0.4	1.2	-0.8	33583	49.7	0.3	0.3	-0.6	36526	49.2	0.3	11.2	-0.6

Sources: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2013 Revision (POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013, accessed 30 September 2015); and *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, DVD edition, 2015) for net migration rates marked (a).

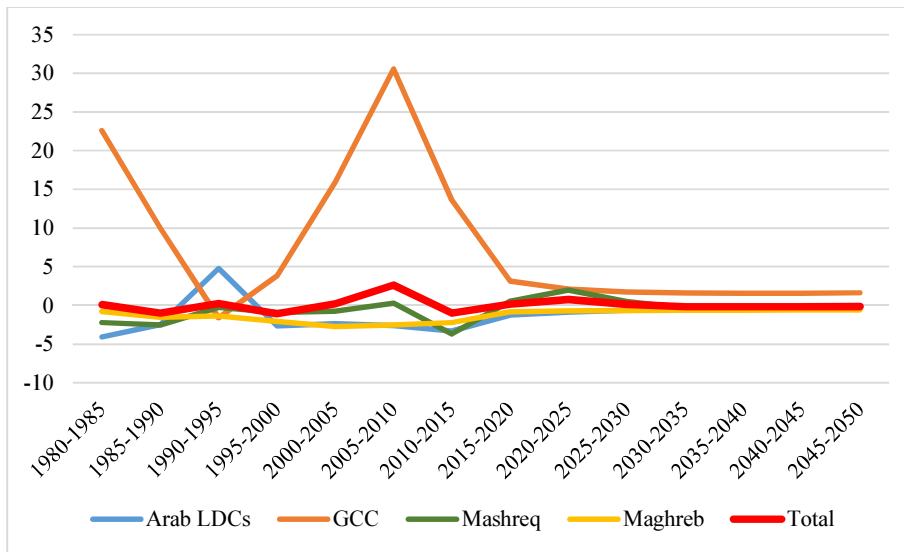
Notes: The 2000 estimates for the Sudan include South Sudan. The estimates for the State of Palestine include East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.

Figure 14. Net number of migrants in the Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050
(medium variant, thousands)



Source: Authors' calculations based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Figure 15. Net migration rate in the Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium variant)



Source: Authors' calculations based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

4. Displacement

Annex table 13A shows that the number of asylum-seekers and refugees, including people in refugee-like situations, has been rapidly increasing, particularly after the beginning of the Syrian war in 2011. Refugees and asylum-seekers originate mainly from five countries: the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and the State of Palestine, and Somalia and the Sudan. These five countries account for more than 95 per cent of all refugees in the period 2000-2014.

The war in the Syrian Arab Republic has generated a dramatic humanitarian situation. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),¹⁵ in December 2015, some 4.3 million Syrian were refugees and 6.6 million were internally displaced. Most Syrian refugees remained in the Middle East, in Turkey (2.1 million), Lebanon (1.1 million, representing more than a quarter of the Lebanese population), Jordan (600,000), Iraq (250,000), and Egypt (130,000). About 10 per cent had traveled to Europe, the majority to Germany and Sweden.

Irregular migration flows from sub-Saharan Africa through the Maghreb have become substantial, particularly since 2014, due to several conflicts in Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan and the Sudan, which have caused the displacement of large segments of the population.

Extreme migration flows as the ones witnessed currently can change the population size and composition of countries significantly compared with United Nations projections, particularly if the host country's population is of small size, like Lebanon or the GCC countries. There is uncertainty as to if and when such flows might slow down, and whether labour migrants would return to their home countries.

E. Age structure

The age pyramids presented in annex figure 1A show the structure of the population of Arab countries in terms of age and sex, and their evolution across time.

In 1980, most countries had a very young age structure, as shown by the large bases of the pyramids, and 44 per cent of the population belonged to the 0-14 age group (annex table 14A). The rest were overwhelmingly of working age (15-64 years old) and only 4 per cent were aged 65 and above, with 0.4 per cent were above 80 years old. The 1980s show quite homogenous features in terms of the age composition of the population, as most Arab societies had been experiencing many decades of high fertility.

In 2015, the patterns of demographic transition that were already in place in 1980 became more visible. Arab LDCs still had a very young age structure with more than 40 per cent of the population aged 0-14 years, with the exception of Djibouti, which had the lowest fertility rate of the subregion. In the Mashreq, more than one third of the population was in the 0-14 age group. The share was higher in Iraq (41 per cent), the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic (37 per cent), and lower in Lebanon (24 per cent). The Maghreb was more advanced in the demographic transition, with the share of young people in the population at 27 per cent, reaching as low as 23 per cent in Tunisia. The GCC countries had the lowest share of youth, ranging from 14 per cent in the United Arab Emirates to 21 per cent in Oman, and the working-age people represented 73 per cent of the population. However, the age structure of GCC countries is skewed by international labour migration.

The share of persons aged above 65 in the Arab region's population is still very low. In 2015, it was highest in Tunisia, at 8 per cent, but it was less than 5 per cent on average, and only 1 per cent of the population was above 80 years of age. If ageing was still not visible in 2015, it will be in 2050 under all fertility variants, as 11 per cent of the population will be above 65 years of age. The figure might not seem very high, as it equivalent to that registered in Europe in 1970 when ageing was not considered an issue, but that is due to subregional disparities. Indeed, only 6 per cent of the population in the Arab LDCs will be aged above 65, but the figure will actually be above 15 per cent in many other countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), reaching as high as 23 per cent in Lebanon and 20 per cent in Tunisia. The two countries will thus have surpassed faster ageing European countries, and will have registered levels higher than that of Japan in the period 2005-2010. The share of the region's population above the age of 80 will also increase to 2 per cent; it will even reach 7 per cent in Lebanon where progress in life expectancy is expected to be fastest.

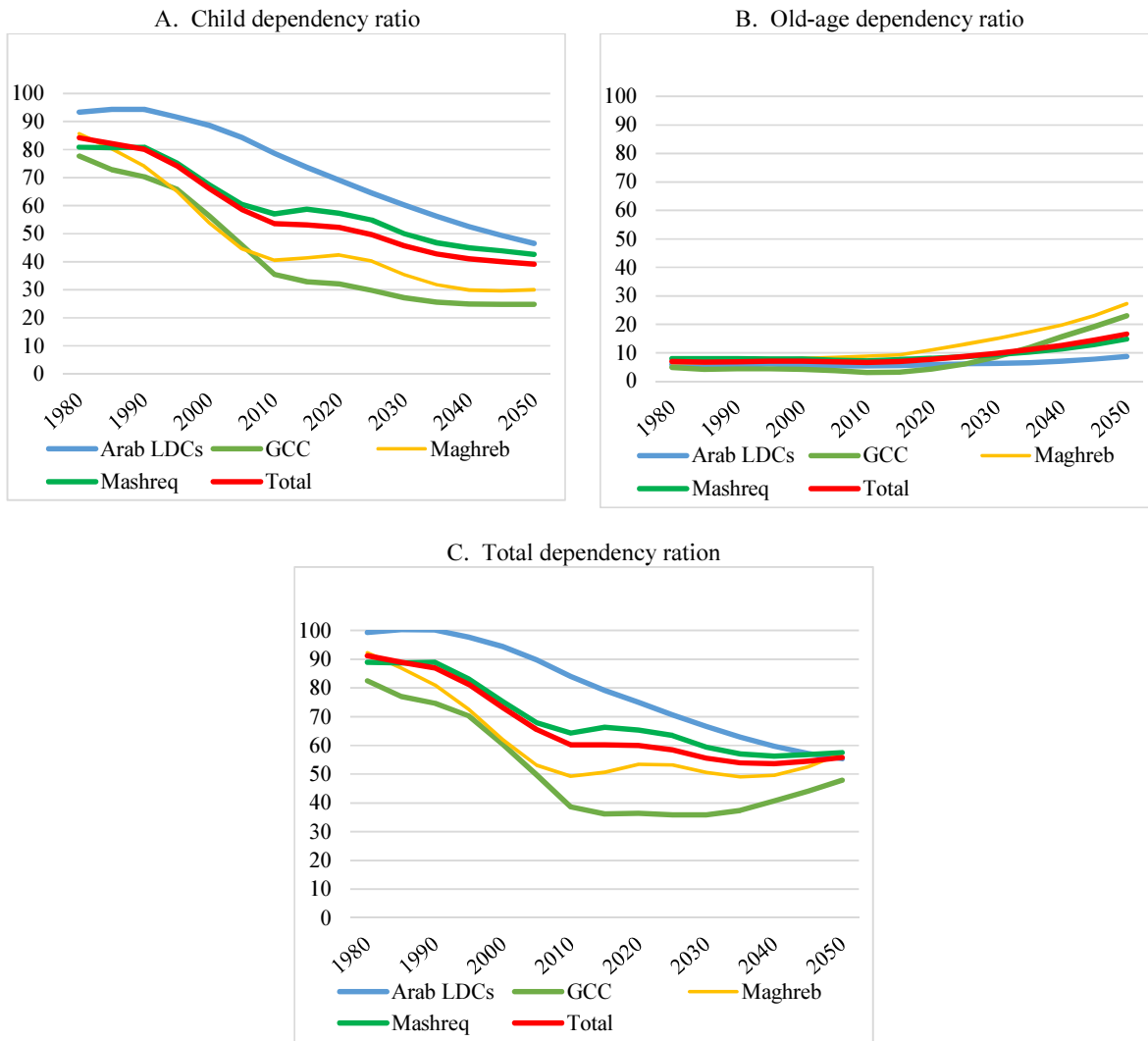
¹⁵ See <http://www.unocha.org/syria>.

Dependency ratios

The age structure of a population affects the dependency ratio, which measures the ratio of the not-productive population, i.e. children (aged 0-14 years) and older persons (aged 65+), to the productive population of working age (15-64 years).¹⁶

As shown in figure 16, the total dependency ratio fell from 91 dependents per 100 persons of working age in 1980 to 60 in 2010. Two changes occurred after that: first, child dependency ratios, which were declining very fast and driving the drop in the total dependency ratio, started decreasing at a slower pace as a result of stalling fertility. Secondly, the old-age dependency ratio, which was stable at a low level until 2010, started increasing at a faster pace. As a result, from 2010 onwards, the total dependency ratio remained at about 60 dependents for 100 persons of working age. Under the medium variant, the total dependency ratio will further decrease until 2040 and then start increasing again.

Figure 16. Dependency ratio in the Arab region and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium variant)



Source: Authors' calculations based on United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

¹⁶ The age groups can be set differently for the dependency ratio calculations (0-19 years for children or 15-60 years for the working age, for example), but those settings do not affect substantively the demographic change trends described in this section.

In the Arab LDCs, since population growth through high fertility and limited progress in mortality are still dominant traits, the child and total dependency ratios are higher compared with other subregions, but have also been declining steadily since 1990. The level of 60 dependents for 100 persons of working age is expected to be reached around 2040 in the subregion.

The total dependency ratio is lowest in GCC countries (below 40 dependents for 100 persons of working age in 2015), with the population consisting overwhelmingly of men of working age as a result of labour migration. It is higher in the Maghreb (51/100 in 2015), the group of countries where ageing of the population is more visible than in other subregions, and higher still in the Mashreq (66/100 in 2015). However, those les mauvaises impressions des gens qui nous entourent. les mauvaises impressions des gens qui nous entourent. three subregions are expected to experience little change until 2030 under the medium variant. After that year, their total dependency ratios will increase, chiefly as a result of an increase in the old-age dependency ratio.

F. Concluding remarks

Two main results emerge from the analysis of demographic trends in the Arab region. The first is that the region's features have changed quite rapidly with socioeconomic development. There were substantial declines in fertility and mortality rates and, consequently, substantial ageing in a majority of countries. This trend is likely to continue until 2050. The Arab LDCs, where poverty levels remain high, are at an earlier stage of the demographic transition and will converge slowly towards the demographic features observed in the rest of the region.

The second result of the analysis is the uncertainty about future trends, due to the conflicts that have been affecting large segments of the population in the Arab region. The Maghreb, Mashreq and Arab LDCs have been directly stricken, which is affecting the mortality rates of children and adults, but also the rates of internal and external displacement. Hence, the population figures and projections that are reported should be appraised carefully.

II. REALIZING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

A. Introduction

Economists have long discussed the direction and importance of the impact of population growth on economic growth. Over time, the perception of that impact has changed from negative to positive. In the 1980s, several analyses concluded that there was neither a positive nor a negative correlation between the two. According to Bloom and Williamson (1998), and Bloom, Canning and Sevilla (2003), changes in the age composition of a population, not population growth, can have an effect on economic performance. When the working-age population grows faster than the overall population, the economy is positively affected. It is the case during the intermediate phase of the demographic transition.

B. Demographic dividend: concept and calculations

1. Definition

A demographic transition can create an economic advantage for a society when the largest share of its population is in the productive age bracket. The transition, which is a change from high to low fertility and mortality levels, entails significant changes in the population's age composition. It sets out with a decline in mortality thanks to medical advances, which increases the number of surviving children in a family. There is usually a time lag before couples adjust their fertility downwards; the transition thus also includes a phase of population growth during which the share of infants and children in the population rises. This increases the economic burden on persons of working age. In the intermediate phase of the transition, fertility and population growth start to decrease. The share of the working-age population grows and rates of child dependency decline, with the number of elderly remaining relatively small. The final stage of the demographic transition begins when mortality and fertility both reach low levels: the working-age population no longer grows but instead starts ageing.¹⁷ Industrialized countries already went through this transition, whereas other countries are still in the early and intermediate stages.

The link between changes in a country's age composition and its economic performance stems from the fact that persons of different ages adopt different economic behaviours. Young persons need support to access health and education services, whereas the elderly need health care and a retirement income of some sort. Persons of working age have labour earnings and savings.¹⁸ During the intermediate phase of the demographic transition, with the share of the working-age population growing, the number of elderly still being small and the number of dependent children declining, freeing up resources that can be invested in economic development or family welfare becomes possible.¹⁹ Financial resources become available to Governments and households, and per capita income rises.

According to Bloom, Canning and Sevilla (2003), the most important mechanisms through which the demographic dividend works are labour supply, savings and human capital. Potential labour supply is high when the population of working age constitutes the largest proportion of the overall population. With declining fertility and smaller family sizes, women are also more likely to be economically active. The degree to which people of working age save money depends on several factors, but it can be expected that households with more resources available due to smaller family sizes increase savings, which is beneficial for investment. If the State invests in health programmes for children, this will lower infant and child mortality, and with children increasingly surviving to adult age, families become smaller.²⁰ Increased life expectancy and a lower number of children create incentives for parents to invest more in the health and education of their children. This will

¹⁷ Bloom and Williamson, 1998; National Transfer Accounts (NTA), 2012.

¹⁸ Bloom, Canning and Sevilla, 2003.

¹⁹ Mason and Lee, 2006.

²⁰ Gribble and Bremner, 2012.

push demographic trends towards lower levels of fertility. Finally, a healthier and better-educated work force is more productive, and due to the positive association between education and wages, income will increase.

However, changes in the age structure alone do not guarantee higher productivity and accelerated economic growth; they offer only the potential for it. The above-described mechanisms require an enabling social and economic policy environment and investments so that their full potential and the demographic dividend are realized.²¹ Large numbers of potential workers can only be productive if the supply for labour meets the demand, which requires sound macroeconomic policies and flexibility in the labour market. The incentive for people to save depends, among other things, on the existence of a financial system that allows and encourages them to do so. Investing in children's health and education is only possible through an adequate institutional set-up.

Creating a macroeconomic environment in which employment is available to large numbers of young people is essential to reap the benefits of the first demographic dividend. If opportunities are not created for workers to productively contribute to the economy, the demographic dividend will not materialize. A prerequisite for this is the investment in young people's health and education, since only then are they endowed with the human capital necessary to become productive workers.

A second demographic dividend, based on individuals' accumulation of wealth, has been defined. It occurs when people of working age accumulate assets, such as pension funds or property, in order to provide for their retirement needs,²² particularly when the family or government are not expected to provide for such needs. Accumulation of wealth will have positive effects on economic growth, and unlike the first dividend that ends once the age structure becomes unfavorable, the second dividend can last endlessly.

2. Calculation of the demographic dividend

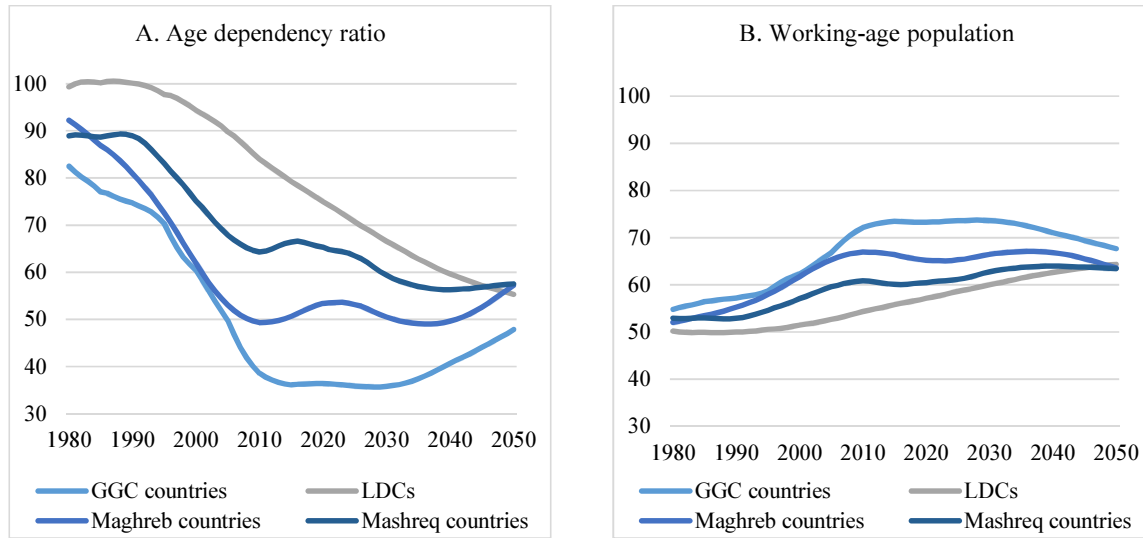
As previously mentioned, the total or age dependency ratio, defined as the ratio of persons aged less than 15 and more than 64 years to the persons of working age (15-64 years), has started to decrease in the Arab region since 1980, and is expected to do so until 2050. Arab LDCs even show a monotonic decline of that ratio, while in the other three subregions there is a slight increase starting 2012 (figure 17A). GCC countries, which host high numbers of migrant workers, have the lowest age dependency ratio in the period 2010-2030, with less than 40 dependents per 100 persons of working age. All subregions show a general trend of higher shares of working-age persons in the population over time (figure 17B).

The decrease in the age dependency ratio together with an increase in the working-age population creates an opportunity to boost savings and investments. This phenomenon is referred to as the window of opportunity for a demographic dividend. The methodologies adopted to estimate the first demographic dividend have varied between researchers and over time; however, the degree to which economic dependency changes over an individual's life course has been always included in the calculations. At young and older ages, individuals are mainly consumers, supported through transfers—public and private—from persons of working age or making use of previous savings. Most persons of working age, on the other hand, are consumers and producers at the same time. Some calculations of the demographic dividend are based solely on demographic data, while others include dependency ratios with crude weights to account for the fact that people have varying degrees of dependency at different ages.

²¹ Bloom, Canning and Sevilla, 2003.

²² Mason and Lee, 2006.

Figure 17. Age dependency ratio (A) and share of the working-age population (B) in Arab subregions, 1980-2050 (percentage)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*.

Elaborate approaches were presented by Mason (2005), Mason and Kinugasa (2008), Mason and Lee (2012), and Prskawetz and Sambt (2014). Persons of different ages were weighted according to empirical estimates of their consumption and production behaviours. The effective number of producers (i.e. the effective labour force) and the effective number of consumers were estimated. The support ratio, i.e. the number of producers to the number of consumers, was calculated by country. A positive growth rate of that ratio indicated the first demographic dividend or demographic window of opportunity (the growth rate is positive when the number of producers grows faster than the number of consumers).²³ This paper adopts the same method to determine the first demographic dividend.

Specifically, the growth rate of the support ratio is defined as: $L(t)/N(t)$, in which the effective number of producers (L) and the effective number of consumers (N) within a country are defined as such:

$$L(t) = \sum_x \gamma(x)P(x, t) \quad \text{and} \quad N(t) = \sum_x \alpha(x)P(x, t)$$

where $P(x, t)$ represents the number of people aged x in year t , $\gamma(x)$ is the age profile of labour income, and $\alpha(x)$ is the age profile of consumption. Both age profiles are held constant over time.²⁴

Age-specific data for production and consumption profiles ($\gamma(x)$, $\alpha(x)$) come from the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) project.²⁵ Production is estimated by labour income. Normalized age profiles of consumption and labour income are available for 23 countries only, none in the Arab region.²⁶ Countries in the database were split up into high-income and non-high-income ones, based on the World Bank classification.²⁷

²³ Mason, 2005.

²⁴ Prskawetz and Sambt, 2014.

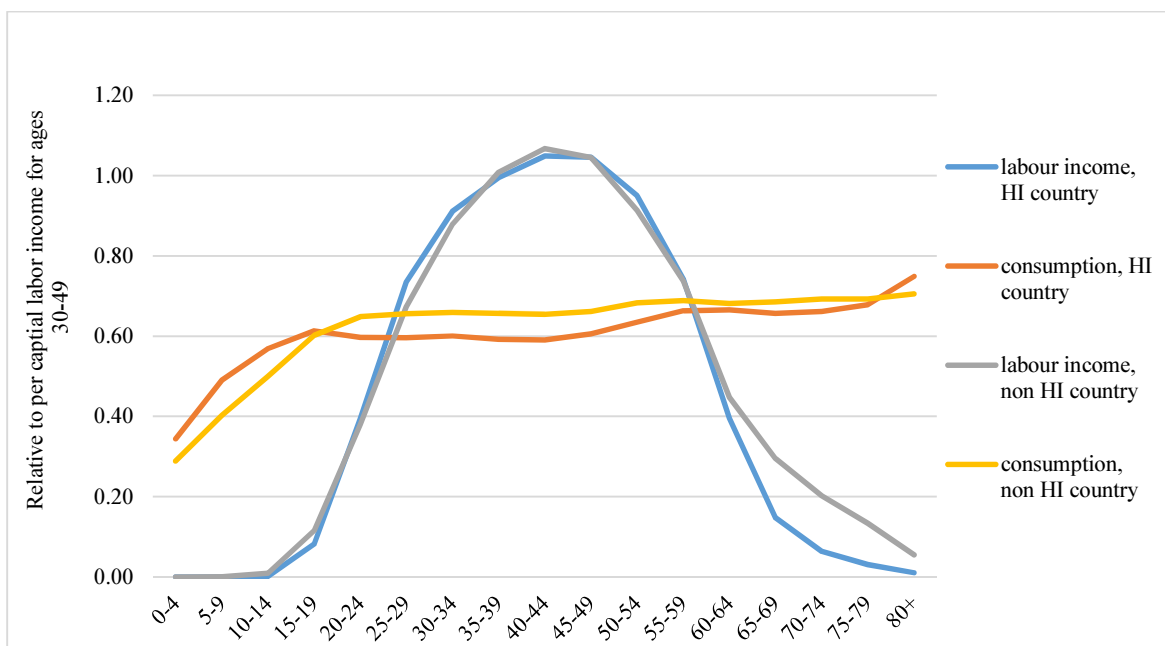
²⁵ See <http://www.ntaccounts.org>.

²⁶ See <http://www.ntaccounts.org/web/nta/show/Consumption%20and%20Labor%20Income%20Profiles%20Release>. Country-specific consumption and labour income profiles are normalized on the per capita labour income of persons aged 30-49 years.

²⁷ See <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>.

Simple age-specific averages of consumption and labour income were calculated for the two country groups.²⁸ Figure 18 shows that differences only appear at certain ages: above 60 years old, labour income is significantly lower in high-income countries, as is consumption at younger ages. In both country groups, persons aged 55-59 years have a relative labour income of about three fourths (74 per cent) of those aged 30-49 years. One advantage of calculating the demographic dividend in this way is that no arbitrary age thresholds have to be set for dependency. The thresholds at which persons are net consumers or net producers can be found by looking at the ages where labour income and production profiles intersect.

Figure 18. Normalized per capita consumption and labour income by age group, high-income and non-high-income countries



Abbreviation: HI, high-income.

Source: Authors' calculations based on data from the National Transfer Account project. Available from <http://www.ntaccounts.org> (accessed February 2015).

Note: Original data by single years of age were aggregated using simple averages for 5-year age groups.

The average profiles of labour income and consumption were then used as age-specific weights that were applied to population data on Arab countries from the United Nations *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, resulting in the effective number of producers and consumers for each country over the period 1980-2050.²⁹ The applied weights, presented in table 2, were kept constant while population data varied over time.³⁰

²⁸ The 13 high-income countries considered are Austria, Chile, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Slovenia, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Uruguay and the United States of America. The 10 non-high-income countries are Brazil, China, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines and Thailand.

²⁹ The weights of high-income countries were only applied for Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (GCC countries).

³⁰ Further details on the calculation method are provided in NTA, 2012; Prskawetz and Sambt, 2014; and on the NTA website, available from www.ntaccounts.org.

Table 2. Age-specific weights of labour income and consumption, high-income and non-high-income countries

Age	High-income countries		Non high-income countries	
	Labour income	Consumption	Labour income	Consumption
0-4	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.29
5-9	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.40
10-14	0.00	0.57	0.01	0.50
15-19	0.08	0.61	0.12	0.60
20-24	0.39	0.60	0.38	0.65
25-29	0.73	0.60	0.67	0.66
30-34	0.91	0.60	0.88	0.66
35-39	0.99	0.59	1.01	0.66
40-44	1.05	0.59	1.07	0.65
45-49	1.05	0.61	1.05	0.66
50-54	0.95	0.63	0.91	0.68
55-59	0.74	0.66	0.74	0.69
60-64	0.40	0.67	0.45	0.68
65-69	0.15	0.66	0.30	0.68
70-74	0.06	0.66	0.20	0.69
75-79	0.03	0.68	0.13	0.69
80+	0.01	0.75	0.05	0.71

Source: Authors' calculations based on data from the National Transfer Account project. Available from <http://www.ntaccounts.org/web/nta/show/Consumption%20and%20Labor%20Income%20Profiles%20Release> (accessed February 2015).

One limitation in our calculation of the demographic dividend is that it is based on the production and consumption patterns of non-Arab countries. Still, in the absence of country-specific data, the approach adopted here provides good regional estimates. Sensitivity analyses in Mason (2005) indeed showed that variation in production and consumption weights did not matter for general conclusions drawn from calculations of regional demographic dividend estimates. However, empirical data from Africa have also shown that young people there have much lower incomes compared with mid-age earners in Asia or Latin America, which dampens the potential of the demographic dividend.³¹ Income profiles based on data from non-Arab countries might thus lead to an overestimation of the demographic dividend in the Arab region. Reliable country-specific data are essential for the provision of sound policy advice.

C. Demographic dividend in Arab countries

This section will only present results for the Maghreb, Mashreq and Arab LDCs. The reasons are manifold: the high and fluctuating number of labour migrants in GCC countries affects past and future population estimates and leads to an erratic behavior of the support ratio. This makes it hard, if not impossible, to define starting and ending points for the window of opportunity. Moreover, substantial proportions of the income of labour migrants are transferred to their home countries outside the subregion, and many older migrants return to their home countries upon retirement. Results for GCC countries are thus not reported.

1. Subregional overview

In the Maghreb countries, an increase of the ratio of the effective number of producers to the effective number of consumers can be observed from 1980 until about 2020. The annual growth of the support ratio is expected to remain positive until 2021 (table 3 figure 19). Therefore, the window of opportunity opened in 1981, or even before that year, and is expected to close in 2021. The window of opportunity opened in 1984 for Mashreq countries and is expected to close after 2050 (table 3, figure 20). The Arab LDCs saw their window of opportunity for a demographic dividend opening last, in 1991, and it is not expected to close before 2050 (table 3, figure 21).

³¹ NTA, 2012.

Table 3. Time span of the demographic window of opportunity by subregion

Subregion	Opening year	Closing year
Maghreb	1981	2021
Mashreq	1984	---
Arab LDCs	1991	---

Source: Authors' calculations.

Figure 19. Maghreb: support ratio and its annual growth rate, 1980-2050

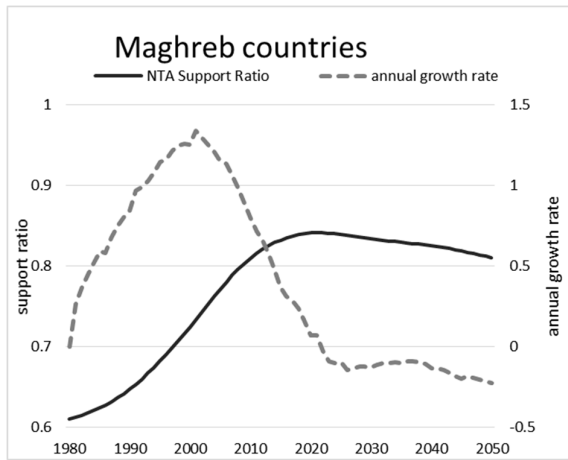


Figure 20. Mashreq: support ratio and its annual growth rate, 1980-2050

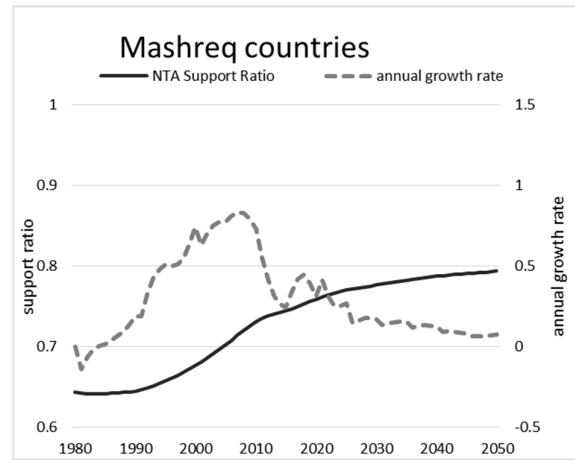
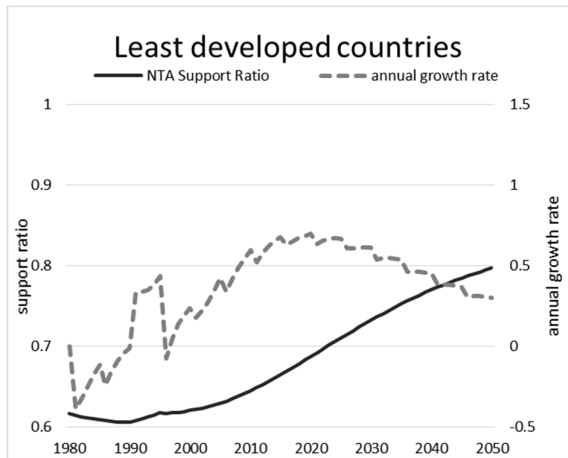


Figure 21. Arab LDCs: support ratio and its annual growth rate, 1980-2050



Source: Authors' calculations.

2. Window of opportunity by country

Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia had a significant increase in the support ratio between 1980 and 2020, with Tunisia having the highest ratio over that period (figure 22). The window of opportunity opened for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in 1981, or even before that year, and Libya followed in 1982. It is expected to close first for Tunisia in 2019, followed by Algeria in 2021 and in Morocco and Libya in 2025 (table 4).

All six Mashreq countries showed an increase of the support ratio until 2030 or even later on (figure 23). A positive growth rate of the ratio can be observed from the early 1980s for all six countries as well (figure 25 and figure 26). Interestingly, the demographic window will close in 2028 for Lebanon only, remaining open for the other five Mashreq countries beyond 2050 (table 5, figure 26).

Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen are a very diverse group. They have started being in their window of opportunity at very different points in time, some in the early 1980s (such as Djibouti, Mauritania and the Sudan), and others around 1990 (such as the Comoros and Yemen). This kind of variation was not observed in other subregions. Between 1980 and 2010, the ratio of the effective number of producers to the effective number of consumers decreased in Somalia (figure 24). Therefore, the demographic window of opportunity opened only recently, in 2013, in that country (figure 25, table 6). The annual growth rate of the support ratio is expected to remain positive for all countries beyond 2050, with the exception of Djibouti, where it might become negative in 2046 (table 6, figure 26).

Figure 22. Support ratio in countries of the Maghreb, 1980-2050

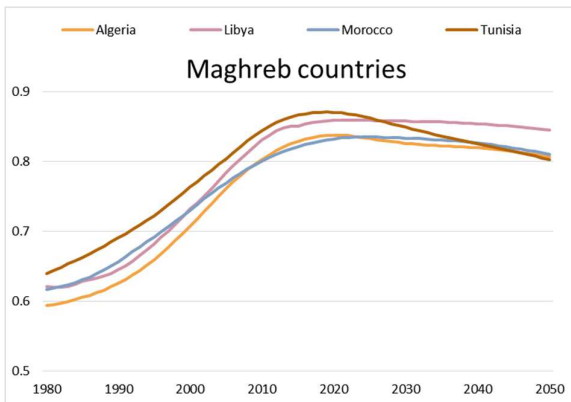


Figure 23. Support ratio in countries of the Mashreq, 1980-2050

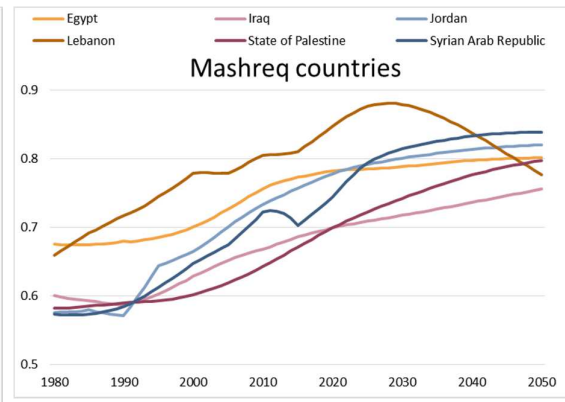
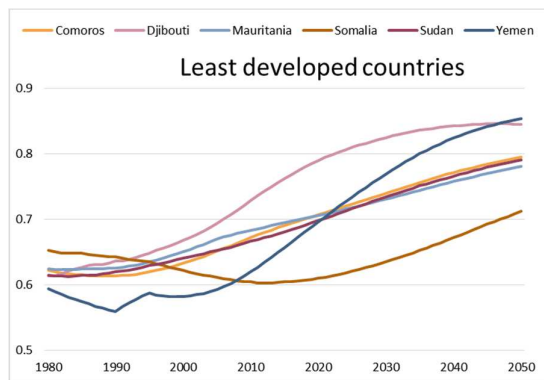
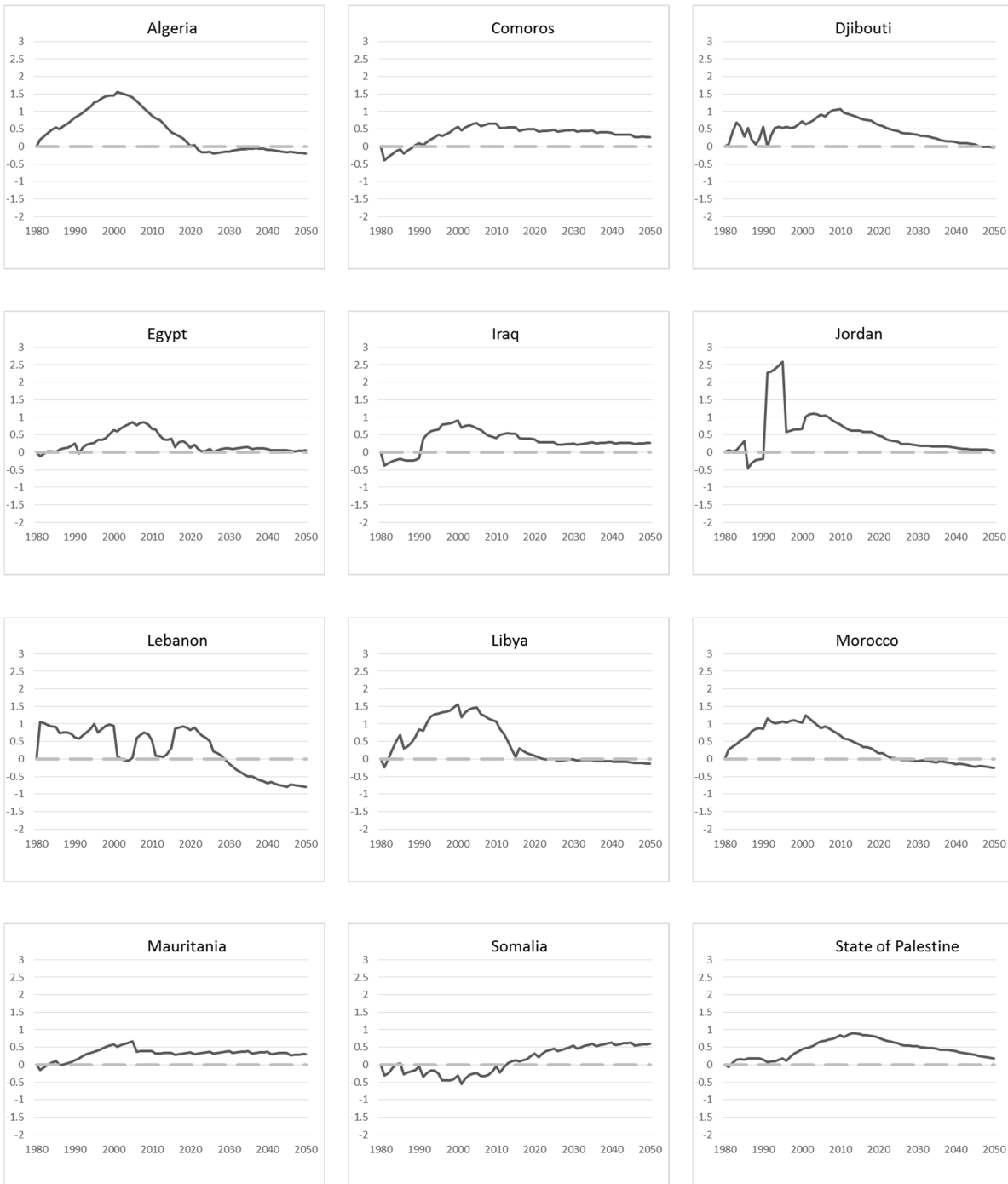


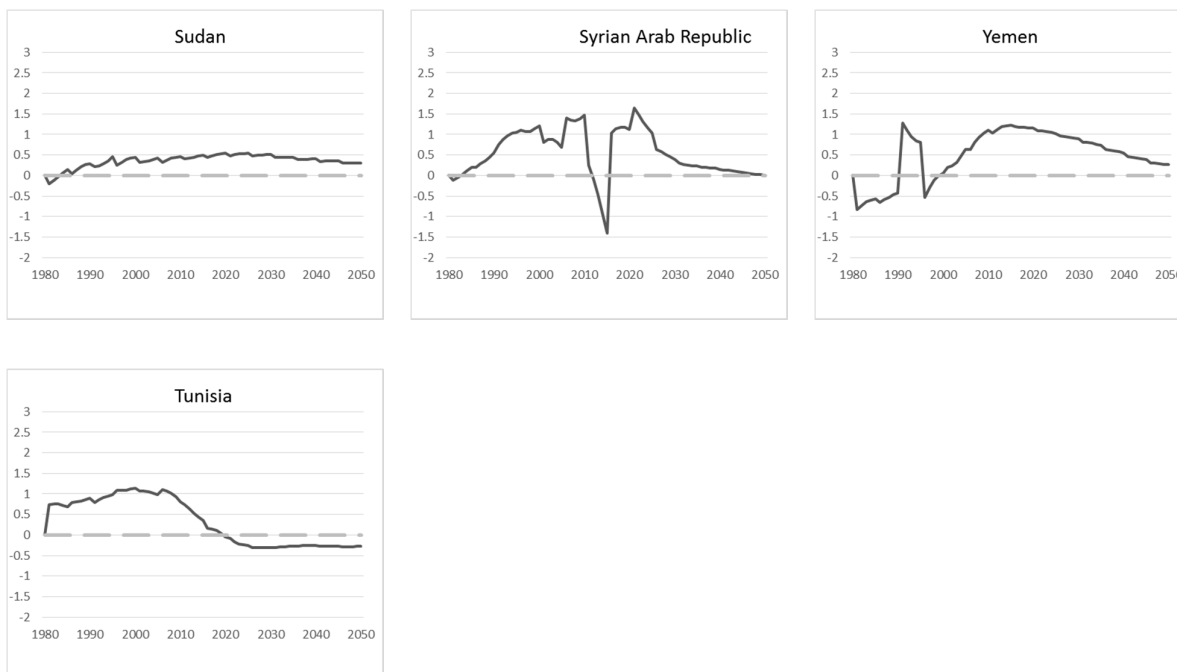
Figure 24. Support ratio in Arab LDCs, 1980-2050



Source: Authors' calculations.

Figure 25. Growth rate of the support ratio in Arab countries, 1980-2050 (percentage)





Source: Authors' calculations.

Table 4. Time span of the demographic window of opportunity in Maghreb countries

Country	Opening year	Closing year
Algeria	1981	2021
Libya	1982	2025
Morocco	1981	2025
Tunisia	1981	2019

Source: Authors' calculations.

Table 5. Time span of the demographic window of opportunity in Mashreq countries

Country	Opening year	Closing year
Egypt	1983	---
Iraq	1991	---
Jordan	1981	---
Lebanon	1981	2028
State of Palestine	1982	---
Syrian Arab Republic	1983	---

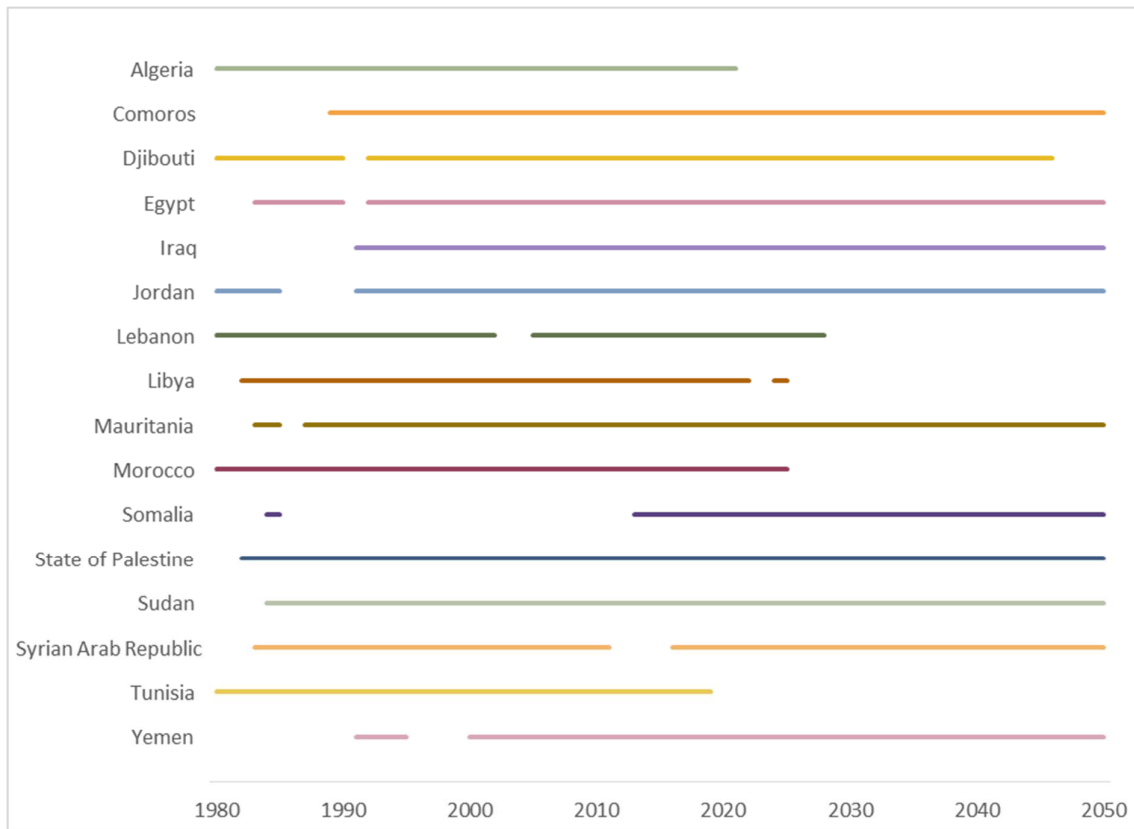
Source: Authors' calculations.

Table 6. Time span of the demographic window of opportunity in Arab LDCs

Country	Opening year	Closing year
Comoros	1989	---
Djibouti	1981	2046
Mauritania	1983	---
Somalia	2013	---
Sudan	1984	---
Yemen	1991	---

Source: Authors' calculations.

Figure 26. Demographic window of opportunity time span in Maghreb, Mashreq and Arab least developed countries between 1980 and 2050



Source: Authors' calculations.

Between 1980 and 2050, the demographic window of opportunity is expected to open in each of the 16 investigated Arab countries. For some it will close during that period, but for the majority, it is projected to stay open beyond it. Actual age-specific profiles were not available for these countries. To check for the robustness of results, a sensitivity analysis was undertaken. High-income country profiles were applied to the 16 countries instead of the non-high-income ones. Only Algeria and Egypt showed discrepancies, with a shift in the closing of the window to 2038 for Algeria and 2043 for Egypt. The closing of the demographic window for the remaining countries stayed constant or varied only up to a maximum of four years (in countries such as Libya, Morocco and Tunisia).

III. DEVELOPMENT POLICIES FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

Research about the demographic dividend focuses mainly on two parts of the world: Asia and Africa. In Asia, an unprecedented rapid demographic transition and subsequent economic miracle have attracted a lot of interest in the relationship between population dynamics and economic growth. Bloom and Williamson (1998) estimate that demography accounts for a third to half the growth experienced as “East Asia’s economic miracle”, depending on how the miracle is defined. It is undisputed that population dynamics played an important role in the economic performance of East Asia in the intermediate phase of its demographic transition. Africa has come into focus recently, because many countries there are still at the first stage or the very beginning of the second stage of the demographic transition, and the question whether these countries will be able to reap the benefits of a demographic dividend has been raised.

A. Case studies from non-Arab countries

East Asian countries underwent a rapid demographic transition that begun in the 1960s.³² All of them relied on voluntary family planning programmes to reduce population growth once they gave up on pro-natalist population policies. Governments in East Asian countries believed that a reduction in fertility was a prerequisite for economic development and included the goal of reducing population growth in their national development plans.³³ The time when this realization and subsequent policies came into effect differed widely across countries, starting in the 1950s in Japan and as late as 1970 in Thailand. Following declines in fertility were associated with increases in mean ages at marriage and a shift to later childbearing ages. In South Korea and Taiwan, for example, women in 1990 married about three and five years later than in 1960, respectively. Consequently, between 1960 and 1990, the share of the population aged 20-64 increased in all six countries and was highest in Singapore, Japan and South Korea (63 per cent, 62 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively). The share of the population below age 20 declined simultaneously, and with the exception of Japan, the elderly (65+) comprised only about 5 per cent of the population.³⁴

In connection with supportive economic and social policies, East Asian countries saw sustained economic growth over several decades and a tremendous increase in per capita income. Average annual economic growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita between 1960 and 1990 was 6.66 per cent in South Korea, 6.52 per cent in Singapore, 6.20 per cent in Taiwan, 5.26 per cent in Japan, 4.45 per cent in Thailand and 3.76 per cent in Indonesia.³⁵ In Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, the expansion of the manufacturing and services sector provided a large number of jobs to absorb the growing number of people of working age. In Thailand and Indonesia, the manufacturing and services sector were not as readily able to offer employment for the surge in potential workers, and the agricultural sector continued to play a larger role than in countries in the North East. The share of the total labour force in agriculture dropped between 1960 and 1990 from 61.3 to 18.1 per cent in South Korea, from 56.1 to 12.6 per cent in Taiwan, from 33.1 to 7.3 per cent in Japan, and from 7.4 to 0.4 per cent in Singapore; but only from 83.7 to 64.1 per cent in Thailand and from 74.8 to 55.0 per cent in Indonesia.³⁶

Investments to improve the health of children and education, both beneficial for human capital, also played a crucial role, but to varying degrees in different countries. Still, educational attainment increased rapidly and

³² East Asia here refers to six countries in North East and South East Asia, namely Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand), in line with the definition used in Mason, 2001 and 2003. These two sources provide a comprehensive review of demographic dynamics and economic development for this region and the information on East Asia presented here draws on these two sources.

³³ Tsui, 2001.

³⁴ Feeney and Mason, 2001.

³⁵ Bauer, 2001b, table 2.1.

³⁶ Mason, 2001, table 1.1.

the gender gap in education was reduced. This development was supported directly through reductions in fertility, freeing up resources at the public and household level. School enrollment rates, expenditure per student and educational attainment increased, though at varying patterns.³⁷ For example, whereas tertiary enrollment rates were already at 17.0 per cent in Japan in 1970, this value was barely attained in Thailand in 1990. By this point, Japan and South Korea had already tertiary enrollment rates of 31.5 per cent and 38.7 per cent, respectively.

Increased labour force participation of women, particularly in the formal sector, is another important piece in explaining countries' economic performance. Women's economic activity was supported by lower fertility, changes in the employment structure that came along with higher wages, which is related to increases in educational attainment, and changes in policies related to discrimination. This increase in female labour force participation started from very different levels and showed differing rates, leading to a very mixed picture across the region: whereas participation in Singapore and Taiwan increased significantly from low levels (Singapore 1957: 21.6 per cent, 1990: 53 per cent; Taiwan: 1966: 24.5 per cent, 1990: 44.5 per cent), rates in Japan remained constant at around 50 per cent in the same period, as they did in Thailand at levels well above 70 per cent.³⁸ What still changed in Japan and Thailand though was the composition of female employment, with shifts away from unpaid family work towards paid employment in Japan and increases in urban labour force participation of women in Thailand.³⁹ Bauer 2001a.

Besides the positive employment trends, increased rate of savings and investment are seen as an important factor that enabled economies to profit from the demographic dividend as they did. Saving was encouraged through the establishment of financial institutions. This all happened in an overall rather stable macroeconomic environment, created through policies that, for example, made sure inflation remained under control. Trade liberalization also played a significant role, as countries' development also depends on global macroeconomic conditions. The combination of policies and their exact timing and implementation varied between countries and there is not one blueprint that worked for all of them. For example, according to Bauer (2001b), high rates of savings and investment were a crucial factor in East Asia's success story. However, the policies that countries implemented to create incentives for increased investment of companies and the degree to which foreign investment was supported showed noticeable differences across countries and over time.

1. *Thailand*

Thailand was very successful in reducing its total fertility rate during a period of only 20 years. Whereas women had, on average, 5.5 children in 1970, this number dropped to 2.2 by 1990, and has since then decreased to levels below 2 children per woman. The Ministry of Public Health promoted voluntary family planning through the National Family Planning Programme. In 1970, the Government adopted the first policy to reduce population growth and clearly stated its goal of bringing the rate of natural increase down from 3.3 per cent in 1970 to 2.4 per cent ten years later.⁴⁰ The increase in the use of contraception, from 15 per cent in 1970 to more than 80 per cent in the late 1980s, is seen as the main enabler of the rapid fertility decline. Thailand accomplished this fertility decline despite the fact that the majority of its population in 1970 lived in rural areas, almost two thirds of working women were part of the agriculture sector, and education levels were rather low compared with those of neighbouring countries. There is evidence that Thailand did not reap the benefits of the demographic dividend as much as it could have if the labour force participation of women and educational attainment levels had been higher.

³⁷ Ahlburg and Jensen, 2001.

³⁸ Bauer, 2001a, table 14.1.

³⁹ Bauer, 2001a.

⁴⁰ Tsui, 2001, table 16.2.

Over time, education levels increased, which is thought to have contributed to the increase of the share of single women aged 50-54 years. In the 1970s, the share of 20-24 year old women who had a bachelor degree became larger than that of men, and the gap has been increasing since then. The share of married women aged 15-49 years decreased as well, but only marginally, accompanied by an increase in the mean age at first marriage.⁴¹

Calculations of the first demographic dividend, based on calculations of the economic support ratio analogous to the one presented in this report, show that the window of opportunity is currently closing in Thailand, entailing that demographic developments will by themselves no longer create a favourable environment conducive to economic growth. However, Thailand is preparing for reaping the benefits of the second demographic dividend: national efforts are under way to create incentives for people to prepare for old age through private savings.

Presently, although educational attainment has increased and larger shares of each subsequent cohort of young people attain upper-secondary and tertiary education, concern has been voiced about the quality of education. In an ever more competitive national and global market, it is not only the degree obtained and the proportion of the population that progresses to higher education that matters, but the quality of education is becoming increasingly important, not least because it has crucial implications for labour productivity, unemployment and underemployment.⁴² Today, there are large discrepancies in the quality of education between rural and urban areas and between provinces. Continuously declining numbers of students due to smaller birth cohorts could free up public resources for spending on education, and if education budgets are not cut, this would mean higher spending per student.⁴³

2. *South Korea*

South Korea is one of the so-called “Asian Tigers”, with Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, which got their name from their exceptional experience of economic growth in the second half of the last century. Between 1960 and 1990, South Korea’s per capita GDP grew well above 6 per cent annually.

In just 25 years, the total fertility rate in South Korea dropped from 5.4 children per women in 1950 to 2.9 in 1975. In 2013, according to the World Bank data, the country had one of the world’s lowest total fertility rates of 1.2. It had started its national family planning campaign in 1962, with the goal of pushing economic growth and modernization. The national policy passed in 1961 was aimed at reducing population growth to 2 per cent within 10 years.⁴⁴

Changes in education policy were also part of government efforts to boost economic performance. By 1990, 97 per cent of school-age children attended school. Efforts were also made to equip students with the right set of skills for economic success.⁴⁵ This led to a significant change in the education profile of workers: in 1980, 51.5 per cent of employed persons in South Korea still had at most primary education. This figure dropped to 21.4 per cent within 15 years. During the same period, the share of employed persons with tertiary education almost tripled, from 6.7 to 18.8 per cent.⁴⁶

⁴¹ UNFPA, 2011.

⁴² Wongboonsin and Guest, 2005.

⁴³ UNFPA, 2011.

⁴⁴ Tsui, 2001, table 16.2.

⁴⁵ Gribble, 2012.

⁴⁶ Okunishi, 2001, table 12.4.

In terms of macroeconomic policy, South Korea implemented plans that made their farming and fishing industries more productive through attraction of foreign investment. Manufacturing and shipping expanded and other industries like iron and steel were established, with foreign investment also playing an important role. Increasing capital investment per worker for a period of several decades also contributed to the outstanding economic performance. In addition, government programmes to tackle unemployment provided jobs for workers.⁴⁷ The rise in employment of women played a special role in South Korea where labour-intensive manufacturing was developing rapidly and economic growth was to a large degree export-oriented. This change meant a shift away from less productive agricultural work: in 1960, 70.5 per cent of women were still employed in the agricultural sector, but this share had decreased to 27 per cent by 1990.

3. *Ireland*

The case of Ireland is interesting in that it showed total fertility rates of 3.5 until the 1980s, which was higher than in any other European country at that time.⁴⁸ One reason for this was undoubtedly that contraception was banned until 1979. As soon as family planning through modern forms of contraception became possible, fertility started to decline significantly, and the age composition of the population started to shift. With declines in youth dependency and increases in the share of the population of working age, Ireland's demographic situation showed all signs for a potential demographic dividend. Two key economic policies have contributed to the realization of this dividend. First, Ireland had already opened its economy to foreign direct investment and encouraged exports. Secondly, Ireland had since the mid-1960s invested in its human capital through education: secondary education became free and tertiary education options were expanded. This led to rising shares of young adults with a higher education degree.

The decline in fertility led to two favourable developments. First, the female labour force participation increased tremendously in the country between 1980 and 2000: among women aged 25-49 years, it reached 67.7 per cent in 2000, rising from 38.1 per cent in 1983. The trend is still continuing and the rate was of 73.5 per cent in 2013.⁴⁹ Secondly, young people were offered enough job opportunities in the national labour market as their numbers were reduced. A supporting policy environment, such as large subsidies and tax incentives from the European Commission that encouraged foreign direct investment, increased levels of education, which translated in a better-educated labour force, and good macroeconomic management accompanied those two developments.

Ireland was thus a "Celtic Tiger". Like the Asian Tigers, it was successful in using the change in its age structure to its advantage by implementing supporting policies that created an environment conducive to employment, savings and investment.

B. Lessons learned

In the 1960s and 1970s, the concept of demographic dividend had not been developed yet but Governments in East Asia believed that continued high population growth was a hindrance for economic development. There are two main lessons learned from the case studies presented above. The first one is that fertility reduction is a prerequisite to reach an age structure with large shares of people of working age. Such a structure could be attained through social and economic development, but progress would be slow. Voluntary family planning policies, and information about and access to contraception led to the rapid change in population dynamics observed in the case studies. The size of the potential demographic dividend does, to a certain degree, depend on the speed of the demographic transition.

⁴⁷ Gribble, 2012; and Gribble and Bremner 2012.

⁴⁸ This section is a summary of information from Bloom and Canning, 2003 and 2006; and Bloom, Canning and Sevilla, 2003.

⁴⁹ 2015 data from the European Commission Eurostat database.

The second lesson learned is that having an advantageous population structure does not automatically lead to increases in income per capita and sustained economic growth. This requires a mix of social and economic policies that create an environment conducive to development. Of course, the overall development stage in which countries found themselves when their population structure shifted towards increasing shares of people of working age also had an influence on the policy mix. For example, the promotion of child health still played an important role in East Asia when it was no longer the case in Ireland. The increase in female labour force participation was deemed important in all contexts, but the degree to which it contributed to the success of each country varies. Increases in educational attainment played a central role, and though countries chose different paths to achieve this goal, they all succeeded in increasing the skill levels of their populations. Hence, the timing and choice of policies differed between countries, but they all underwent changes in necessary areas to take advantage of their demographic transition. Bloom and Canning (2011) underline the following requisites for realizing the demographic dividend: good governance; solid macroeconomic management; carefully designed trade policy; efficient infrastructure; well-functioning financial and labour markets; and effective investments in health, education and training.

The last point in the list above, together with employment opportunities for young adults, is possibly the most crucial. The increase in the population of working age that happens in the intermediate stage of the demographic transition can be the starting point of a demographic dividend, but it can also become a missed opportunity if the overall social and economic conditions are not supportive. In the worst case, the large share of young people turns into a burden if productive employment is not available. High levels of unemployment, and social and political instability can ensue.⁵⁰

C. Recommendations

Since the size of the potential demographic dividend depends on the speed of the demographic transition, the Arab countries that still have relatively high levels of fertility should consider speeding up their transition process. Without this acceleration towards lower fertility levels, demographic dividends will be smaller. Moreover, as underlined by the case studies presented above, education and decent employment, especially for youth and women, are key. Young people in Arab countries should have access to quality education and skills, in order to improve their employability. Educational attainment should be increased for all population groups. Decent employment opportunities should also be created.

Table 15A shows that Arab countries differ in terms of their socioeconomic features. GDP per capita ranges from below \$2,000 in the Arab LCDs to between \$20,000 and \$100,000 in the GCC countries. Several other indicators replicate this diversity: infant mortality, levels of educational attainment of young women, etc. An in-depth look at the demographic, social and economic conditions in each country is thus necessary to produce sound recommendations on the country level, which should also include such areas as savings, investment, trade and taxes. This is, however, beyond the scope of this report.

⁵⁰ Bloom and Canning, 2011.

IV. CONCLUSION

The population in the Arab region is expected to keep growing during the next four decades, though at a declining annual growth rate. The fertility decrease, ongoing in all countries though stalling in a few recently, is likely to continue. The population in the Arab LDCs and Mashreq countries will represent an increasing share of the region's overall population, due to higher fertility levels than in the Maghreb and GCC countries. There is no reason to assume that the trend of rising life expectancy will not persist, meaning that more and more people will live beyond 65 and even 80 years of age. Increasing life expectancy, in combination with lower levels of fertility, will inevitably entail changes in the age composition of societies, even in the face of large migration. The proportion of those below age 15 will decrease further and of those aged 65+ will increase. The population of working age will expand for some more time before it starts to diminish as well. Needless to say, there are stark differences between the country groupings and individual countries in the timing of these shifts, given their differing positions in the process of the demographic transition.

Methods to calculate the window of opportunity for the demographic dividend differ. They may be based on purely demographic variables or on life-cycle differences in economic behaviour. However, considering these differences gives a better account of people's needs at various stages of their lives. The calculation of demographic dividends based on an elaborate approach that includes those variations is thus favoured in this paper.

Investigating the annual growth rate of the ratio of the number of producers to the number of consumers showed that the demographic window of opportunity has opened for all Arab countries. In many countries, this process had begun already in the 1980s. In order to create a situation where the demographic dividend becomes a reality, two things are necessary. First, the demographic transition has to be in its intermediate phase. Before and after this phase, the advantageous demographic situation where the working-age population is growing at a faster rate than the population overall is not given. Second, the right policies that improve labour force productivity and create an enabling economic environment should be adopted. Reaping the benefits of the demographic dividend is not automatic. It takes much more for a demographic change to turn into solid economic growth.

One big incentive for countries to take the necessary steps in order to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend should be that many of the necessary measures, such as a beneficial institutional setting for saving and investment, good quality education and investments in health, would not just help economically. They will also serve to advance societies in general on their path towards development. The role of education cannot be emphasized enough. Investing in education will help to bring about lower infant mortality, lower fertility (through many mechanisms: smaller desired family size, higher use of contraception, higher labour force participation, etc.), better health status, higher life expectancy, higher labour force participation and higher productivity. Recent evidence has shown that part of the effect on growth that was previously largely ascribed to changes in the population structure is actually a direct consequence of progress in educational attainment.⁵¹ The clear positive correlation between women's educational attainment and health status and economic growth in Arab countries provides further evidence to the particular importance of strengthening human capital.⁵²

Investments in human capital, particularly in education, hence seem to be a "double winner": they push the demographic transition, and are a crucial prerequisite to realize the potential of the demographic dividend. In addition, the demographic dividend can be sustained even as support ratios begin to decline, which is usually an indicator for the end of the demographic window of opportunity. When younger, better-educated workers replace older, less educated ones; this translates into increases in productivity that can at least partly compensate for the negative demographic dynamics.

⁵¹ Crespo Cuaresma, Lutz and Sanderson, 2014.

⁵² Torabi and Abbasi-Shavazi, 2015.

One of the crucial prerequisites to reap the benefits of the first demographic dividend is good health. Unfortunately, the prevalence of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases has been increasing in many Arab countries among the adult population, in some instances to higher levels than those observed in developed countries. Poor health is not only a serious problem for individuals, but also for countries. It lowers labour force participation, might cause earlier withdrawal from the labour market and lower productivity, and creates heavy costs for the health-care system. Government spending could have to be diverted for health-related expenditure, affecting the level of human capital that could potentially be achieved.

One important final aspect is that the first and the second demographic dividend do not happen consecutively; they overlap. The second dividend begins towards the end of the intermediate phase of the demographic transition and extends through the late phase, but the policies for realizing the second dividend are best established during the intermediate phase.⁵³ Although Arab countries might be mainly concerned with reaping the benefits of the first dividend, policymakers would be well advised to create conditions for people to accumulate wealth for old age, for example by making sure that sound and accessible financial systems exist. The sooner people have the chance to prepare financially for old age, the larger the benefits of the second demographic dividend. In order for people to save for their own old age, there must be safe and accessible ways to accumulate assets over decades. Otherwise, individuals might decide not to take risks by saving.

⁵³ Mason and Lee, 2006.

Annex

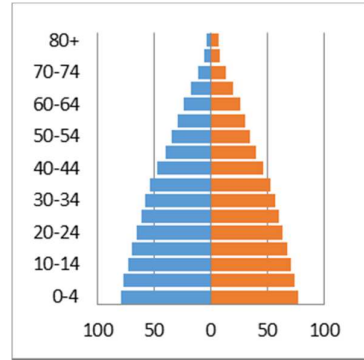
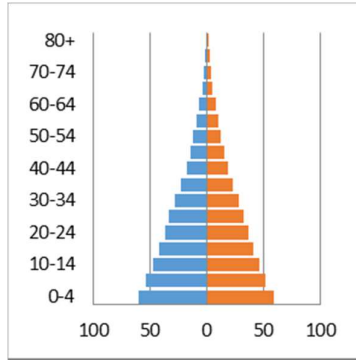
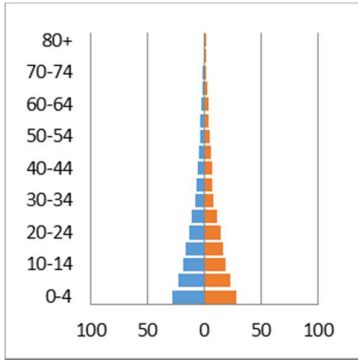
Figure 1A. Population pyramids of Arab countries, 1980, 2015, 2050 (*medium fertility variant*)

Comoros

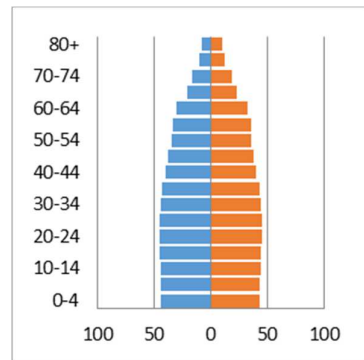
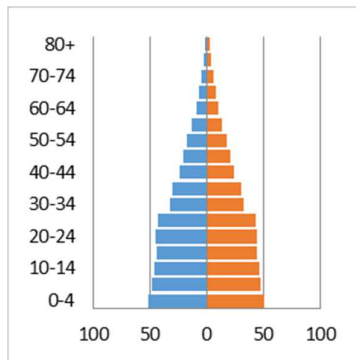
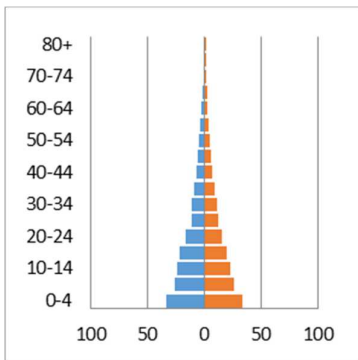
1980

2015

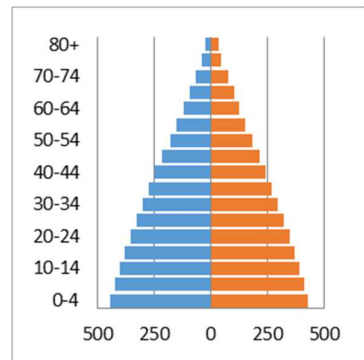
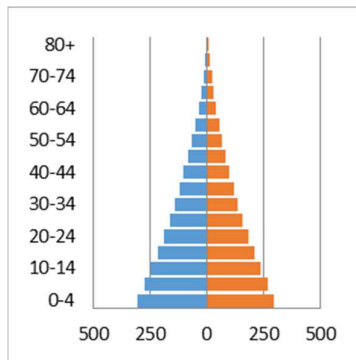
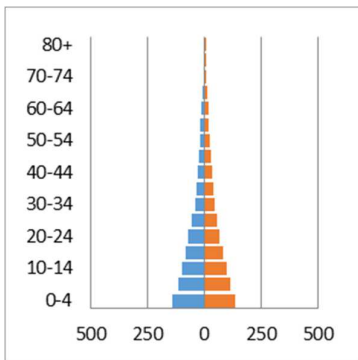
2050



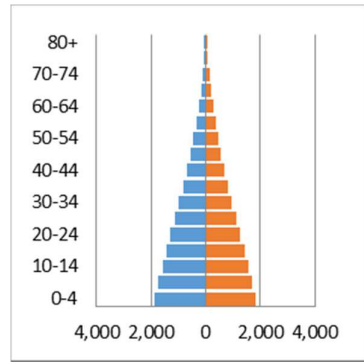
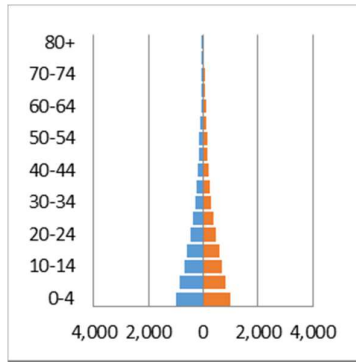
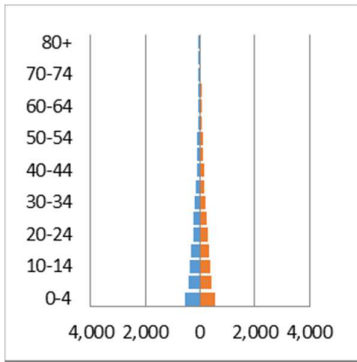
Djibouti



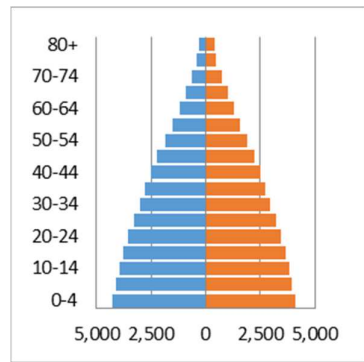
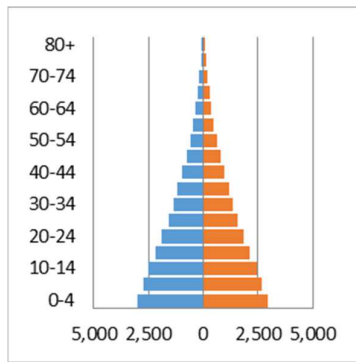
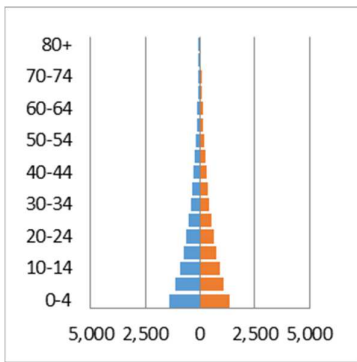
Mauritania



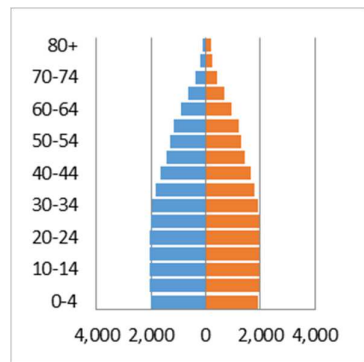
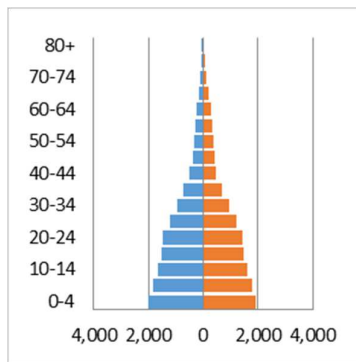
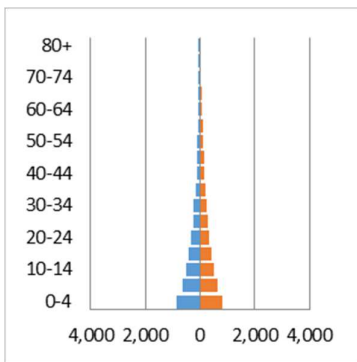
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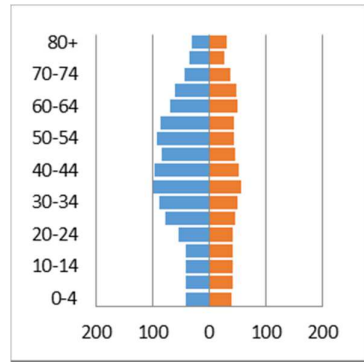
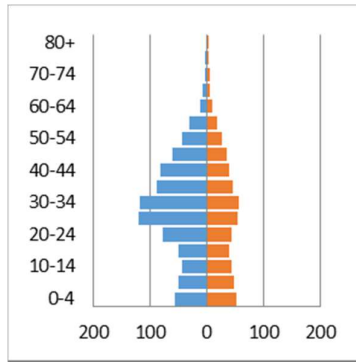
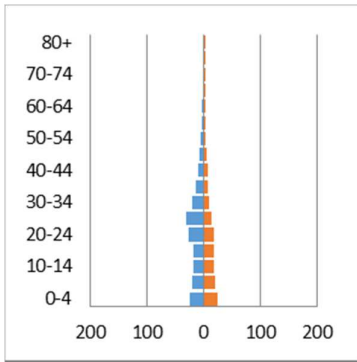
Sudan



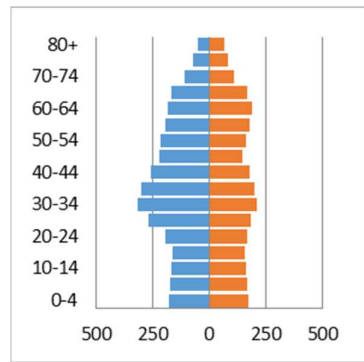
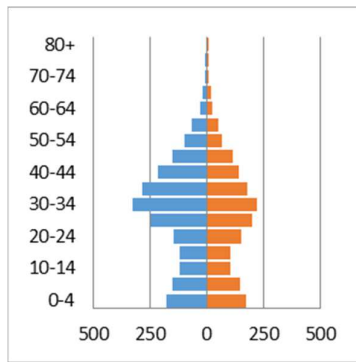
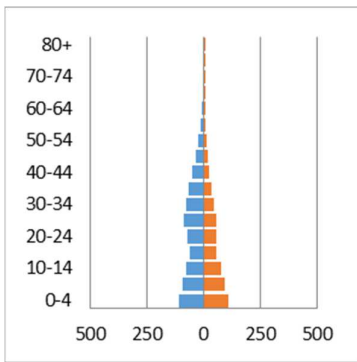
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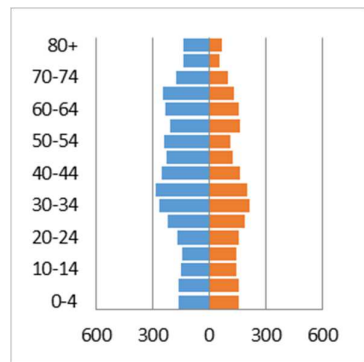
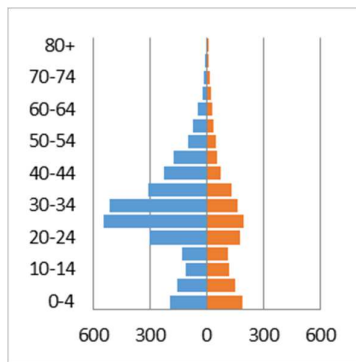
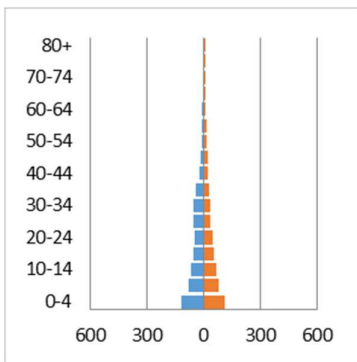
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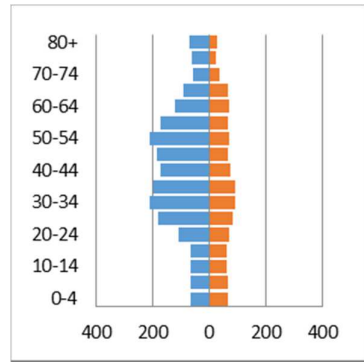
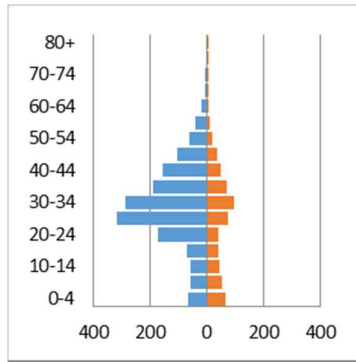
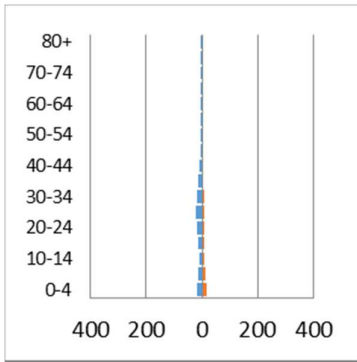
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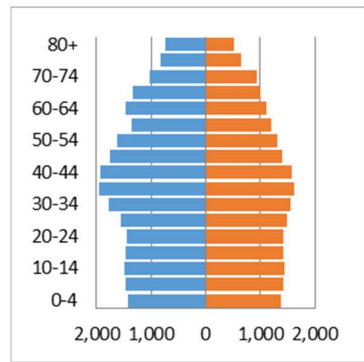
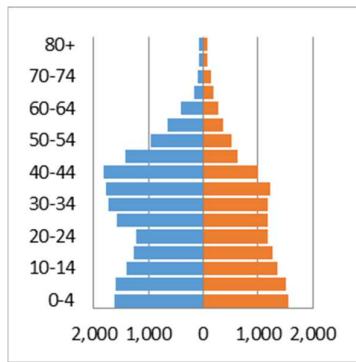
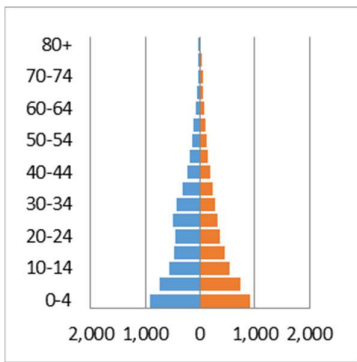
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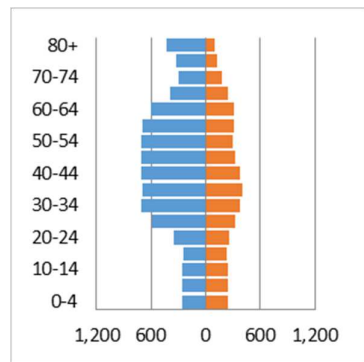
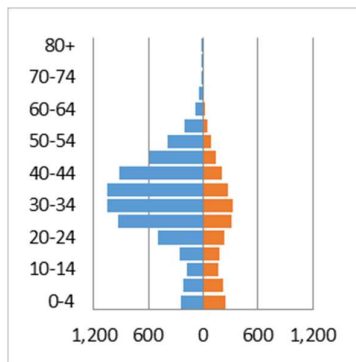
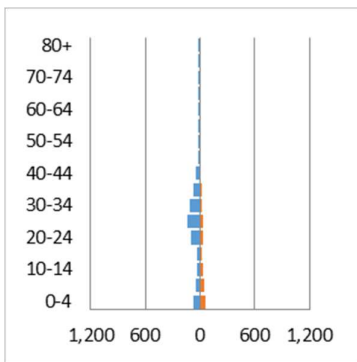
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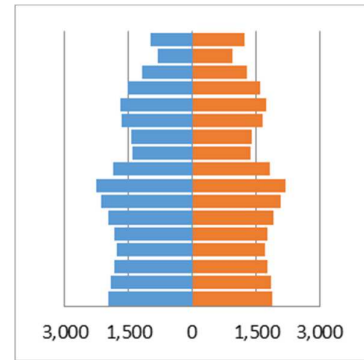
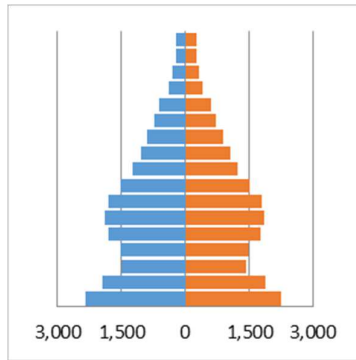
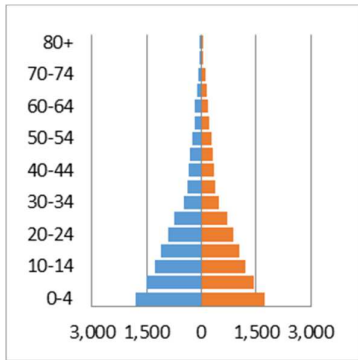
Saudi Arabia



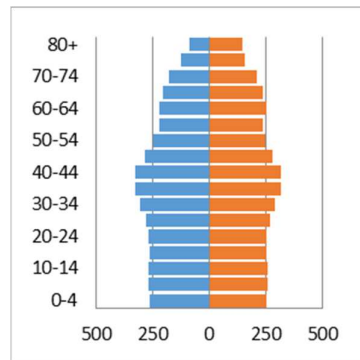
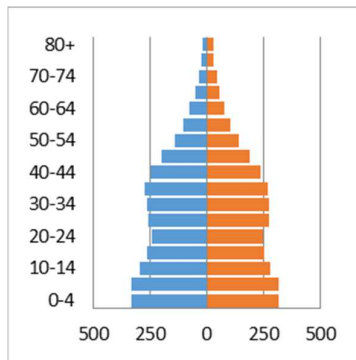
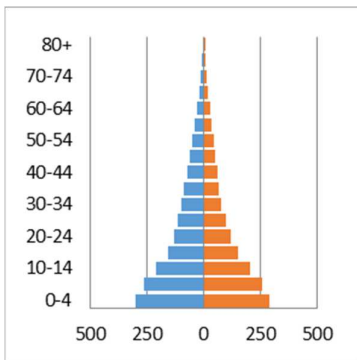
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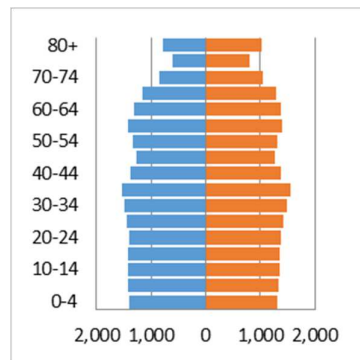
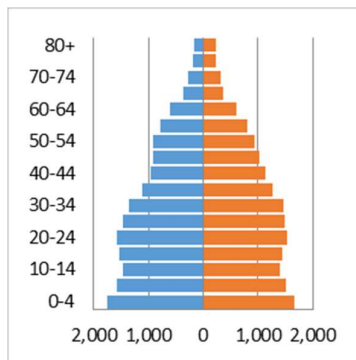
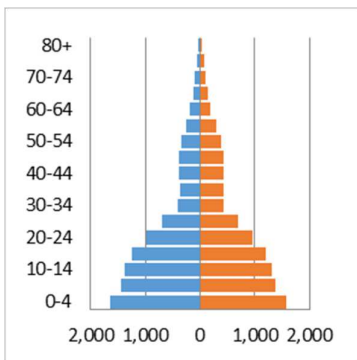
Algeria



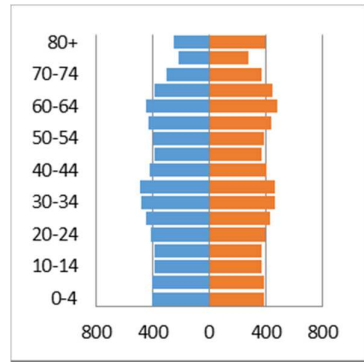
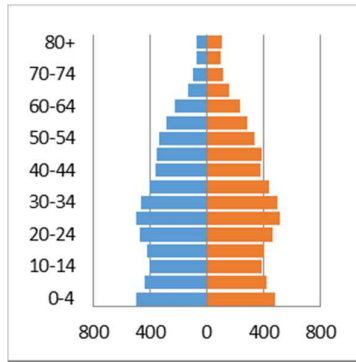
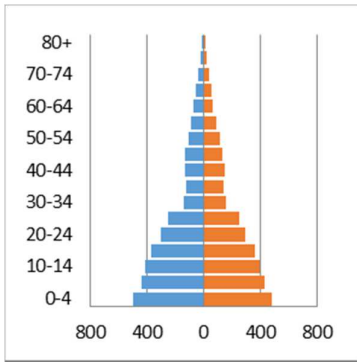
Libya



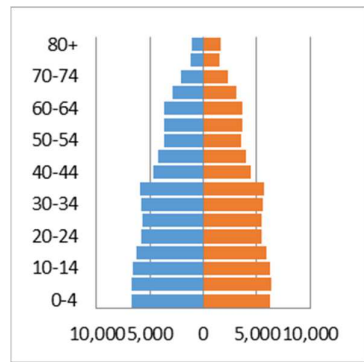
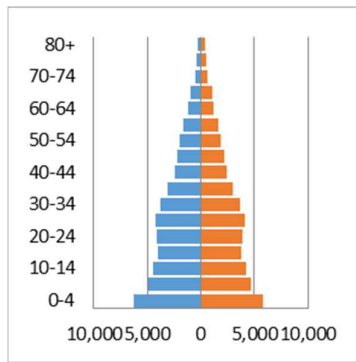
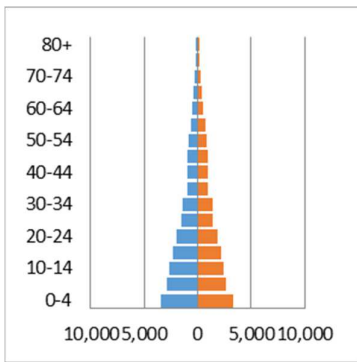
Morocco



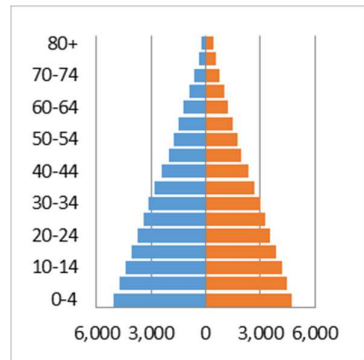
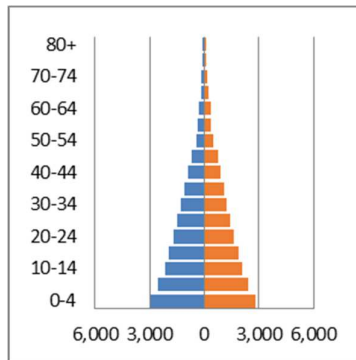
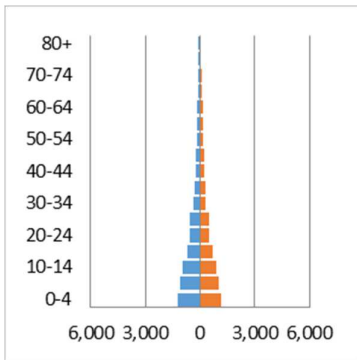
Tunisia



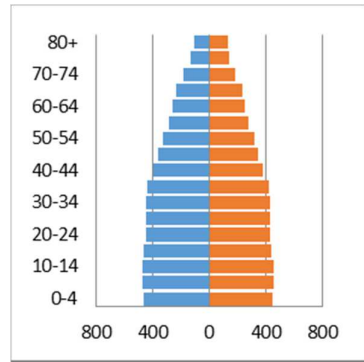
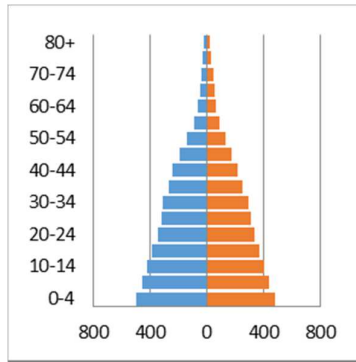
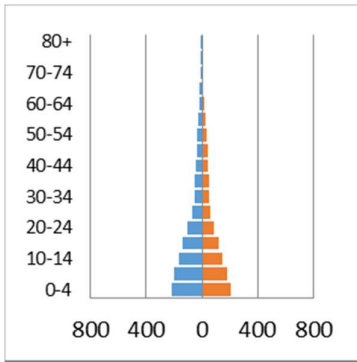
Egypt



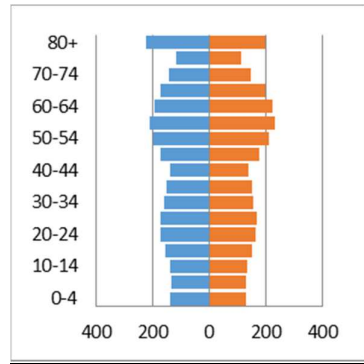
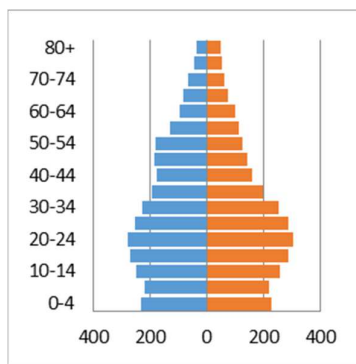
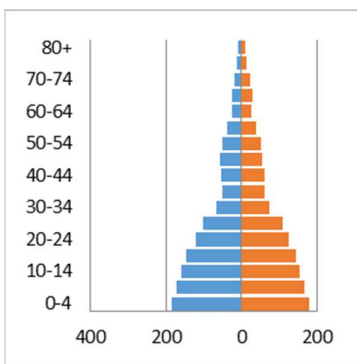
Iraq



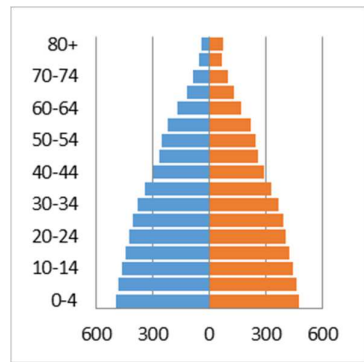
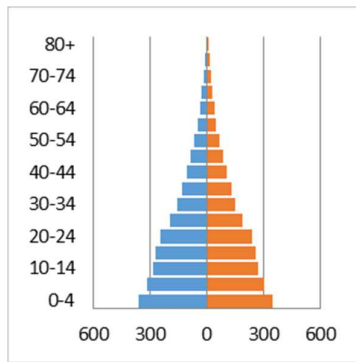
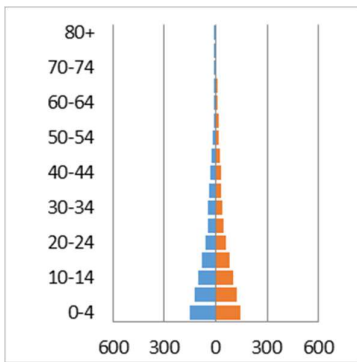
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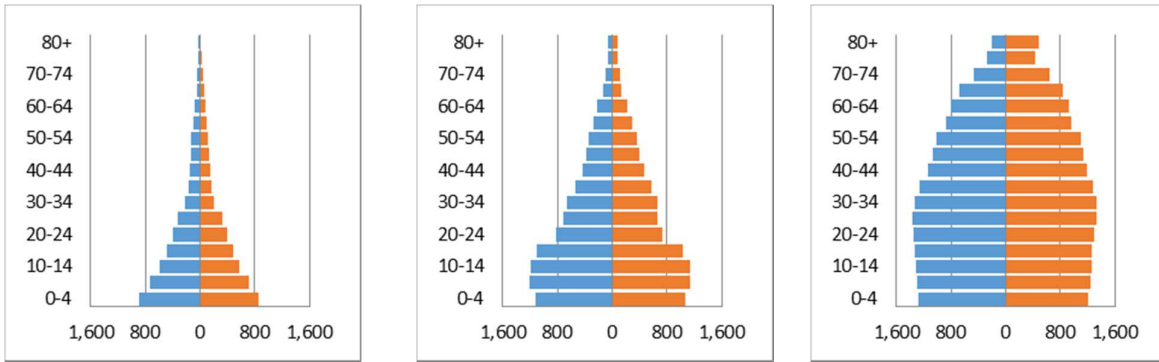
Lebanon



State of Palestine



Syrian Arab Republic



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Table 1A. Total population, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050, medium variant (thousands)

Country/subregion	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Comoros	309	358	415	480	548	619	699	788	883	981	1081	1184	1290	1397	1502
Djibouti	359	423	588	661	723	778	831	888	947	1003	1054	1097	1133	1163	1186
Mauritania	1534	1767	2024	2334	2711	3154	3591	4068	4573	5107	5666	6248	6844	7446	8049
Somalia	6090	6068	6322	6346	7385	8467	9582	10787	12423	14344	16493	18844	21388	24119	27030
Sudan	14418	17098	20009	24692	28080	31990	36115	40235	45308	50740	56443	62331	68311	74307	80284
Yemen	8059	9774	11961	15266	17795	20504	23592	26832	30030	33181	36335	39361	42211	44839	47170
Total Arab LDCs	30769	35488	41319	49779	57242	65512	74409	83598	94164	105356	117073	129065	141176	153271	165222
Bahrain	360	419	496	564	667	867	1261	1377	1486	1571	1642	1705	1759	1797	1822
Kuwait	1384	1735	2059	1637	1929	2264	3059	3892	4317	4672	4987	5252	5499	5725	5924
Oman	1154	1498	1812	2192	2239	2507	2944	4491	4816	5058	5238	5376	5507	5659	5844
Qatar	224	371	476	501	593	837	1766	2235	2452	2640	2781	2902	3013	3115	3205
Saudi Arabia	9913	13361	16361	18854	21392	24745	28091	31540	34366	36847	39132	41235	43136	44763	46059
United Arab Emirate	1017	1350	1811	2350	3050	4482	8329	9157	9822	10434	10977	11500	11995	12430	12789
Total GCC countries	14052	18736	23016	26098	29872	35702	45450	52693	57259	61222	64758	67971	70909	73488	75643
Egypt	43370	49374	56397	62435	68335	74942	82041	91508	100518	108939	117102	125589	134428	143064	151111
Iraq	13653	15576	17478	20218	23575	27018	30868	36423	41972	47797	54071	60873	68127	75758	83652
Jordan	2281	2783	3358	4320	4767	5333	6518	7595	8167	8547	9109	9808	10492	11137	11717
Lebanon	2605	2677	2703	3033	3235	3987	4337	5851	5891	5408	5292	5429	5517	5573	5610
State of Palestine	1509	1759	2101	2618	3224	3579	4069	4668	5333	6040	6765	7504	8259	9025	9791
Syrian Arab Republic	8956	10667	12452	14332	16354	18133	20721	18502	20994	25559	28647	30424	32070	33571	34902
Total Mashreq	72375	82836	94490	106956	119490	132992	148554	164548	182875	202291	220986	239627	258894	278128	296783
Algeria	19338	22566	25912	28904	31184	33268	36036	39667	43008	45865	48274	50424	52496	54546	56461
Libya	3191	3841	4398	4878	5337	5802	6266	6278	6700	7086	7418	7713	7980	8207	8375
Morocco	20072	22596	24950	27162	28951	30385	32108	34378	36444	38255	39787	41073	42148	43027	43696
Tunisia	6368	7322	8233	9114	9699	10102	10639	11254	11835	12320	12686	12955	13166	13342	13476
Total Maghreb	48969	56325	63494	70058	75171	79557	85049	91576	97987	103526	108165	112165	115790	119122	122008
Total Arab region	166164	193385	222319	252891	281775	313763	353462	392414	432286	472394	510981	548828	586769	624008	659656

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Table 2A. Total population, Arab countries and subregions, 2015, 2030 and 2050 (thousands)

Country/subregion	2015	Medium fertility variant	Medium fertility variant	Low fertility variant	Low fertility variant	High fertility variant	High fertility variant
		2030	2050	2030	2050	2030	2050
Comoros	788	1081	1502	1042	1351	1121	1660
Djibouti	888	1054	1186	1012	1059	1096	1318
Mauritania	4068	5666	8049	15963	24622	17023	29534
Somalia	10787	16493	27030	54357	72262	58529	88653
Sudan	40235	56443	80284	5470	7287	5863	8843
Yemen	26832	36335	47170	34895	42025	37775	52567
Total Arab LDCs	83598	117073	165222	112739	148604	121406	182575
Bahrain	1377	1642	1822	1588	1661	1695	1991
Kuwait	3892	4987	5924	4786	5325	5188	6555
Oman	4491	5238	5844	5059	5297	5417	6413
Qatar	2235	2781	3205	2699	2953	2864	3471
Saudi Arabia	31540	39132	46059	37706	41499	40558	50773
United Arab Emirates	9157	10977	12789	10664	11778	11290	13879
Total GCC countries	52693	64758	75643	62502	68513	67013	83081
Egypt	91508	117102	151111	112588	134498	121616	168768
Iraq	36423	54071	83652	52092	75210	56049	92540
Jordan	7595	9109	11717	8744	10478	9474	13010
Lebanon	5851	5292	5610	5021	4964	5562	6298
State of Palestine	4668	6765	9791	6502	8785	7027	10845
Syrian Arab Republic	18502	28647	34902	27550	31102	29745	38881
Total Mashreq	164548	220986	296783	212497	265036	229474	330343
Algeria	39667	48274	56461	46407	50631	50142	62541
Libya	6278	7418	8375	7123	7473	7713	9309
Morocco	34378	39787	43696	38190	38894	41384	48760
Tunisia	11254	12686	13476	12179	12040	13193	14978
Total Maghreb	91576	108165	122008	103899	109038	112431	135587
Total Arab region	392414	510981	659656	491638	591192	530324	731585

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Table 3A. Total fertility rate, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	7.1	6.7	6.1	5.6	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9
Djibouti	6.3	6.2	5.9	4.8	4.2	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1
Mauritania	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1
Somalia	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.4	7.1	6.6	6.1	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.4	4.1	3.8
Sudan	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.3	4.8	4.5	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.8
Yemen	8.8	8.8	8.2	6.8	6.0	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.2
Total Arab LDCs	7.3	7.1	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.2	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.8
Bahrain	4.6	4.1	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Kuwait	5.0	3.2	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Oman	8.3	7.8	6.3	4.5	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
Qatar	5.5	4.4	3.7	3.5	3.0	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Saudi Arabia	7.0	6.2	5.6	4.5	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8
United Arab Emirates	5.2	4.8	3.9	3.0	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Total GCC countries	6.7	5.8	5.1	4.2	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8
Egypt	5.5	5.2	4.1	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4
Iraq	6.4	6.1	5.6	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.2
Jordan	7.0	6.0	5.1	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2
Lebanon	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
State of Palestine	7.0	6.8	6.6	5.8	5.0	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.7
Syrian Arab Republic	6.8	5.9	4.8	4.3	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9
Total Mashreq	5.8	5.4	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5
Algeria	6.3	5.3	4.1	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
Libya	6.7	5.7	4.2	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8
Morocco	5.4	4.4	3.7	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Tunisia	4.8	4.0	3.0	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8
Total Maghreb	5.8	4.8	3.8	2.9	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
Total Arab region	6.1	5.5	4.8	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Table 4A. Crude birth rate, Arab countries, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	46.9	44.5	40.7	38.4	37.1	36.0	34.6	32.2	29.8	27.8	26.3	24.9	23.6	22.3
Djibouti	39.7	40.1	38.9	32.9	30.0	27.6	25.7	23.7	21.9	20.1	18.4	17.1	16.2	15.4
Mauritania	46.1	47.5	49.2	49.7	47.4	46.2	43.9	42.9	41.2	39.1	36.8	34.5	32.5	30.7
Somalia	44.2	42.1	41.6	40.3	38.9	36.1	33.7	31.7	30.0	28.3	26.7	25.1	23.6	22.3
Sudan	42.2	41.2	40.1	38.8	37.6	36.0	34.0	32.0	30.4	28.9	27.5	26.2	24.9	23.7
Yemen	54.7	53.4	49.8	41.6	37.9	35.9	33.2	30.6	27.6	25.0	22.8	20.8	19.1	17.5
Bahrain	33.0	31.4	26.7	22.5	20.0	17.0	15.4	13.1	11.5	10.6	10.1	9.7	9.3	8.9
Kuwait	36.3	25.3	19.9	24.5	21.3	23.2	20.7	18.4	15.6	13.5	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.2
Oman	48.2	42.9	33.4	26.9	22.4	21.4	20.8	17.5	14.7	12.1	10.7	10.8	11.3	11.3
Qatar	33.3	24.9	21.4	20.2	18.3	13.0	12.1	11.5	10.6	9.6	8.9	8.5	8.4	8.4
Saudi Arabia	42.5	37.9	33.1	28.5	24.4	22.6	20.8	18.5	16.7	15.4	14.6	14.0	13.3	12.5
United Arab Emirates	30.2	28.3	22.8	18.0	15.1	12.6	11.2	10.0	8.9	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.3	8.0
Egypt	39.0	36.6	29.8	25.5	25.2	25.2	28.5	25.1	22.3	20.6	20.3	20.1	19.1	17.7
Iraq	39.0	38.3	37.1	36.6	34.9	35.5	35.1	33.2	31.1	29.6	28.4	27.3	26.1	24.9
Jordan	39.7	35.3	34.0	32.3	30.2	28.7	27.9	24.9	22.4	20.6	19.5	18.5	17.4	16.1
Lebanon	28.8	25.9	23.3	20.6	16.3	12.7	15.0	15.4	15.1	13.6	11.6	10.1	9.5	9.6
State of Palestine	44.9	45.1	45.7	40.8	35.9	34.0	33.1	31.4	29.2	26.9	25.0	23.5	22.2	20.9
Syrian Arab Republic	42.8	38.4	33.5	32.0	28.8	26.3	24.1	21.2	20.7	19.3	17.8	16.6	15.6	14.7
Algeria	40.8	35.2	28.8	21.6	19.2	23.1	25.1	21.5	18.2	15.7	14.5	14.2	14.3	14.0
Libya	37.0	32.4	25.4	22.4	21.9	22.9	21.7	18.7	16.2	14.6	13.8	13.6	13.2	12.5
Morocco	36.7	31.4	27.5	23.2	20.6	20.8	21.3	19.1	17.1	15.4	14.3	13.6	13.1	12.6
Tunisia	33.1	29.0	22.9	18.7	16.6	17.0	18.4	17.0	15.0	13.2	12.1	11.9	12.0	12.0

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: The crude birth rate is calculated as the average number of births per 1,000 population over a given period.

Table 5A. Crude death rate, Arab countries, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country	1980-1885	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	14.6	12.4	10.6	9.6	9.3	8.6	7.7	7.1	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.4
Djibouti	11.8	10.5	10.8	10.4	10.2	9.6	8.7	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.7	9.0	9.4	9.9
Mauritania	19.4	19.0	20.2	16.5	15.0	13.7	12.4	11.3	10.3	9.3	8.5	7.7	7.2	6.7
Somalia	12.9	12.3	11.7	11.0	10.0	8.9	7.9	7.5	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.7
Sudan	12.0	10.9	10.3	9.7	9.4	8.9	8.1	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6
Yemen	15.1	12.3	11.1	9.8	8.6	7.8	7.1	6.7	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.9
Bahrain	4.1	3.6	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.3	4.0	4.9	5.9	7.0
Kuwait	3.6	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.4	4.1	4.9	5.9	6.9
Oman	8.6	6.4	4.8	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.6
Qatar	2.8	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.5	3.0	3.8	4.6
Saudi Arabia	7.2	5.5	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.4	5.1	5.9	6.8	7.6
United Arab Emirates	3.5	2.9	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.8	3.5	4.3	5.3	6.3
Egypt	11.4	9.3	7.9	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.5
Iraq	9.9	7.6	6.4	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.0
Jordan	6.5	5.5	4.8	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.6	5.1	5.7
Lebanon	7.2	7.0	6.6	5.9	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.9	5.4	5.7	6.2	6.8	7.6
State of Palestine	6.8	5.5	4.8	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.9	4.1
Syrian Arab Republic	6.2	5.0	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.5	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.8	6.2	6.6
Algeria	9.2	6.8	6.1	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.4	6.9
Libya	6.5	5.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.6	7.3	8.1	9.0
Morocco	10.0	8.1	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.4	7.0	7.6	8.1
Tunisia	7.8	6.9	5.8	5.5	5.7	6.0	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.0	7.6	8.3	9.1	9.7

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: The crude death rate is calculated as the average number of deaths per 1,000 population over a given period.

Table 6A. Life expectancy at birth, men, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country/subregion	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	50.7	53.7	56.3	57.8	58.0	59.3	61.2	62.5	63.7	64.8	65.7	66.6	67.5	68.3
Djibouti	53.2	54.6	55.4	55.4	55.9	57.6	60.0	61.1	62.1	63.0	63.8	64.7	65.4	66.1
Mauritania	54.4	56.5	57.5	58.3	58.6	59.7	61.3	62.1	62.7	63.3	63.9	64.4	65.0	65.5
Somalia	44.0	44.9	43.5	48.3	50.0	51.7	53.3	54.9	56.5	58.1	59.6	61.0	62.2	63.4
Sudan	53.0	53.7	54.5	55.5	57.0	59.2	61.6	62.6	63.7	64.6	65.5	66.4	67.2	67.9
Yemen	51.5	55.2	57.1	58.5	59.7	60.8	62.2	63.1	63.9	64.7	65.4	66.1	66.7	67.3
Total Arab LDCs	51.0	52.9	53.9	55.6	57.0	58.7	60.7	61.7	62.7	63.7	64.5	65.4	66.2	66.9
Bahrain	69.4	70.8	72.0	73.2	74.2	74.9	75.6	76.2	76.9	77.6	78.3	79.1	79.8	80.6
Kuwait	69.4	70.9	71.7	72.2	72.6	72.9	73.3	73.8	74.2	74.7	75.3	75.8	76.4	77.0
Oman	60.2	63.9	66.7	69.2	71.4	73.2	74.7	76.0	77.2	78.5	79.7	80.9	82.1	83.2
Qatar	72.5	73.7	74.5	75.1	75.6	76.0	77.1	77.9	78.8	79.6	80.5	81.4	82.3	83.2
Saudi Arabia	63.3	66.4	68.3	70.1	71.6	72.1	72.8	73.5	74.2	74.9	75.6	76.3	77.0	77.7
United Arab Emirates	67.6	69.7	71.3	72.7	74.0	75.2	76.0	76.9	77.8	78.7	79.6	80.6	81.6	82.5
Total GCC countries	64.4	67.2	68.9	70.6	72.1	73.0	74.0	74.8	75.5	76.3	77.0	77.8	78.6	79.4
Egypt	57.7	61.2	63.1	65.6	66.7	67.6	68.7	69.6	70.4	71.2	72.1	72.8	73.7	74.6
Iraq	53.0	60.9	64.3	66.5	66.9	65.1	67.0	67.7	68.4	69.1	69.6	70.3	70.9	71.5
Jordan	65.9	67.9	69.1	70.0	70.8	71.5	72.2	72.9	73.6	74.3	75.1	75.9	76.6	77.4
Lebanon	66.7	67.9	69.6	71.7	73.9	76.0	77.1	78.6	80.1	81.6	82.9	83.9	84.8	85.6
State of Palestine	62.8	65.5	67.3	68.7	69.5	69.9	70.7	71.5	72.2	73.0	73.8	74.5	75.4	76.2
Syrian Arab Republic	66.3	68.4	69.5	70.3	70.9	72.0	64.0	65.2	66.4	67.5	68.7	69.9	71.0	72.1
Total Mashreq	58.6	62.6	64.7	66.8	67.7	68.2	68.2	69.2	70.0	70.7	71.5	72.2	73.0	73.8
Algeria	60.1	64.4	65.6	67.7	69.2	71.0	72.1	73.4	74.5	75.7	76.7	77.8	78.9	79.9
Libya	63.9	65.9	67.8	68.7	69.1	69.5	68.8	69.5	70.3	71.0	71.8	72.6	73.4	74.2
Morocco	58.1	61.7	64.3	66.0	68.0	70.2	72.6	73.8	74.8	75.8	76.8	77.7	78.6	79.5
Tunisia	62.8	65.4	68.1	70.1	71.4	72.3	72.3	73.2	74.1	74.9	75.8	76.6	77.4	78.2
Total Maghreb	59.9	63.6	65.6	67.4	69.0	70.8	72.1	73.2	74.3	75.3	76.3	77.3	78.2	79.2
Total Arab region	58.2	61.6	63.4	65.2	66.4	67.6	68.5	69.4	70.2	70.9	71.7	72.4	73.1	73.8

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: Averages are population weighted.

Table 7A. Life expectancy at birth, women, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country/subregion	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	53.9	56.9	59.4	60.9	61.2	62.5	64.5	66.0	67.3	68.5	69.6	70.6	71.7	72.6
Djibouti	56.2	57.7	58.7	58.7	58.8	60.5	63.2	64.4	65.6	66.6	67.6	68.5	69.5	70.4
Mauritania	57.1	59.0	60.2	61.4	61.9	62.9	64.3	65.2	66.0	66.8	67.4	68.1	68.8	69.5
Somalia	47.1	48.0	46.5	51.4	53.1	54.8	56.5	58.2	59.9	61.5	63.1	64.6	66.0	67.3
Sudan	56.0	56.6	57.6	59.0	60.8	62.7	64.6	65.8	67.1	68.2	69.3	70.3	71.2	72.1
Yemen	54.5	58.2	60.0	61.3	62.4	63.4	64.9	65.9	66.9	67.9	68.7	69.5	70.3	71.1
Total Arab LDCs	54.0	55.8	56.9	58.9	60.3	61.8	63.6	64.8	66.0	67.1	68.1	69.1	70.0	70.9
Bahrain	72.1	73.2	74.1	75.1	75.9	76.7	77.4	78.1	78.8	79.5	80.1	80.7	81.3	81.9
Kuwait	71.7	72.9	73.6	74.1	74.5	74.9	75.6	76.2	76.9	77.5	78.1	78.7	79.2	79.8
Oman	63.7	67.6	70.7	73.3	75.5	77.5	78.9	79.9	80.9	81.8	82.5	83.3	84.0	84.6
Qatar	74.5	75.7	76.6	77.4	78.1	78.7	79.7	80.4	81.1	81.8	82.4	83.1	83.7	84.2
Saudi Arabia	66.8	69.6	72.1	73.8	74.4	74.7	75.5	76.3	77.1	77.8	78.4	79.0	79.6	80.2
United Arab Emirates	70.6	72.3	73.6	74.9	76.3	77.3	78.2	79.1	79.9	80.6	81.4	82.1	82.8	83.4
Total GCC countries	67.4	70.1	72.3	73.9	74.8	75.3	76.2	77.1	77.9	78.6	79.2	79.9	80.5	81.1
Egypt	62.2	65.9	67.9	70.4	71.4	72.2	73.1	74.1	75.1	75.9	76.7	77.5	78.3	79.0
Iraq	66.3	68.4	70.6	71.9	71.0	71.2	71.4	72.3	73.2	73.9	74.6	75.3	76.0	76.6
Jordan	68.8	70.6	71.9	72.8	73.8	74.6	75.5	76.3	77.1	77.9	78.6	79.3	79.9	80.5
Lebanon	70.1	71.3	72.5	74.8	77.4	79.7	80.9	82.1	83.3	84.3	85.3	86.1	86.9	87.6
State of Palestine	66.1	68.7	70.4	71.9	72.9	73.8	74.7	75.6	76.5	77.2	78.0	78.7	79.4	80.1
Syrian Arab Republic	68.0	70.3	72.1	74.0	75.7	77.3	76.3	77.2	78.0	78.8	79.6	80.3	81.0	81.6
Total Mashreq	64.3	67.3	69.3	71.4	72.2	73.1	73.5	74.5	75.3	76.1	76.9	77.6	78.3	78.9
Algeria	63.0	67.3	68.8	70.6	73.3	75.2	76.8	78.0	79.0	79.9	80.8	81.5	82.2	82.9
Libya	67.5	69.4	71.2	72.0	72.8	74.4	74.4	75.2	76.0	76.7	77.4	78.0	78.7	79.3
Morocco	61.1	64.7	67.7	69.3	71.0	72.7	74.6	76.0	77.2	78.2	79.1	80.0	80.7	81.5
Tunisia	65.9	69.1	72.7	75.0	76.3	77.0	77.0	77.9	78.6	79.2	79.9	80.4	81.0	81.5
Total Maghreb	62.9	66.6	69.0	70.8	72.7	74.4	75.9	77.0	78.1	79.0	79.8	80.6	81.3	82.0
Total Arab region	62.2	65.2	67.1	68.9	70.1	71.2	72.2	73.2	74.1	74.9	75.7	76.4	77.1	77.7

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: Averages are population weighted.

Table 8A. Infant mortality rates, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country/subregion	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	109.1	93.5	81.0	74.1	72.6	66.7	58.1	52.2	47.1	42.2	38.0	34.2	30.7	27.6
Djibouti	87.4	81.3	76.1	71.8	68.1	63.4	55.3	50.4	46.3	42.6	39.3	36.0	32.8	29.8
Mauritania	89.2	82.7	79.7	76.1	75.6	72.7	67.3	62.5	58.1	54.1	50.7	47.4	43.7	40.5
Somalia	127.8	123.3	129.6	105.2	97.0	89.8	79.5	69.9	64.4	58.5	53.2	48.1	43.8	39.7
Sudan	87.0	84.1	80.0	73.8	66.8	59.7	53.3	48.4	44.0	40.0	35.8	31.9	28.8	26.0
Yemen	117.0	95.4	84.0	75.4	68.0	61.3	53.6	48.6	44.3	40.4	36.3	32.8	29.6	26.7
Total Arab LDCs (mean)	102.9	93.4	88.4	79.4	74.7	68.9	61.2	55.3	50.7	46.3	42.2	38.4	34.9	31.7
Bahrain	23.1	18.5	14.9	12.0	9.8	8.0	6.9	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.3
Kuwait	23.9	16.3	12.7	10.9	10.2	9.7	8.6	7.6	6.7	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.1
Oman	59.4	42.1	30.9	21.7	14.6	9.8	7.3	5.9	5.1	4.6	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.2
Qatar	23.2	18.4	14.7	11.8	9.4	7.5	6.5	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.3
Saudi Arabia	56.2	41.1	30.4	23.1	18.8	16.2	15.3	13.2	11.4	9.9	8.9	7.9	7.1	6.5
United Arab Emirates	29.6	21.7	16.5	12.4	9.2	6.9	6.2	5.2	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.5
Total GCC countries (mean)	35.9	26.4	20.0	15.3	12.0	9.7	8.5	7.3	6.4	5.6	5.1	4.6	4.2	3.8
Egypt	106.9	74.3	59.6	36.7	29.4	23.5	18.9	15.6	13.2	11.6	10.2	9.1	8.1	7.4
Iraq	43.3	38.1	36.6	36.2	34.7	33.3	32.1	27.9	24.4	21.2	18.7	16.8	15.1	13.6
Jordan	42.7	34.0	29.1	25.6	22.4	19.7	17.1	14.8	12.7	11.0	9.7	8.5	7.6	6.8
Lebanon	35.0	30.4	25.1	18.8	13.8	10.6	9.3	8.0	6.9	6.0	5.3	4.7	4.3	3.9
State of Palestine	51.4	40.1	33.1	27.9	25.0	23.1	20.6	18.5	16.6	15.0	13.6	12.4	11.3	10.3
Syrian Arab Republic	42.9	33.5	26.3	21.3	17.8	14.9	17.9	14.9	12.4	10.3	8.5	7.1	6.2	5.5
Total Mashreq (mean)	53.7	41.7	34.9	27.7	23.8	20.8	19.3	16.6	14.4	12.5	11.0	9.8	8.8	7.9
Algeria	75.4	55.4	47.7	41.9	37.5	34.2	30.3	25.4	20.5	17.2	14.6	12.4	10.7	9.1
Libya	51.0	41.2	32.9	29.6	27.2	24.3	24.3	20.8	18.3	16.2	14.2	12.6	11.1	9.9
Morocco	83.9	66.6	53.0	44.1	37.9	31.8	26.3	20.8	16.4	13.7	11.5	9.8	8.6	7.8
Tunisia	65.8	48.8	35.2	28.6	23.0	18.7	18.7	16.5	14.1	12.3	10.8	9.9	9.1	8.5
Total Maghreb (mean)	69.0	53.0	42.2	36.1	31.4	27.2	24.9	20.9	17.4	14.8	12.8	11.2	9.9	8.8
Total Arab region (mean)	65.1	53.7	46.8	39.9	35.9	32.1	28.8	25.4	22.6	20.3	18.2	16.4	14.8	13.4

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: The infant mortality rate is calculated as the number of deaths per 1,000 births over a given period.

Table 9A. Child mortality rates, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country/subregion	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	158.3	133.5	113.8	102.9	100.6	91.4	77.9	68.6	60.6	53.3	47.2	42.0	37.2	33.2
Djibouti	140.5	129.5	120.0	112.0	105.5	97.5	83.4	76.1	69.9	64.3	59.2	54.0	49.0	44.4
Mauritania	146.7	130.2	122.5	113.3	112.1	104.4	90.1	83.8	78.0	72.9	68.4	64.1	59.1	54.8
Somalia	219.2	210.7	221.9	176.3	160.7	147.0	131.2	116.4	105.1	94.3	84.4	74.9	66.6	58.7
Sudan	142.5	137.2	129.7	118.6	106.1	93.3	81.5	74.0	66.4	59.4	52.3	45.9	40.7	36.0
Yemen	171.8	137.0	118.9	105.3	93.7	83.2	72.8	66.1	60.2	54.6	49.0	44.1	39.7	35.6
Total Arab LDCs (mean)	152.5	135.2	121.2	112.7	105.8	95.4	82.5	75.0	68.1	61.8	55.7	49.9	44.8	40.2
Bahrain	26.7	21.1	18.6	13.9	11.8	10.6	9.3	8.1	7.1	6.3	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.4
Kuwait	30.0	20.8	16.5	14.3	13.3	12.5	11.2	9.8	8.7	7.8	7.1	6.4	5.8	5.3
Oman	84.3	57.2	40.2	27.1	17.9	11.8	8.9	7.2	6.3	5.6	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.0
Qatar	31.1	23.8	18.5	14.5	11.5	9.2	7.9	6.9	6.2	5.6	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.0
Saudi Arabia	77.2	54.4	38.7	28.3	21.6	18.0	16.8	14.5	12.6	11.0	9.9	8.8	7.9	7.2
United Arab Emirates	36.1	25.7	19.3	14.4	10.7	8.1	7.2	6.1	5.2	4.6	4.1	3.6	3.2	2.9
Total GCC countries (mean)	33.6	24.8	18.9	14.5	12.6	11.2	9.1	7.7	6.7	6.0	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.2
Egypt	149.0	102.2	80.4	48.7	38.3	30.0	24.2	19.9	16.9	14.8	13.0	11.5	10.3	9.3
Iraq	59.2	51.5	48.2	46.4	41.3	38.8	37.5	32.6	28.5	25.0	22.0	19.8	17.8	16.1
Jordan	51.9	40.2	34.2	30.0	26.2	22.8	19.8	17.2	14.8	12.9	11.3	10.0	8.9	8.0
Lebanon	43.0	36.9	30.0	22.1	16.0	12.3	10.8	9.3	8.0	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.5
State of Palestine	67.4	50.3	40.5	33.5	29.8	27.3	24.3	21.6	19.4	17.5	15.8	14.3	13.1	12.0
Syrian Arab Republic	55.0	41.5	31.7	25.2	20.9	17.4	20.9	17.5	14.6	12.2	10.1	8.4	7.4	6.5
Total Mashreq (mean)	57.1	45.9	37.4	31.8	28.0	25.1	22.5	18.7	15.9	13.8	12.2	10.8	9.6	8.7
Algeria	103.5	71.5	60.2	52.3	45.9	41.3	36.0	30.3	24.6	20.5	17.4	14.8	12.7	10.8
Libya	63.0	49.9	39.2	35.1	32.1	28.7	28.8	24.7	21.8	19.3	17.0	15.0	13.3	11.8
Morocco	118.1	89.4	68.2	55.2	47.2	39.1	31.7	25.2	20.0	16.6	13.9	11.8	10.5	9.5
Tunisia	76.8	57.0	40.5	33.0	25.6	20.4	20.4	18.1	15.6	13.6	12.0	11.1	10.3	9.6
Total Maghreb (mean)	90.1	64.2	50.4	43.7	39.0	33.9	30.2	25.0	20.9	18.0	15.5	13.3	11.6	10.2
Total Arab region (mean)	77.0	55.7	40.5	34.3	30.9	28.0	24.2	20.8	18.1	15.7	13.5	11.7	10.4	9.6

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: The child mortality rate is calculated as the number of deaths of children aged 0-5 years old per 1,000 births over a period of time.

Table 10A. Average annual rate of change of the percentage rural, Arab countries, 1980-2050 (percentage)

Country	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	-0.6	-0.7	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Djibouti	-2.1	-0.8	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.6	-0.7	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Somalia	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2
Sudan	-0.8	-1.5	-1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1
Mauritania	-2.2	-2.0	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.6	-1.5	-1.4	-1.3	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3
Yemen	-0.4	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2
Bahrain	-1.6	-1.6	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
Kuwait	-18.2	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
Oman	-4.0	-4.7	-3.6	0.1	-0.6	-2.1	-2.1	-2.0	-1.8	-1.6	-1.3	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2
Qatar	-1.4	-6.3	-7.3	-6.1	-7.4	-12.8	-11.5	-9.3	-7.0	-4.7	-2.4	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
Saudi Arabia	-4.4	-3.1	-1.9	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1
United Arab Emirates	0.9	0.7	0.7	-1.9	-2.2	-2.1	-2.0	-1.8	-1.5	-1.3	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1
Egypt	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1
Iraq	-2.0	-0.6	0.6	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.0	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
Jordan	-3.8	-4.2	-4.2	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1
Lebanon	-4.9	-4.0	-2.1	-1.6	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1
State of Palestine	-1.5	-1.6	-1.6	-1.2	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
Syrian Arab Republic	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
Algeria	-1.6	-1.6	-1.7	-1.9	-2.1	-2.2	-2.1	-1.9	-1.7	-1.5	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
Libya	-3.9	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
Morocco	-1.3	-1.4	-1.3	-0.7	-0.8	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.3	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.2
Tunisia	-1.4	-1.9	-1.8	-1.0	-0.9	-0.5	-0.5	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-1.2

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision database. Available from <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup>. Accessed 30 September 2015.

Table 11A. Net number of migrants, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (*thousands, medium fertility variant*)

Country/subregion	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050
Comoros	-5	-5	-3	-6	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10
Djibouti	10	90	-15	-17	-18	-20	-16	-11	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9
Somalia	-832	-632	-893	-100	-200	-350	-400	-200	-150	-150	-150	-150	-150	-150
Sudan	220	150	1350	-490	-430	-500	-800	-100	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45	-45
Mauritania	-16	-30	-15	10	30	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
Yemen	-50	-50	673	-100	-100	0	-50	-200	-200	-100	-100	-100	-100	-100
Total Arab LDCs	-673	-477	1097	-703	-728	-900	-1296	-541	-434	-334	-334	-334	-334	-334
Bahrain	3	13	5	43	134	317	30	33	18	13	13	13	8	8
Kuwait	96	111	-581	99	139	522	518	100	70	70	50	50	45	45
Oman	82	11	94	-208	40	186	1211	-20	-50	-50	-50	-50	-30	20
Qatar	102	58	-22	43	185	855	364	100	75	40	30	30	30	30
Saudi Arabia	1392	591	-25	60	945	815	850	350	200	200	200	200	200	200
United Arab Emirates	176	261	327	484	1180	3493	405	275	275	250	250	250	250	250
Total GCC countries	1850	1044	-202	521	2623	6187	3 377	838	588	523	493	493	503	553
Egypt	-390	-205	-453	-204	-68	-279	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216	-216
Iraq	-200	-630	-154	-18	-266	-457	549	20	-104	-85	-30	-30	-30	-30
Jordan	82	118	401	-188	-94	450	230	-258	-394	-172	-20	-20	-20	-20
Lebanon	-214	-228	90	-29	550	183	1250	-279	-770	-335	-20	-20	-20	-20
State of Palestine	-61	-39	35	70	-190	-90	-44	-33	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25	-25
Syrian Arab Republic	-87	-147	-70	-130	-380	370	-4030	941	2780	1201	-33	-41	-50	-50
Total Mashreq	-871	-1131	-150	-500	-448	177	-2261	175	1271	368	-344	-352	-361	-361
Algeria	-81	-93	-129	-164	-205	-357	-143	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50	-50
Libya	113	5	4	9	-12	-82	-502	-10	20	20	20	20	20	20
Morocco	-321	-419	-467	-559	-695	-578	-311	-311	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300	-300
Tunisia	86	49	140	-37	-139	-33	-33	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20
Total Maghreb	-203	-457	-451	-752	-1051	-1050	-989	-391	-350	-350	-350	-350	-350	-350
Total Arab region	104	-1022	293	-1433	397	4414	-1169	81	1 075	207	-535	-543	-542	-492

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Table 12A. Net migration rate, Arab countries and subregions, 1980-2050 (medium fertility variant)

Country	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045
Comoros	-2.7	-2.3	-1.3	-2.3	-3.4	-3.0	-2.7	-2.4	-2.1	-1.9	-1.8	-1.6	-1.5
Djibouti	5.1	35.6	-4.8	-4.8	-4.8	-5.0	-3.7	-2.4	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	-1.6	-1.6
Somalia	-27.4	-20.4	-28.2	-2.9	-5.0	-7.8	-7.9	-3.4	-2.2	-1.9	-1.7	-1.5	-1.3
Sudan	2.8	1.6	12.1	-3.7	-2.9	-2.9	-4.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Mauritania	-2.0	-3.2	-1.3	0.8	2.0	-1.2	-1.0	-0.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6
Yemen	-1.1	-0.9	9.9	-1.2	-1.0	0	-0.4	-1.4	-1.3	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Total Arab LDCs	-4.1	-2.5	4.8	-2.6	-2.4	-2.6	-3.3	-1.2	-0.9	-0.6	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5
Bahrain	1.6	5.6	2.1	14.0	34.8	59.5	4.5	4.6	2.4	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.9
Kuwait	12.3	11.7	-62.9	11.0	13.3	39.2	29.8	4.9	3.1	2.9	2.0	1.9	1.6
Oman	12.3	1.3	9.4	-18.8	3.4	13.6	65.2	-0.9	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9	-1.8	-1.1
Qatar	68.7	27.1	-9.2	15.7	51.8	131.4	36.3	8.5	5.9	3.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
Saudi Arabia	23.9	8.0	-0.3	0.6	8.2	6.2	5.7	2.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9
United Arab Emirates	29.7	33.0	31.4	35.9	62.7	109.1	9.3	5.8	5.4	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.1
Total GCC countries	22.6	10.0	-1.6	3.8	15.9	30.5	13.7	3.1	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5
Egypt	-1.7	-0.8	-1.5	-0.6	-0.2	-0.7	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3
Iraq	-2.7	-7.6	-1.6	-0.2	-2.1	-3.2	3.3	0.1	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Jordan	6.5	7.7	20.9	-8.3	-3.7	15.2	6.5	-6.6	-9.4	-3.9	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Lebanon	-16.2	-17.0	6.3	-1.9	30.5	8.8	49.1	-9.5	-27.3	-12.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.7
State of Palestine	-7.5	-4.1	3.0	4.8	-11.2	-4.7	-2.0	-1.3	-0.9	-0.8	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6
Syrian Arab Republic	-1.8	-2.5	-1.0	-1.7	-4.4	3.8	-41.1	9.5	23.9	8.9	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3
Total Mashreq	-2.2	-2.5	-0.3	-0.9	-0.7	0.3	-3.7	0.5	2.0	0.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Algeria	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-2.1	-0.8	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Libya	6.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.4	-2.7	-16.0	-0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Morocco	-3.0	-3.5	-3.6	-4.0	-4.7	-3.7	-1.9	-1.8	-1.6	-1.5	-1.5	-1.4	-1.4
Tunisia	2.5	1.3	3.2	-0.8	-2.8	-0.6	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Total Maghreb	-0.8	-1.5	-1.3	-2.1	-2.7	-2.5	-2.2	-0.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6
Total	0.1	-1.0	0.2	-1.1	0.2	2.6	-1.0	0.2	0.7	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Note: The net migration rate is calculated as the average net number of migrants per 1,000 population over a period of time.

Table 13A. Number of asylum-seekers and refugees from Arab countries, 2000-2014

Type	Country/subregion of origin	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Asylum-seeker	Arab LDCs	Comoros	94	80	37	48	521	516	11	43	40	13	13	33	49	327	337
		Djibouti	147	182	115	71	40	218	113	32	66	162	232	287	312	406	416
		Mauritania	1788	2568	2979	2883	2586	2304	1811	1017	784	911	764	592	3042	3860	6969
		Somalia	11979	16197	13960	14790	20529	30468	22021	16436	20543	21084	22839	31255	33690	35657	49051
		Sudan	19112	19827	14016	6694	11969	13478	16654	19417	18080	16922	23713	31465	21548	28388	36001
		Yemen	856	743	640	479	338	419	359	320	473	620	627	1162	1592	1882	2692
	GCC countries	Bahrain	55	9	14	12	22	27	20	18	13	4	26	76	110	91	95
		Kuwait	101	144	118	109	95	73	125	109	68	67	97	165	140	190	240
		Oman	10	5	10	8	8	8	8	4	4	8	8	4	5	5	9
		Qatar	30	31	31	18	4	7	6	2	3	5	7	7	6	5	0
		Saudi Arabia	52	153	111	103	87	71	54	44	39	57	80	112	149	212	352
		United Arab Emirates	10	31	38	25	11	16	12	10	11	26	29	14	24	46	68
	Mashreq	Egypt	1154	1445	1834	2025	2252	2329	1695	1632	1828	1638	1588	2626	4130	9487	10787
		Iraq	40652	34848	29655	31615	30638	34443	47318	27693	25675	22383	29956	24502	24257	43144	103702
		Jordan	559	566	733	729	722	670	774	743	759	772	622	534	635	944	1272
		Lebanon	1541	1891	2371	2129	1611	2003	3159	2576	2291	1772	1521	1399	1984	2741	3776
		State of Palestine	545	892	1012	1086	1032	1066	1387	2420	2661	2501	3209	1780	2438	3348	3607
		Syrian Arab Republic	7464	7728	8550	7104	7588	14008	15026	13736	11978	11140	19528	28912	52046	82074	159254
	Maghreb	Algeria	2330	2751	2380	1922	1348	1391	1544	1356	1536	1546	1713	2187	2463	4295	5097
		Libya	542	484	929	904	820	769	671	623	765	641	566	1963	1907	2090	3854
		Morocco	182	273	299	266	263	463	589	466	534	610	846	1153	1786	2875	3196
		Tunisia	362	396	433	385	346	365	354	346	368	505	558	1613	2290	1791	1760
		Total (thousands)	89.6	91.2	80.3	73.4	82.8	105.1	113.7	89.0	88.5	83.4	108.5	131.8	154.6	223.9	392.5

Type	Country/subregion of origin	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Refugees (including people in refugee-like situations)	Arab LDCs	Comoros	28	26	43	58	50	61	72	96	378	268	368	422	454	513	565
		Djibouti	1910	452	471	522	495	504	485	648	650	622	566	602	640	762	860
		Mauritania	29752	29862	30137	30525	31112	31651	33428	33108	45601	39143	37733	39929	33765	34252	34079
		Somalia	475655	440134	432316	402336	389300	395553	464037	457356	561155	678309	770154	1077048	1136719	1121770	1106019
		Sudan	494363	489950	508877	606242	730641	693632	686311	523032	419248	368195	387288	500014	568943	648942	665908
		Yemen	2113	1985	1600	1597	1606	1325	1362	1632	1777	1934	2076	2323	2594	2428	2580
	GCC countries	Bahrain	95	46	50	52	52	41	62	73	80	79	87	215	297	275	334
		Kuwait	692	701	709	616	398	381	617	746	854	938	988	1120	1197	977	982
		Oman	5	5	19	11	18	12	38	43	56	64	63	60	65	26	20
		Qatar	1		8	13	10	11	52	62	71	68	112	95	124	17	18
		Saudi Arabia	77	35	109	236	214	151	617	753	712	633	667	745	818	584	601
		United Arab Emirates	15	18	31	20	71	30	265	308	256	414	424	486	584	90	84
	Mashreq	Egypt	3953	4678	6443	5735	5371	6291	7613	6799	6780	6990	6913	7936	10020	12810	15824
		Iraq	526179	530511	422512	368580	311890	262299	1450905	2309245	1903519	1785212	1683579	1428308	746206	401466	369850
		Jordan	919	775	1287	1162	1170	1789	1603	1787	1890	2129	2254	2250	2368	1632	1679
		Lebanon	10215	8763	26320	24932	19865	18323	12252	13094	12967	16260	15869	15013	15106	3819	4246
		State of Palestine	110640	349161	428782	350568	349831	349673	334142	341237	340016	95201	93323	94150	94918	96044	97190
	Maghreb	Syrian Arab Republic	11742	9738	37826	41638	42868	32802	24676	27380	30422	35828	36904	39862	1458044	4936664	7767108
		Algeria	8034	8418	12107	11667	10673	12041	8353	10615	9060	8185	6689	6121	5677	3660	3478
		Libya	619	888	1456	1570	1713	1575	1573	1954	2084	2202	2309	4384	5251	3314	4158
Morocco		392	363	1269	1291	1318	2920	4710	4039	3533	2286	2284	2312	2407	1308	1501	
Tunisia		1207	1368	2543	2563	2516	3129	2844	2507	2349	2260	2174	1952	1935	1363	1452	
	Total (thousands)	1678.6	1877.9	1914.9	1851.9	1901.2	1814.2	3036.0	3736.5	3343.5	3047.2	3052.8	3225.3	4088.1	7272.7	10078.5	
Grand Total (thousands)	1768.2	1969.1	1995.2	1925.3	1984.0	1919.3	3149.7	3825.6	3432.0	3130.6	3161.4	3357.2	4242.7	7496.6	10471.1		

Source: United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Population Statistics database. Available from http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview#_ga=1.243335942.2081107624.1459256283. Accessed 30 September 2015.

Table 14A. Age distribution in 1980, 2015, and 2050 (medium fertility variant, percentage)

Country/subregion	1980				2015				2050			
	0-14	15-64	65+	80+	0-14	15-64	65+	80+	0-14	15-64	65+	80+
Comoros	45.4	51.5	3.1	0.3	40.3	56.9	2.8	0.3	30.1	64.0	5.9	0.7
Djibouti	46.5	51.2	2.4	0.2	32.7	63.1	4.2	0.5	22.2	67.8	10.1	1.5
Mauritania	45.3	51.8	2.9	0.2	40.0	56.8	3.2	0.4	31.1	63.0	5.9	0.7
Somalia	43.7	53.0	3.3	0.3	46.7	50.5	2.8	0.3	38.0	58.7	3.3	0.4
Sudan	47.0	50.1	2.9	0.3	40.5	56.2	3.3	0.4	30.1	63.8	6.1	0.9
Yemen	49.4	47.8	2.8	0.3	40.3	56.9	2.8	0.3	25.2	68.8	6.0	0.6
Total Arab LDCs	46.9	50.2	3.0	0.3	41.1	55.8	3.1	0.4	30.0	64.4	5.6	0.7
Bahrain	34.6	63.4	2.1	0.2	21.5	76.1	2.4	0.3	13.5	69.3	17.2	3.3
Kuwait	40.5	57.9	1.6	0.2	22.3	75.7	2.0	0.2	17.2	69.0	13.8	1.9
Oman	45.1	52.2	2.7	0.2	20.5	76.9	2.6	0.4	16.0	66.1	17.9	3.5
Qatar	33.7	64.7	1.5	0.2	15.5	83.3	1.2	0.1	12.2	74.0	13.8	3.1
Saudi Arabia	44.5	52.5	3.0	0.3	28.6	68.6	2.9	0.5	18.7	66.0	15.3	2.7
United Arab Emirates	28.0	70.6	1.5	0.1	13.9	84.9	1.1	0.1	11.7	72.0	16.3	4.1
Total GCC countries	42.6	54.8	2.7	0.3	24.1	73.5	2.4	0.4	16.8	67.6	15.5	3.0
Egypt	40.0	55.4	4.6	0.6	33.2	61.6	5.2	0.8	25.7	63.9	10.4	1.8
Iraq	46.8	49.1	4.1	0.4	41.0	56.0	3.1	0.5	33.0	61.1	5.9	0.8
Jordan	49.0	47.8	3.2	0.5	35.5	60.7	3.8	0.5	23.7	64.9	11.4	2.0
Lebanon	39.0	55.6	5.4	0.7	24.0	67.9	8.1	1.5	14.3	62.4	23.3	7.5
State of Palestine	49.9	47.9	2.3	0.3	40.2	56.8	3.0	0.4	28.8	64.3	6.9	1.2
Syrian Arab Republic	48.7	48.3	2.9	0.4	37.1	58.8	4.1	0.7	21.8	66.7	11.5	2.0
Total Mashreq	42.8	52.9	4.2	0.5	35.3	60.1	4.6	0.7	27.1	63.5	9.4	1.6
Algeria	46.3	50.3	3.4	0.4	28.5	65.5	5.9	1.2	19.8	63.2	16.9	3.9
Libya	47.8	49.4	2.8	0.3	29.8	65.6	4.5	0.7	18.7	65.2	16.1	2.8
Morocco	43.4	53.4	3.3	0.4	27.2	66.6	6.2	1.1	18.8	63.9	17.3	4.1
Tunisia	41.7	54.4	3.9	0.4	23.4	69.1	7.6	1.6	17.4	63.0	19.6	4.8
Total Maghreb	44.6	52.0	3.4	0.4	27.5	66.4	6.1	1.2	19.1	63.6	17.3	4.0
Total Arab region	44.1	52.3	3.6	0.4	33.2	62.4	4.3	0.7	25.2	64.2	10.6	2.0

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York, 2015, DVD Edition).

Table 15A. Selected socioeconomic indicators in Arab countries

	Labour force participation rate, women (ages 15-64) 2013 (%)	Labour force participation rate, men (ages 15-64) 2013 (%)	Share of women of total labour force 2013 (%)	share of women (ages 20-24) with at most primary education 2015 (%)	share of women (ages 20-24) with at least upper secondary education 2015 (%)	share of women (ages 40-44 with at least upper secondary education 2015 (%)	share of men (ages 20-24) with at most primary education 2015 (%)	share of men (ages 20-24) with at least upper secondary education 2015 (%)	share of men (ages 40-44) with at least upper secondary education 2015 (%)	Infant mortality rate (IMR) 2015	GDP growth (annual) 2013 (%)	GDP per capita (current US\$) 2013
Algeria	16.2	76.2	17.3	15	54	28	11	44	35	21.9	2.8	5,504.2
Bahrain	40.7	88.4	19.5	8	77	55	14	57	46	5.3	5.3	24,378.9
Comoros	35.9	80.5	30.5	57	4	6	51	6	15	55.1	3.5	823.0
Djibouti	38.5	70.5	34.9	50	13	7	45	15	14	54.2	5.0	1,684.5
Egypt	25.8	79.1	24.1	19	73	38	15	76	55	20.3	2.1	3,104.2
Iraq	15.6	72.2	17.6	43	30	26	41	33	41	26.5	8.4	6,882.4
Jordan	16.4	69.6	18.2	11	70	55	16	60	54	15.4	2.8	5,200.3
Kuwait	45.1	84.9	27.1	7	58	40	9	45	34	7.3	1.5	48,926.5
Lebanon	25.9	76.1	24.1	11	68	34	18	58	36	7.1	0.9	9,870.5
Libya	31.8	79.6	28.1	31	50	25	26	50	37	11.4	-13.6	10,454.8
Mauritania	29.4	80.2	26.6	56	24	14	43	32	27	65.1	5.7	1,306.0
Morocco	27.1	78.9	27.0	47	22	12	39	22	20	23.7	4.4	3,056.1
Oman	30.5	84.5	14.1	29	52	34	25	52	43	9.9	3.9	20,011.3
Qatar	51.8	95.9	13.1	11	54	59	29	31	38	6.8	6.2	96,719.3
Saudi Arabia	21.3	79.9	15.2	11	70	33	11	64	49	12.5	2.7	24,646.0
Somalia	38.8	77.5	33.7	79	10	8	65	26	30	85	..	..
State of Palestine	..	..	..	19	42	27	18	53	41	..	..	..
Sudan	32.6	76.4	29.4	65	22	11	59	24	18	47.6	3.3	1,726.1
Syrian Arab Republic	14.3	76.0	15.4	32	26	19	32	24	26	11.1	..	..
Tunisia	27.3	75.5	26.9	9	50	14	5	42	26	12.1	2.5	4,316.8
United Arab Emirates	46.8	92.3	13.0	10	71	62	12	49	43	5.9	5.2	44,506.8
Yemen	26.4	74.3	25.9	29	52	34	25	52	43	33.8	4.2	1,408.1

Sources and notes: Data on the labour force are ILO estimates education data are taken from the Wittgenstein Centre for Demography and Global Human Capital (WIC), Wittgenstein Centre Data Explorer, version 1.2 2015, available from <http://www.oew.ac.at/vid/dataexplorer/> (accessed February 2015). Education data for Djibouti, Libya, Mauritania, Oman and Yemen are estimated based on regional averages for lack of country data (they should thus be interpreted with care). All other data are taken from the World Bank database, available from <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/> (accessed February 2015).

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