

Part 4



**Data
and
Indicators**

- Social Protection in Arab Countries through international Data and indicators

Social Protection in the Arab World through Global Data and Indicators

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Introduction

A sizeable amount of indicators and statistical data from various sources and global databases was collected in the process of preparing the Arab Economic and Social Rights Watch Report on Social Protection, which will be presented in this initial document to assist rights activists, politicians, and academic researchers to delve deeper into the situation of social protection in the Arab world. In the following pages, an attempt will be made, wherever possible, to calculate averages and indicators to allow a comparison among Arab countries, on one hand, and between them as a group and other country groupings, on the other, especially due to the scarcity of information about Arab countries as separate group in the reports and databases of international organizations.

The data and indicators presented were limited to those by international organizations. Although they might sometimes seem partial or suffer from inaccuracies, they share common concepts and methodologies, which would allow the abovementioned comparison among them and with other countries and regions around the world. National sources, on the other hand, suffer from various flaws and inadequacies, in addition to differences between concepts and lack of conformity of methodology, which does not allow objective and adequate comparison; and were thus disregarded.

The tables are organized around six major themes. The first relates to human development indicators due to their close and organic association with the scope and efficacy of social protection policy. In the event of exposure to various life incidents, such as illness, unemployment, or other, the absence of a universal and effective social protection system would lead to negative consequences on household and individuals income. It limits their individual capabilities or even the capacity to provide schooling for their children. It reduces their productivity and ability to provide a decent living, pushing them towards a downward spiral of poverty and marginalization.

Social Protection is meant to break this widespread and vicious circle in the Arab world, since it could secure income and health care for social groups, which could be vulnerable or exposed to such risks. It could also provide support for growth, which in turn would increase the wealth and resources needed for redistribution, as well as reinvestment in social protection programs, not only as a main pillar of social stability and cohesion or resisting poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion, but also as one of the basic ingredients of revitalizing domestic demand and improving labor productivity, by boosting health and education levels and the other elements of human development.

Based on the three pillars of human development – income, health, and education, special attention was given to indicators related to individual income, life expectancy, and mortality rates of children and mothers. However, data on primary school enrollment in the Arab countries mentioned in the reports, whether in the UNESCO or ALESCO databases, had to be disregarded, since it lack comprehensiveness and seems to be marred by lack of accuracy or updating.

Theme Two will be dedicated to demographic and social aspects, as they could highlight the challenges facing Arab states in providing social protection for their populations, today and in the next two decades. This is presented through dependency ratios, participation in the workforce, unem-

ployment, and fragile employment, without losing sight migrant and refugee statistics, as one of the categories in need of protection and care.

Considering social protection as a human right enshrined in various international covenants and instruments and as one of the key components of the concept of decent work and the dignity of individuals and groups, Theme Three will be dedicated to exposing the status of Arab countries' ratification of ILO instruments in this field, in addition to the scope and types of branches and risks covered by the law.

To give a picture about the realization of this right through the actual coverage indicators related to the branches of social security systems, Theme Four will highlight the four main branches: unemployment, industrial accidents and occupational diseases, maternity, and old age.

Theme five focuses on social protection expenditures and their development, with a section on social coverage and distribution between the public and private sectors.

Given the importance of social assistance systems and social safety nets in bridging social coverage gaps and reducing the impact of poverty, want, and lack of job opportunities for various groups, which do not enjoy the right to social security, the last chapter of the paper will attempt to provide an overview of the situation, despite the lack of updated and comprehensive statistics and quantitative or qualitative data related to such programs in World Bank data on Arab countries.

Each Table will be followed by the sources of information and related key definitions, followed by some comments and conclusions, through a quick analysis of the data provided in a bulleted style to facilitate reading and focusing on what is essential.

Chapter One: Global Data and Human Development Indicators:

1. Population, GNI, and Per Capita Income

Table 1: Population, GNI, and GNI Per Capita							
Income Bracket	Country In millions	Population		GNI		GNI Per Capita in US\$ (cur- rent rates)	
		%	Current US\$ (in millions)	%			
High income countries Kuwait UAE KSA Bahrain Oman Total sample	Qatar	2,169	0.59	202.500	7.24	93,361	
		3,369	0.91	183.200	6.55	54,378	
		9,346	2.53	383.800	13.72	41,066	
		28,830	7.80	745.300	26.63	25,852	
		1,332	0.36	32.790	1.17	24,617	
		3,632	0.98	80.570	2.88	22,183	
		48,678	13.16	628 1 160	58.18	33,448	
Middle income countries	Upper tier	Libya	6,202	1.68	75.460	2.70	12,167
		Lebanon	4,467	1.21	44.350	1.58	9,928
		Iraq	33,420	9.04	222.900	7.97	6,670
		Algeria	39,210	10.60	210.200	7.51	5,361
		Jordan	6,459	1.75	33.680	1.20	5,214
		Tunisia	10,890	2.94	47.130	1.68	4,328
		Total Sam- ple	100,648	27.22	633.720	22.65	6,296
	Lower tier	Egypt	82,060	22.19	272.000	9.72	3,315
		Morocco	33,010	8.93	104.400	3.73	3,163
		Palestine	4,170	1.13	10.240	0.37	2,456
		Syria	22,850	6.18	40.410	1.44	1,768
		Total sam- ple	142,090	38.43	427.050	15.26	3,005
Low income countries Djibouti Yemen Mauritania Comoros Somalia Total sample	Sudan	37,960	10.27	66.550	2.38	1,753	
		0,873	0.24	1.456	0.05	1,668	
		24,410	6.60	35.950	1.28	1,473	
		3,890	1.05	4.163	0.15	1,070	
		0,735	0.20	0.657	0.02	894	
		10,500	2.84	0.917	0.03	87	
		78,368	21.19	109.693	3.92	1,400	
Arab countries		369,784	5.11	2,798,623	3.79	7,568	
World		7,243,000	100	73,870,000	100	10,199	

Source: World Bank website: www.data.worldbank.org, statistics by country.

Definitions According to International Standards:

- Low-income countries: Countries with a GNI per capita of \$976 or less.
- Middle-income countries are divided into two tiers:
 - Lower tier: Countries with a GNI per capita of more than \$976 but less than \$3,865.
 - Upper tier: Countries with a GNI per capita of more than \$3,866 but less than \$11,905.
- High-income countries: Countries whose GNI per capita exceeds \$11,905.

Comments:

According to World Bank statistics in 2013, this highlights the following:

- The population of Arab countries representing 5.11% of the world's population, but the overall GNP of Arab countries represents only 3.79% of the world's total output.
- The average per capita GNI in Arab countries is \$7,568, about three-quarters of the global average (74.2%) estimated at \$10,199.
- Vast discrepancies exist between the various Arab countries in this regard. The six countries belonging to the high-income bracket (Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain), with only 13.16% of the overall population of the region, produce 58.18% of total Arab GNI. In contrast, the six countries in the low-income bracket (Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania, Djibouti and Comoros, Somalia), with a population of more than 21.19% of the total population in the region, only share 3.92% of the Arab GNI.
- GNI per capita between income brackets ranges between \$33,448 for high-income countries and \$1,400 for low income ones (a 24-fold difference). The average is \$6,296 for upper-middle income countries (Libya, Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria, Jordan, and Tunisia) and \$3,005 for lower-middle income countries (Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, and Syria).

However, the table highlights a deeper discrepancy, in comparison between countries. For example, the GNI per capita in Qatar is 104 times that in Djibouti.

This demonstrates the weakness of the region's contribution to the production of wealth compared to the size of its population and their proportion globally, in addition to the discrepancies among Arab countries in the challenges to be tackled to drive and accelerate growth and achieve a more comprehensive development. This should go hand in hand with strengthening, expanding, and improving the efficiency of social protection policies, so as to ensure a decent life for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and achieve greater social justice.

2. Human Development Index

Table 2: Evolution of the Human Development Index between 2010 and 2013			
Indicator Level	Countries	HDI	
		2010	2013
Very High Level	Qatar	0.847	0.851
	KSA	0.815	0.836
	UAE	0.824	0.827
	Bahrain	0.812	0.815
	Kuwait	0.807	0.814
High Level	Libya	0.799	0.784
	Oman	0.78	0.783
	Lebanon	0.759	0.765
	Jordan	0.744	0.745
	Tunisia	0.715	0.721
	Algeria	0.709	0.717
Medium Level	Palestine	0.671	0.686
	Egypt	0.678	0.682
	Syria	0.662	0.658
	Iraq	0.638	0.642
	Morocco	0.603	0.617
Low/weak Level	Yemen	0.484	0.500
	Comoros	0.479	0.488
	Mauritania	0.475	0.487
	Sudan	0.463	0.473
	Djibouti	0.452	0.467
	Somalia	...	...
Average for Arab Countries		0.675	0.682
East Asia and Pacific		0.688	0.703
Latin America		0.726	0.740
South Asia		0.573	0.588
World average		0.693	0.702

Source: "World Report on Human Development 2014: Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerability and Enhancing Resilience", UNDP, 2014.

Definitions:

- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index measuring the average achievement of countries in terms of life expectancy at birth, being knowledgeable, and having a decent standard of living. It is calculated by the UNDP, which publishes global and regional reports on the issue.
- Low human development countries are those with an HDI of less than 0.550.
- Medium human development countries are those with an HDI of 0.600–0.699.
- High human development countries are those with an HDI of 0.700–0.799.
- Very high human development countries are those with an HDI of 0.800.

Comments:

The following is highlighted by the above table:

- Arab countries, in general, failed to achieve significant progress in human development between the years 2010 and 2013, compared with global figures. The average HDI for Arab countries rose from 0.675 in 2010 to 0.682 in 2013. The 7-point increase is weak in comparison with the global average, which rose by 9 points, or the average for South and East Asia and the Pacific (15) points and Latin America and the Caribbean (14) points).
- The Arab average (0.682) is still lower than the global average (0.702), with a rise of 2 points in the difference to reach 20 points between 2010 and 2013. In the same period, the global mean rose from the low to the middle bracket, where the Arab average remains. The distribution of Arab countries among bracket has not changed and no Arab country has progressed from one bracket to another in those three years.
- The highest increase between Arab countries was registered by Saudi Arabia, with an HDI increase of 21 points, followed by Yemen with 16 points, then Palestine and Djibouti by 15 points, and Morocco by 14.
- On the other hand, Libya and Syria saw a 15 point and 4 point drop in the Index respectively, inevitably as a result of the developments and security situations witnessed by those two countries.
- The HDI ranking of Arab countries is fairly consistent with their income ranking, with the exception of Oman. It belongs to the high-income countries bracket, but still not ranked as a very high HDI country, similar to Iraq, which is in the middle HDI bracket, but considered a high-middle income country. This demonstrates the difficulties entailed in translating economic development and high income into human development, which elevates the status of individuals and groups, in addition to the impact of the security and political situation on the developmental process in general.

Table 3: World ranking of Arab countries by per capita GNI and HDI

Income segments	Countries	HDI Ranking	Per Capita GNP Ranking	Difference in rank between HDI and per capita income	Per capita income in dollars 2013 equivalent to purchasing power in 2011
High income countries	Qatar	31	1	-30	119,029
	Kuwait	46	3	-43	85,820
	UAE	40	8	-32	58,068
	KSA	34	12	-22	52,109
	Oman	56	18	-38	42,191
	Bahrain	44	31	-13	32,072

Medium income countries	Upper tier	Libya	55	50	-5	21,666
		Lebanon	65	69	4	16,263
		Iraq	120	77	-43	14,007
		Algeria	93	83	-10	12,555
		Jordan	77	89	12	11,337
		Tunisia	90	93	3	10,440
	Lower tier	Egypt	110	94	-16	10,400
		Morocco	129	115	-14	6,905
		Syria	118	123	5	5,771
		Pales-tine	107	129	22	5,168
Low income countries	Yemen	154	140	-14	3,945	
Sudan	166	143	-23	3,428		
Djibouti	170	145	-25	3,109		
Mauritania	161	147	-14	2,988		
Comoros	159	169	10	1,505		
Somalia						
Average Arab countries					15,817	
East Asia and Pacific					10,499	
Latin America					13,767	
World average					13,723	

Source: "World Report on Human Development 2014: Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerability and Enhancing Resilience", UNDP, 2014. Difference in rank was calculated by the researchers.

Comments:

The above table shows that:

- 15 Arab countries of various income brackets are ranked higher in GNI per capita in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms than in the Human Development Index. This is particularly noted in oil-producing countries, which, although topping international rankings in terms of GNI per capita, their rank in terms of human development is relatively low. Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE, are ranked first, third, and eighth in the world respectively in terms of GNI per capita, while falling in the 31st, 46th, and 40th place respectively in the Human Development Index table. Iraq, Algeria, and Egypt, which belong to the middle-income tier, registered a significant drop in HDI ranking compared to their rank in terms of per capita income.
- This confirms once again the difficulties in translating growth and rising wealth into human development and the advancement of human beings, due to the weakness of social protection policies and the unfair distribution of the fruits of growth, on the one hand, as well as long time required for policies to have a positive impact on some social, professional, demographic, and cultural characteristics.
- It should be noted that although some countries belong to the middle-income tier, their international HDI rankings are ahead of their per capita GDI rank, such as in Palestine, Comoros, and Jordan.
- The following graph illustrates the conformity of the two rankings. Countries closer to the line have almost similar rankings. Countries below the line have a better HDI ranking than

in income. Countries located above the line have a level of human development, which is inconsistent with their economic capacities, which is the situation of most Arab countries (16).

Figure 1: International ranking of Arab countries according to HDI and GNI per capita in PPP terms

Source: Based on data provided by “World Report on Human Development 2014: Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerability and Enhancing Resilience”, UNDP, 2014.

3. Poverty Rates

Table 4: Poverty Rates in the Arab World			
Country	US\$2 (PPP) daily	US\$1.25 (PPP) daily	Year
Comoros	65.0	46.1	2004
Djibouti	41.2	18.8	2002
Egypt	15.4	1.7	2008
Mauritania	47.7	23.4	2008
Morocco	14.0	2.5	2007
Sudan	44.1	19.8	2009
Tunisia	4.3	1.1	2010
Iraq	21.4	2.8	2007
Jordan	1.6	0.1	2010
Palestine	0.3	0.0	2009
Syria	16.9	1.71	2004
Yemen	46.6	17.5	2005

Source: ILO data based on the World Bank statistical database.

Definitions:

- Poverty rate: The number of people whose per capita income or spending does not exceed the line of poverty specified at a time of reference. International organizations adopt two lines of poverty:
 - \$1.25 PPP daily, considered the extreme poverty line.
 - \$2 PPP daily as the poverty line.

Comments:

Poverty is considered one of the most prominent facets and causes of vulnerability and they mutually feed of each other. Despite precautions regarding the measurement of poverty rates or the available data, whose credibility is doubted by many, they are presented as they appear in the databases of relevant international organizations, despite being inconsistent in terms of year and availability. The 2014 World Human Development Report only provides this data, in addition to poverty rates by calculating the population living below the national poverty line defined by each country in only four countries. They are Djibouti, Egypt, Mauritania, and Palestine with rates of 18.8%, 25.2%, 42%, and 21.9% respectively. These figures vary significantly from percentages calculated on the basis estimating the poverty line at two dollars a day in Palestine, for example (21.9% versus 0.3%).

The following could be deduced from this data:

- Poverty rates remain very high in low-income Arab countries: Comoros with 65%, Mauritania with 47.7%, Yemen with 46.6%, Sudan with 44.1%, and Djibouti with 41.2%.
- As for middle-income countries, despite Iraq's classification in the upper-middle income bracket, its rates of poverty (23.6% and 21.4% respectively) are much higher than lower-middle income countries, which range between 16.9% in Syria, 15.4% in Egypt, and 14% in Morocco. Palestine, on the other hand, belongs to the same bracket but registers a poverty rate estimated 0.3%.

Soaring poverty rates in most Arab countries highlight the importance of challenging this menace to our communities, to accelerate the pace of growth, improve its operational content, and enforce redistributive policies, on one hand. On the other hand is the development and implementation of programs aimed to improve the capacities of poor individuals and households and provide the elements of their integration into active life, including opportunities to save them from the cycle of destitution and deprivation. This also raises the question of providing the necessary funds for social safety nets and financial or in-kind assistance programs to mitigate the impact of want, destitution, and malnutrition on vulnerable groups, who are unable to work or care for themselves.

4. Life Expectancy at Birth, Health-Adjusted Life Expectancy at Birth, Life Expectancy at Age 60

Table 5: Life Expectancy in the Arab World							
Countries	(Life expectancy at birth (years)			Health adjusted life expectancy at birth ((years	Life expectancy at 60 years (of age (years		
	Male	Female	Average		Male	Female	Average
Qatar	79	80	79	68	22	22	22
Kuwait	78	79	78	68	21	21	21
UAE	76	78	76	67	19	20	20
KSA	74	78	76	65	18	21	19
Oman	74	78	76	66	19	22	20
Bahrain	76	78	77	66	19	23	20
Libya	73	77	75	64	18	21	20
Lebanon	78	82	80	69	21	25	22
Iraq	66	74	70	54	16	20	18
Algeria	70	73	72	62	17	19	18
Jordan	72	75	74	64	18	20	19
Tunisia	74	78	76	66	19	22	21
Egypt	69	74	71	61	16	19	17
Morocco	69	73	71	61	17	19	18
Syria	62	76	68	59	18	22	19
Palestine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yemen	62	65	64	54	15		16
Sudan	61	65	63	53	17	18	17
Djibouti	60	63	61	52	15	17	16
Mauritania	61	65	63	53	16	17	16
Comoros	60	63	62	53	15	17	16

Somalia	51	55	53	45	15	17	16
Low income countries	60	63	62	53	16	18	17
Medium income countries ((lower strata	64	68	66	57	16	19	17
Medium income countries ((upper strata	72	76	74	66	18	21	20
High income countries	76	82	79	70	21	25	23
The world	68	73	70	62	18	21	20

Source: World Health Statistics 2014, WHO (figures based on 2012 data).

Comments:

The life expectancy at birth is one of the key indicators of the evolution of health and living standards in various countries. The table shows that:

- Life expectancy in high-income Arab countries is inconsistent with the average global life expectancy at birth for this category of countries (79 years), except for Qatar. And according to the gender-based distribution rate, the rich Arab countries score lower figures compared to the global average for the same type of countries (82 years) . The difference between the local average and the global average for this type of countries ranged between 2 years in Qatar and 4 years in Oman.
- In middle-income countries, the significant level achieved by Lebanon is worth highlighting, where life expectancy at birth is at 80 years, exceeding the global average for high-income countries. Life expectancy at birth for women in Lebanon, on the other hand, is equal to the global average for high-income countries.
- Both Tunisia and Libya also exceed the average for their category by 2 years and 1 year respectively, while Jordan registers a figure equal to the global average for its category. In contrast, life expectancy in Iraq is lower by four years than the average for upper-middle income countries, followed by Algeria with a negative difference of two years.
- For lower-middle income countries, life expectancy in Egypt, Morocco, and, to a lesser extent, Syria exceeded the global average for this category by three years and one year.
- The lowest income countries, such as Yemen, Sudan, and Mauritania recorded higher rates than the global average for their tier by one or two years. In the Comoros, life expectancy equaled the average for this tier (62 years). However, Djibouti and Somalia remained below this level, by one year and nine years respectively.
- Life-adjusted life expectancy, on the other hand, highlights the significant differences between Arab countries and the health situation therein. The average for 11 Arab countries is equal to or higher than the global average by 1 to 6 years (Kuwait, Qatar). However, in Morocco and Egypt, it is lower by 1 year, in Syria by 3, in Iraq and Yemen by 8, in Mauritania, Sudan, and the Comoros by 9, and in Djibouti and Somalia by 10 whole years.
- As for life expectancy at 60 years, which provides evidence for improvement in the health

situation, it is also an indicator of the length of old age and the challenges posed in social protection, such as health coverage, income guarantees, and social care for the elderly. In this regard, the table points to only four countries where life expectancy at 60 exceeds the global average: Lebanon, Qatar, Tunisia, and Kuwait. On the other hand, four countries – Oman, Bahrain, UAE, and Libya – are on par with the global average. However, the remaining countries, representing more than 90% of the Arab world population, remain below the average, ranging between 1 year and 4 years in Comoros, Somalia, and Djibouti.

- The table also shows that the difference in life expectancy at 60 years between women and men shrinks in comparison to what it was at birth in all Arab countries except Bahrain, where the difference increased from two to four years. The decline is notably significant in Syria and Iraq, as a result of the security situation in both countries, followed by Mauritania, Sudan, and to a lesser extent, Morocco and Egypt. This explains to a large extent the maternity and reproductive health care gap in the Arab region.

5. Child and Maternal Mortality Rates in the Arab Countries

Country	Mortality rate for children under 5 years per 1000 live births	Maternal mortality rate per 100 thousand births
Qatar	8	7
Kuwait	12	14
UAE	7	12
KSA	14	24
Bahrain	10	20
Oman	10	32
Libya	18	58
Lebanon	10	25
Iraq	35	63
Algeria	34	97
Jordan	21	63
Tunisia	19	56
Egypt	27	66
Morocco	35	100
Palestine	24	...
Syria	19	70
Sudan	89	730
Djibouti	91	200
Yemen	79	200
Mauritania	111	510
Comoros	96	280
Somalia	139	1000
Arab countries	40	171
Latin America and the Caribbean	25	80
South and East Asia	32	150
World	55	210
Developed countries	7	16
Developing countries	61	240

Source: Social Protection Database – ILO.

Comments:

- The data in the table indicates a low mortality rate for children under 5 years in Arab countries, compared with the global average (40 versus 55), it remains higher than in Latin America and the Caribbean (25) and South and East Asia (32). However, the average per capita income in Arab countries is higher than the average income in these two the two regions. This highlights another aspect of the shortcomings and weak performance of child health care in the Arab region.
- The table indicates a considerable disparity between high-income and low-income countries. The ratio ranges between 7 per thousand in the UAE, which equals the global average for high-income countries, and 139 per thousand in Somalia. The figure exceeds the international average in the low-income bracket (61 per thousand) in Somalia, Mauritania, Comoros, Djibouti, Sudan, and Yemen.
- Maternal mortality rates during birth are almost equal in three countries, which registered levels even lower than advanced countries (16 mortalities per 100 thousand live births) in Qatar (7 out of 100 thousand), UAE (12), and Kuwait (14). The Arab average is around 171 maternal mortalities per 100 thousand births, compared to the global average of 210. However, it remains higher than in Latin America and the Caribbean (80) and South and East Asia by 20 points.
- A significant gap remains between rich and lower-income Arab countries, reaching alarming levels in the Comoros, Mauritania, Sudan, and Somalia in particular, with 1,000 mortalities for each 100,000 live births.

The above indicators highlight the magnitude of the challenges facing these countries in improving the health of mothers and children – one of the key pillars of human development – and its entailing financial allocations and human capacities, which could exceed their own capabilities.

Chapter Two: Demographic and Social Indicators:

1. Dependency Rates

Table 7: Dependency Rates in the Arab World												
Income Brackets by Countries and Groups		Social Dependency Rate		Child Dependency Rate		Elderly Dependency Rate						
Income Brackets		Countries	2010	2030	2010	2030	2010	2030				
High Income Countries Kuwait UAE Saudi Arabia Oman Bahrain		Qatar	17.4	18.7	16.1	13.6	1.3	5.1				
			37.7	35.7	34.7	30.3	3.0	5.4				
			16.5	16.1	16.2	14.0	0.4	2.1				
			50.8	36.0	46.3	26.1	4.5	9.9				
			42.7	31.9	39.1	26.1	3.6	5.7				
			28.0	29.2	25.4	20.8	2.6	8.5				
Middle Income Countries		Upper Tier		Libya	51.6	43.1	44.6	31.1	6.9	12.0		
				Iraq	80.5	61.3	74.4	55.1	6.1	6.2		
				Algeria	46.7	47.3	39.8	36.1	6.9	11.2		
				Lebanon	47.4	48.6	34.9	26.3	12.5	22.3		
				Jordan	62.6	50.9	57.0	42.2	5.5	8.7		
				Tunisia	43.8	49.2	33.8	29.4	10.0	19.9		
				Lower Tier		Egypt	58.7	52.2	50.0	40.1	8.7	12.1
						Morocco	49.6	50.9	42.1	36.9	7.5	14.1
						Syria	65.2	51.8	59.0	41.6	6.2	10.2
						Palestine	81.3	61.6	76.3	54.7	5.0	6.8
Low Income Countries Sudan Djibouti Mauritania Comoros Somalia		Yemen	80.8	56.1	75.8	50.5	4.9	5.6				
			82.5	65.6	76.7	58.9	5.7	6.7				
			60.9	54.2	54.9	44.9	5.9	9.3				
			77.6	65.9	72.0	59.0	5.6	6.9				
			82.2	67.6	76.9	61.3	5.3	6.3				
			102.1	86.6	96.4	81.3	5.7	5.4				
All Arab Countries			61.6	52.2	55.0	42.3	6.6	9.9				
Southeast Asia			50.8	47.7	42.5	32.5	8.3	15.2				
World			52.2	54.0	40.5	36.2	11.7	17.8				
Most Developed Countries			48.1	62.8	24.3	26.3	23.8	36.6				
Least Developed Countries			53.2	52.5	44.2	37.9	8.9	14.6				

Source: ILO Statistics - Social Protection Database - "World Social Protection Report 2014-2015: Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice" - UN DESA "World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision"

Definitions:

- Social Dependency Rate is the ratio of population under 15 or over 65, in comparison with the population in the labor force (15-64 years). It is the sum of the ratio of child dependency and old-age dependency. A high ratio indicates a major burden of children and elderly falling on the population in active age.

Comments:

- In 2010, the overall dependency ratio in the Arab region registered high figures in comparison with the global average (estimated at 52.2%), albeit with disparities between countries.
- In the lowest income countries, the ratio ranged between 60.9% in Djibouti and 102.1% in Somalia. In middle-income Arab countries this percentage ranged between 43.8% in Tunisia and 81.3% in Palestine. In high-income Arab countries, on the other hand, the ratio was relatively moderate in Saudi Arabia, low in Oman and Kuwait, and very low in Bahrain, Qatar, and UAE.
- Child dependency ratios, however, seem higher overall, reaching 55% versus the global average of 40.5%, which indicates the high burden of the child population on the population in the active age. This ratio ranged between 54.9% and 96.4% in the low-income Arab countries, between 33.8% and 76.3% in middle-income countries, and between 16.1% and 46.3% in high-income Arab countries.
- Old-age dependency in the Arab region appears to be relatively low, with the exception of Lebanon and Tunisia, respectively 12.5% and 10%. It registers very low figures in oil-rich Gulf countries, not exceeding 0.4% in the UAE, due to number of working-age foreign labor in those countries.
- The 2030 prospects indicate a decline of 9.4 points regarding the overall dependency ratio in the Arab countries, compared to a 1.8-point in the global average. The decline will occur in child dependency, estimated at 12.7 points, which is offset by a 3.3-point rise in old-age dependency.
- This data demonstrates that the burden on the working-age population in the Arab countries could be considered heavy, easing gradually in relation to children, but with an increasing old-age dependency. In some countries like Lebanon and Tunisia, the old-age dependency ratio is witnessing a notable increase; 2030 prospects indicate a rise close to the level of developed countries registered in 2010.
- This upward trend for old-age dependency rates poses several problems related to social protection for this segment of citizens, particularly in health care and income security. This is in addition to securing the financial balance of insurance schemes, whose burdens fall on working-age population fully, such as under distributive systems, or partially, in the case of social assistance.

2. Workforce Participation Rate

Table 8: Active Population, Labor Force, and Labor Force Participation rates

Country	Gender	Labor Force	Active Population	Participation Rate
		2011	2011	2011
Algeria	Total	10661.0	26650	40.1
	Men	8776.0	13359	65.7
	Women	1885.0	13194	14.3
Bahrain	Total	671.3	945	71.0
	Men	530.3	614	86.4
	Women	141.0	331	42.6
Egypt	Total	26529.1	54287	48.9
	Men	20540.6	27623	74.4
	Women	5988.5	26664	22.5
Kuwait	Total	2166.9	2819	76.9
	Men	1541.2	1766	87.3
	Women	625.7	1053	59.4
Libya	Total	1882.5	3942	47.8
	Men	1235.5	2026	61.0
	Women	646.9	1916	33.8
Morocco	Total	11537.6	23469	49.2
	Men	8458.0	11384	74.3
	Women	3079.5	12085	25.5
Qatar	Total	1277.4	1473	86.7
	Men	1119.3	1169	95.7
	Women	158.2	304	52.0
Saudi Arabia	Total	10544.1	19832	53.2
	Men	8932.4	11677	76.5
	Women	1611.7	8155	19.8
Syria	Total	5530.8	12953	42.7
	Men	4696.4	6507	72.2
	Women	834.4	6446	12.9
Tunisia	Total	3844.6	8038	47.8
	Men	2817.9	3969	71.0
	Women	1026.7	4069	25.2
Palestine	Total	1072.2	2997	35.8
	Men	868.8	1519	57.2
	Women	203.4	1478	13.8
Total Arab Countries	Total	75717.5	156677	48.1
	Men	59516.4	81309	72.9
	Women	16201.0	75368.0	21.4

Source: The researchers calculated the rate of Arab countries based on the ILO's online database: www.ilo.org/ilostat. The year 2011 was chosen to provide information on most of the countries listed; for those whose data was unavailable for that year, it was substituted with that of 2010 or 2012.

Definitions:

- Population in the active age (or working age): For the purposes of international comparison, the working age population comprises those over 15 years old. In addition to the minimum age threshold, some countries also adopt an upper limit – usually 65 years, which will be utilized for the purposes of this document.
- Labor Force (Workforce): The labor force comprises all persons in the working age providing their labor to produce goods and services (as defined by the UN System of National Accounts (SNA)) during a specified period of time. It is an indicator of the number of working age population, both employed and unemployed.
- Labor Force Participation Rate: The percentage of the employed labor force compared to the active population in a particular period of time.

Comments:

- The Arab region registered the weakest rate globally in this regard, both in terms of overall ratio and ratios related to men and women.
- The average labor force participation rate in Arab countries is less than half of the working age population (48.1%) compared to a global average of 69.2%. While the Arab average for men is 8.9 points higher than the global average, the difference for women is 34.8 points.
- Although the average participation for men globally is 25.6 points higher than women and 26.1 points higher in Latin America and the Caribbean, it almost doubles in Arab countries, reaching 51.1 percentage points. This represents one of the aspects of discrimination and exclusion suffered by women in the Arab region in employment and, consequently, in social protection.
- The comparison between the Arab countries indicates a participation rate ranging from 86.7% in Qatar to 35.8% in Palestine. The only other countries exceeding the global average, in addition to Qatar, are Kuwait and Bahrain.
- Participation by women, on the other hand, ranges from 59.4% in Kuwait to 12.9% in Syria, with only Kuwait registering higher than the global average. The difference in labor force participation ratios between men and women ranges between 59.3 points in Syria and 27.2 points in Libya.
- The above statistics are an indicator of the weak participation of the population, especially women, in the labor force, which deprives the economy from an important part of its capacity, imposes the heavy burden of an inactive population on the working population, and increases the severity of social protection challenges, as a result of the high dependency ratios indicated in the item above.

Figure 2:

Source: Based on the ILO “World of Work Report 2014, “Developing with Jobs”; overall average for Arab countries calculated by researchers.

3. Unemployment Rates

Table 9: Unemployment Rates in Arab Countries

Country	Men		Women		Total	
	2010	2012-2013	2010	2013-2012	2010	2012-2013
Qatar	0.1	0.1	1.9	2.8	0.3	0.5
Kuwait	1.4	2.9	2.8	4.9	1.8	3.6
Bahrain	0.4		3.7		3.7	3.9
UAE	2.4		10.8		4.2	
Saudi Arabia	3.5	2.8	15.9	21.4	5.4	5.7
Lebanon					6.4	
Morocco	8.9	9.0	9.6	9.4	9.1	9.1
Algeria	8.1	8.4	19.1	17.2	10.0	10.0
Jordan	10.4	10.6	21.7	22.1	12.5	12.6
Egypt	4.9	9.8	22.6	25.1	9.0	13.3
Syria	5.7	10.4	22.5	37.1	8.4	14.9
Iraq	14.4		19.6		15.3	
Tunisia	10.9	13.4	18.9	22.9	13.0	16.0
Palestine	23.1	19.7	26.7	35.6	23.7	22.7
Mauritania	23.9		44.0		31.2	
Average Arab Countries	7.6	8.8	18.8	21.7	9.9	11.3

Definitions:

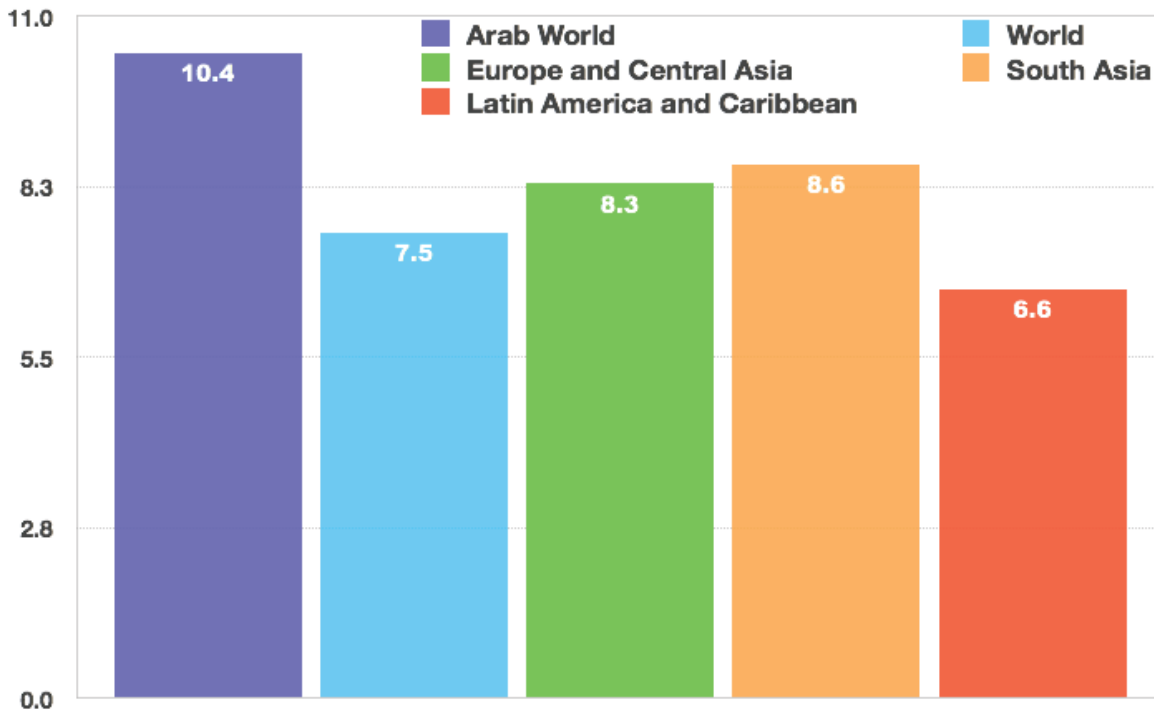
- Unemployment: The term “unemployed” refers to all persons of working age who were:
 - without work during the reference period, i.e., they did not receive wages or were not self-employed,
 - willing to perform paid work or be self-employed during the reference period,
 - looking for work, any paid employment or self-employment, and took specific steps in a certain period close to the search.

For the purposes of international comparisons, the search-for-work period is defined in many cases as four weeks before the survey, but varies for some countries.

The term “active steps to seek work” may include registration at a public or private employment exchange; application to employers; checking at worksites, farms, factory gates, market or other assembly places; placing or answering newspaper advertisements; seeking assistance of friends or relatives; looking for land, building, machinery or equipment to establish own enterprise; arranging for financial resources; applying for permits and licenses, etc.

- Unemployment Rate: Calculated by dividing the figures of unemployed by the total labor force in the same period.

Figure 3: Average Unemployment in Selected Regions



Source: Authors' calculations based on the Global Human Development Report 2014, "Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience", UNDP.

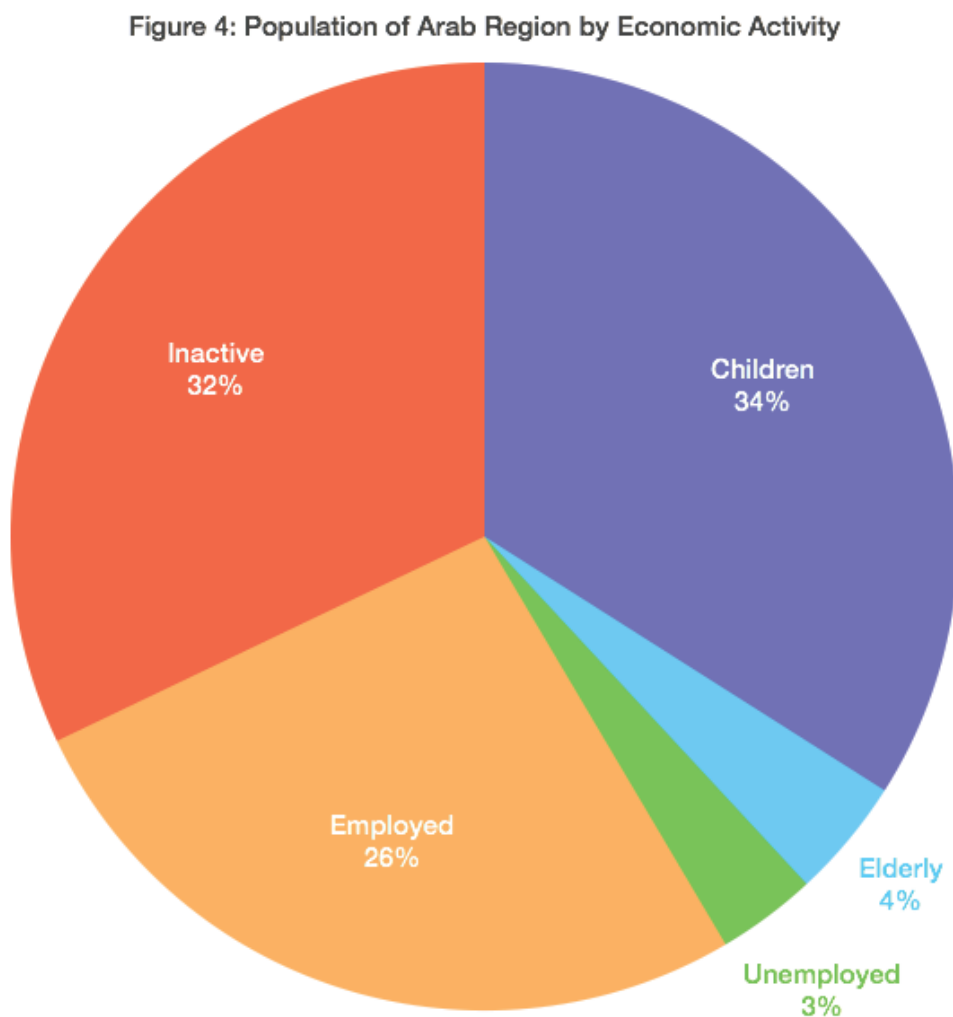
Comments:

- Unemployment rates in the Arab world are the highest in comparison with the international average and other groups of countries. According to the latest available data in the Global Human Development Report 2014, it reached 10.4% between 2010 and 2013, compared to a global average of 7.5% and 8.6% in South Asian countries, 8.3% in Europe and Central Asia, and 6.6% Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Unemployment rates in the Arab countries, according to available statistical data, are relatively high in places like Mauritania (31.2%), Palestine (22.7%), Tunisia (16%), Syria (14.9%), Egypt (13.3%), and Jordan (12.6%). These figures are higher than the Arab average calculated for the years 2012 - 2013, which is estimated at 11.3%.
- These figures also show an increase in the rate between 2010, on one hand, and 2012-2013, on the other, in each of Syria, Egypt, and Tunisia, with 6.5, 4.3, and 3 points respectively, which could be the result of Arab revolutions and political and security instability in those countries.
- In contrast, the oil-producing countries of the Arab Gulf recorded low levels of unemployment, ranging from 5.7% in Saudi Arabia to 0.5% in Qatar.
- In terms of unemployment among women, the average rate for Arab countries was estimated at 21.7% during the same period, from 2012 to 2013, with an estimated difference of 12.9 points compared to men. The highest unemployment rates for women are in Syria (37.1%), Palestine (35.6%) Egypt (25.1%), Tunisia (22.9%), Jordan (22.1%), and Saudi Arabia (21.4%).
- The widest discrepancies between men and women in unemployment rates occur in Syria with 26.7% and Saudi Arabia with 19.6%. In contrast, the difference is very small in Qatar (2.7%) and Morocco (0.4%).
- The above indicators demonstrate that reducing unemployment, one of the leading causes of poverty and destitution, and mitigating its effects on the economy and society re-

mains a top priority. The data also indicates that unemployment increases burdens on the working population and the severity of pressures inflicted on social protection and budgets of countries in the Arab region, especially in the almost complete absence unemployment benefits.

The following graph illustrates that, due to the high dependency ratios, low participation rates, and high unemployment, the ratio of economically active to the total population in the Arab region is estimated at 26.4%.

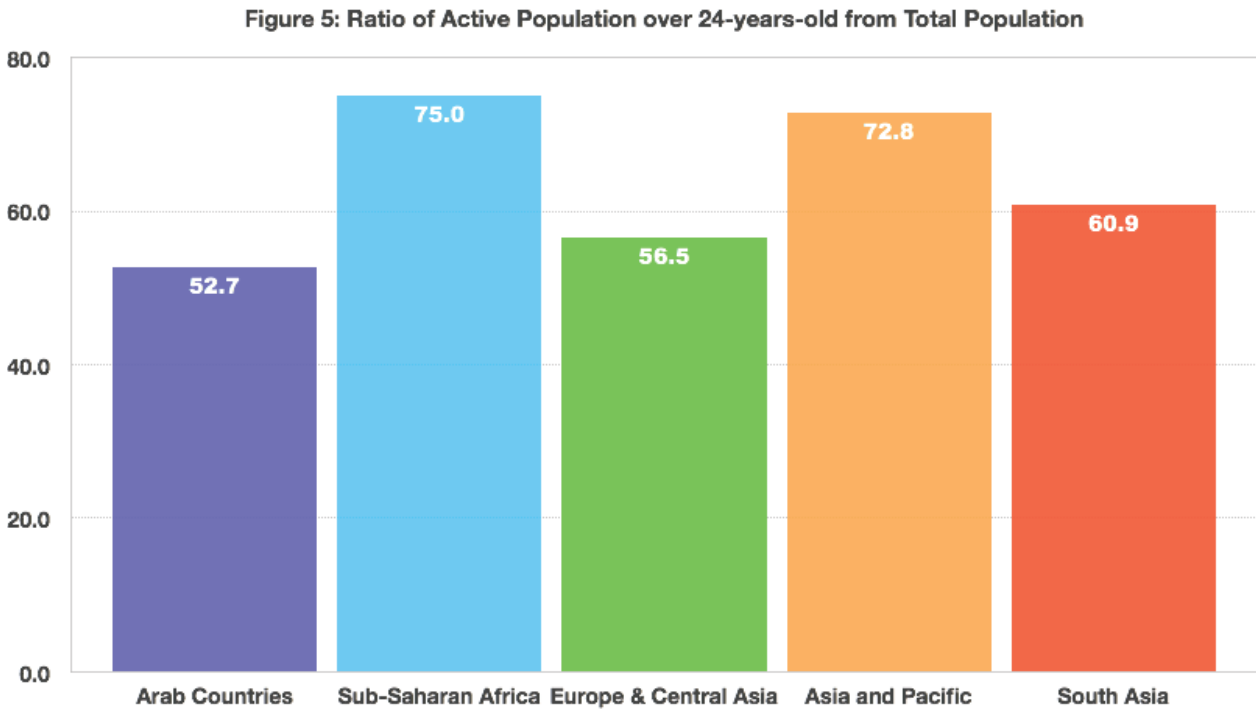
Figure 4: Population of Arab Region by Economic Activity



Source: Calculated by the researchers based on dependency ratios, participation rates, unemployment rates, and the total population, mentioned in the preceding tables. It includes the segment of inactive persons in working age who are outside the labor force.

The following graph shows that the ratio of employed population aged 24 and above, out of the total population, is also the lowest, in comparison with various other groups of countries. Despite its significance, the gap in this age group (over 24) remains less severe. This may be due to high rates of young people under 24 in the Arab countries that do not participate in the labor force or are unemployed.

Figure 5: Ratio of Active Population over 24-years-old from Total Population



Source: Global Human Development Report 2014, “Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience”, UNDP.

4. Vulnerable Employment

Table 10: Vulnerable Employment Rates in Arab Countries

Country	Year	Men	Women	Overall
Qatar	2012	0.3	0.0	0.2
UAE	2009	1.0	0.5	1.0
Bahrain	2010	2.2	1.2	1.9
Kuwait	2011	2.7	1.4	2.2
Saudi Arabia	1992	6.6	1.8	6.0
Jordan	2012	11.1	2.3	9.7
Egypt	2010	17.7	44.9	23.1
Palestine	2012	24.9	35.2	26.7
Tunisia	2012			29.0
Algeria	2011	30.6	24.2	29.5
Yemen	2011	32.5	40.5	30.2
Syria	2011	35.3	16.0	33.0
Lebanon	2009	38.4	19.0	33.9
Djibouti	1996	26.6	67.7	41.2
Sudan	2009			46.0
Morocco	2011	46.8	65.1	52.1
Average Arab Countries		20.4	27.3	28.5

Source: ILO Statistics - www.ilo.org/laborstat

Definitions:

- Vulnerable Employment Ratio: Calculated by adding the percentage of self-employed and family-employed labor compared to the working population.
- Self-employed: Workers who work on their own behalf or with one or several partners in jobs directly linked to profit from the production of goods or the provision of services (with self-consumption is calculated part of the profit) and who did not employ another person continuously throughout the period in question.
- Family assistants: Persons who are employed for personal gain in a market-oriented firm run by a member of the family and who cannot be considered partners, since their obligations towards the organizations are not executive.

Comments:

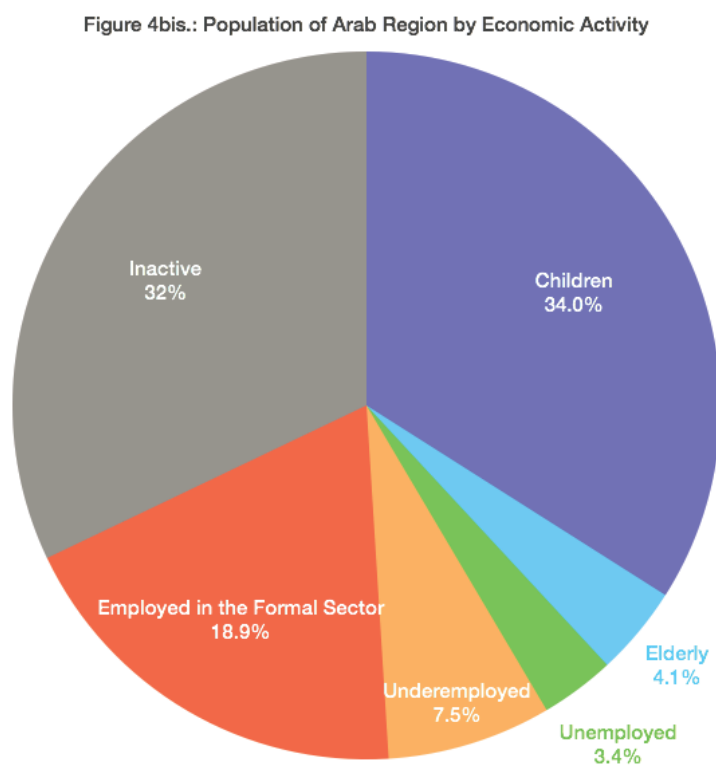
- Vulnerable employment in Arab countries is estimated at 28.5%, based on national figures obtained in different years and sometimes without gender distribution.
- Arab countries for which data is available can be divided into 3 groups:
 - Countries with very high vulnerable employment rates, exceeding one third of the working-age population: Morocco (52.1%), Sudan (46%), Djibouti (41.2%), and Lebanon (33.9%). Compared with unemployment, where information is available, Morocco and Lebanon register low unemployment figures (9.1%), but

with a severe rate of vulnerable employment, pointing to the size of the informal sector in both countries.

- Countries with high vulnerable employment rates, ranging between 30.2% and 23.1%: Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia, Palestine, and Morocco.
 - Countries with lower vulnerable employment rates: Jordan (9.7%) and Saudi Arabia (6%) followed by Bahrain, UAE, and Qatar with less than 2%.
- Vulnerable employment for women in the countries mentioned in the table (discounting Tunisia and Sudan who do not provide statistics by gender) is estimated at 27.3%. However, comparing between countries indicates deep disparities, with ratios ranging from a high of 67.7% in Djibouti and 65.1% in Morocco to a low of 0.5% in UAE.
- Despite gaps in the data, the statistics indicate significant unemployment in the informal sector in the Arab region, which usually does not comprise the elements of decent work and social protection. This increases the severity of challenges related to social protection systems, particularly in terms of expanding coverage and its universality, in addition to the burdens imposed on workers in the formal sectors, whose proportion does not exceed 18.9% of the total population.

Taking this fact into account, the previous graph becomes as follows, indicating that less than a fifth of the population are employed in the formal sector and are supposed to be provided with adequate social coverage and share the responsibility in caring for the rest of society:

Figure 4bis.: Population of Arab Region by Economic Activity



5. Migrants and Refugees

Table 11: Migrants and Refugees in Arab Countries

Country	Number of Refugees in the Country ((2013	Ratio of total refugees in Arab Countries	Ratio of Refugees from Total Population	Number of Migrants residents in the country (2010)	Ratio of total Migrants in Arab Countries	Ratio of Migrants from Total Population
Mauritania	92,767	3.36	2.38	99,229	0.38	2.55
Morocco	1,470	0.05	0.00	49,098	0.19	0.15
Algeria	94,150	3.41	0.24	242,324	0.94	0.62
Tunisia	730	0.03	0.01	33,591	0.13	0.31
Libya	25,561	0.92	0.41	682,482	2.64	11.00
Egypt	230,086	8.32	0.28	244,714	0.95	0.30
Sudan	159,857	5.78	0.42	753,447	2.92	1.98
Somalia	2,425	0.09	0.02	22,843	0.09	0.22
Djibouti	20,015	0.72	1.37	114,147	0.44	7.79
Comoros		0.00	0.00	13,526	0.05	1.84
Jordan	641,915	23.22	9.94	2,972,983	11.50	46.03
Palestine		0.00	0.00	1,923,808	7.44	46.13
Lebanon	856,546	30.98	19.17	758,167	2.93	16.97
Syria	149,292	5.40	0.65	2,205,847	8.54	9.65
Iraq	246,298	8.91	0.74	83,380	0.32	0.25
Kuwait	635	0.02	0.02	2,097,527	8.12	62.26
Bahrain	294	0.01	0.02	315,403	1.22	23.68
Qatar	130	0.00	0.01	1,305,428	5.05	60.19
UAE	603	0.02	0.01	3,293,264	12.74	35.24
Saudi Arabia	559	0.02	0.00	7,288,900	28.20	25.28
Oman	138	0.00	0.00	826,074	3.20	22.74
Yemen	241,288	8.73	0.99	517,926	2.00	2.12
Arab Countries	2,764,759	23.62	0.75	25,844,108	11.98	6.98
World	11,703,179	100	0.16	215,763,573	100	2.98

Source: Refugee figures from UNHCR data, migrant figures from World Bank's "Global Bilateral Migration Database - 2010 estimates".

Definitions:

- Migrant: According to the "Media Friendly Glossary on Migration" published by UNAOC and Panos Europe, there is no internationally recognized definition of migrants. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' policy on migration

describes migrants as people who leave or flee their places of habitual residence to go to a new place, across international borders or within their own state, to seek better or safer perspectives.” Migrants and refugees are two different categories and for the purposes of this paper, the term migrant will apply to migration across international borders.

- Asylum-seeker: An asylum-seeker is an individual who has crossed an international border and is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim for asylum has not yet been finally decided on by the country where it was submitted.
- Refugee: A refugee is a person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under the UNHCR’s mandate, and/or in national legislation.

Comments:

- According to UNHCR figures and without considering Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Arab countries were hosting 2,764,759 refugees by the end of 2013, or 23.6% of the global refugee population and around 0.75% of the total population of Arab countries.
- However, these figures do not reveal the great burden imposed on some countries like Lebanon, which is home to 30.98% of refugees in Arab countries and where they make up 19.2% of its total population – noting that the number of refugees has increased dramatically since the release of this data, with the increasingly deteriorating security situation in Syria. Jordan comes in second place, with 23.22% of the refugees in the Arab region, representing 9.94% of its population.
- According to World Bank data, the number of migrants living in the Arab countries was almost 26 million migrants in 2010, almost 12% of migrants around the world or about 7% of the total population of Arab countries.
- The statistics also conceal the considerable disparity between countries; the six oil-rich GCC countries receive the bulk of migrant workers, 58.5% of the total in Arab countries. Their percentages from the total population ranges from 62.3% in Kuwait, 60.2% in Qatar, and 22.7% in Oman.
- Refugees and migrants are considered the most vulnerable to violation of rights, particularly the right to social protection and the various elements of decent work, thus requiring more efforts to protect them and preserve their dignity and rights.

Chapter Three: Keeping-Up with International Trends

1. Ratification of ILO Conventions on Social Protection

Table 12: Ratification of ILO Conventions on Social Protection

Country	Medical Care C.102 C.130	Sickness Benefits C.102 C.130	Unemployment C.102 C.168	Old Age C.102 C.128	Employment Injury C.102 C.121	Family C.102	Maternity C.102 C.183	Invalidity C.102 C.128	Survivors C.102 C.128
Libya	C.102 (1975) C.130 (1975)	C.102 (1975) C.130 (1975)	C.102 (1975)	C.102 (1975) C.128 (1975)	C.102 (1975) C.121 (1975)	C.102 (1975)	C.102 (1975)	C.102 (1975) C.128 (1975)	C.102 (1975) C.128 (1975)
Morocco							C.183 (2011)		
Mauritania				C.102 (1968)	C.102 (1968)	C.102 (1968)		C.102 (1968)	C.102 (1968)
Jordan ¹				C.102 (2014)	C.102 (2014)			C.102 (2014)	C.102 (2014)

¹ Not yet entered in force

Source: ILO NORMLEX Database, <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/>

Comments:

- The information in the table clearly highlight that, with the exception of Libya and, to a lesser extent, Jordan and Mauritania, the majority of Arab countries do not seem interested in ratifying the key international conventions in the field of social protection, especially Convention 102 on minimum standards.
- In most cases it is due to the attempt by some countries to avoid obligations they may not be able to fulfill or claim that they are not compatible with their societies or markets.
- According to the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions, there two types of obstacles to ratification:
 - Economic and financial difficulties, given the capacity of states and limits of their potential economic and social conditions.
 - Incongruity of some provisions in the conventions with national legislation in several countries. Some suggest that their social security coverage is lower than the minimum threshold imposed by Convention 102, which precludes approval. Others explain the failure to ratify by the size of their informal sector.

2. Social Security Systems in Arab Countries

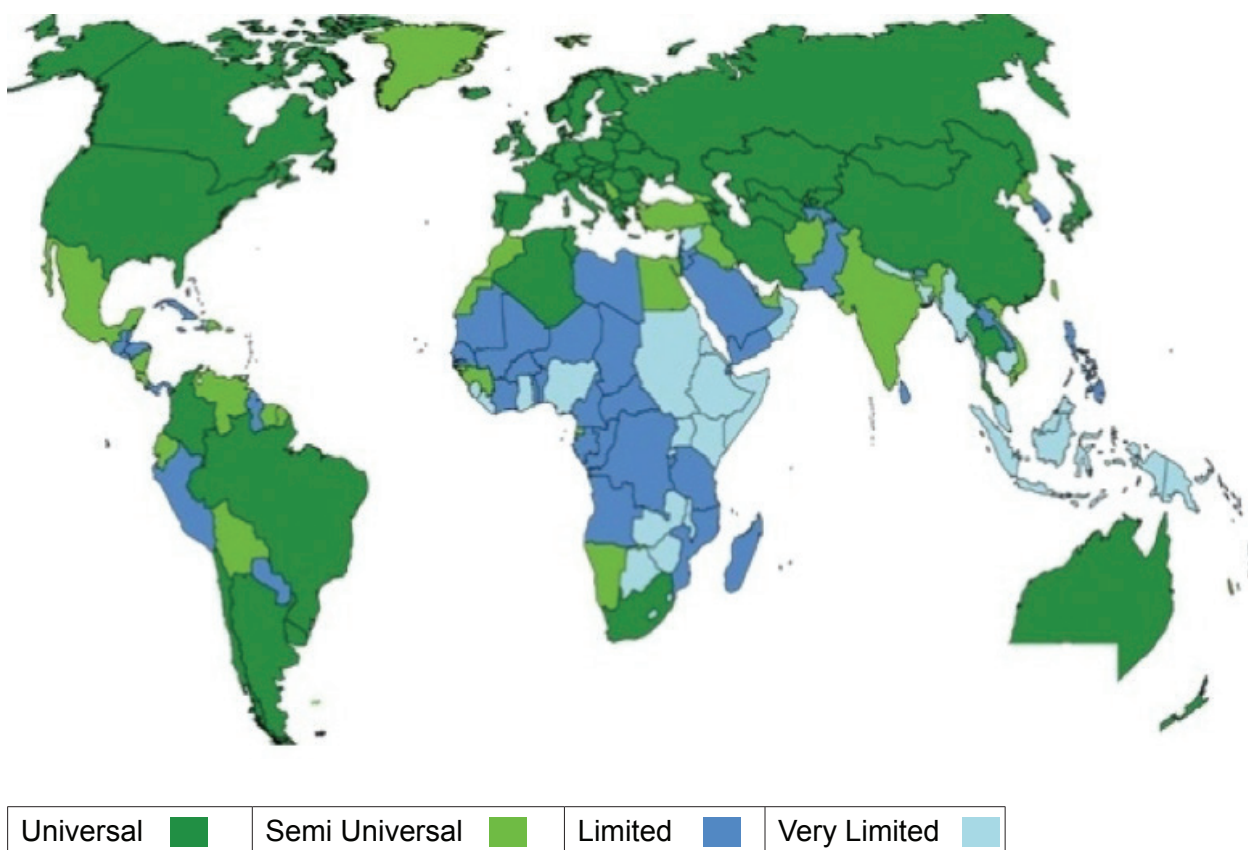
Table 13: Overview of Social Security Systems in the Arab Countries

Country	Social Security Branches									
	Number of Branches	Scope of Coverage	Sickness (cash assistance)	Maternity (cash assistance)	Old-age	Employment Accidents	Invalidity	Survivors	Family Allowance	Unemployment
Algeria	8	Universal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Djibouti	6	Limited	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Egypt	7	Semi-universal	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Mauritania	6	Limited	o	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Morocco	7	Semi-universal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	»
Somalia	...	...	...	»	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sudan	4	Very Limited		»	X	X	X	X		
Tunisia	8	Universal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(*)X
Bahrain	6	Limited Legal Provisions		X	X	X	X	X		X
Iraq	...	...	...	»	...	...	...	...	...
Jordan	6	Limited	o	X	X	X	X	X		X
Kuwait	4	Very Limited	o	»	X	X	X	X		
Lebanon	6	Limited	o	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Libya	6	Limited	X	X	X	X	X	X		□
Oman	4	Very Limited			X	X	X	X		
Palestine	...	...	...	X	...	...	...	...	...
Qatar	...	Very Limited	...	»	X	...	X	X		
Saudi Arabia	5	Limited	»	»	X	X	X	X		(**)X
Syria	4	Very Limited		»	X	X	X	X		»
UAE	...	...	...	»	...	...	...	...	...	»
Yemen	5	Limited	X	»	X	X	X	X		»

	Uncovered Branch	# Branches	Scope	# Countries	
				World	Arab
»	Limited Provisions				
o	In-kind benefit	8	Universal	71	2
(*)	Technical Unemployment Benefits	7	Semi-Universal	22	2
(**)	Provisions not entered into force				
		5-6	Limited	57	8
	Scope of coverage measured by number of branches covered in local legislation.	1-4	Very Limited	39	5
			Data Unavailable	29	5
			Total Listed Countries	218	22

Source: "World Social Protection Report 2014-2015", ILO.

Figure 6: Scope of Coverage Global Map



Source: ILO website.

Comments:

- The indicators in the table and graph based on ILO statistics highlight the fact that most Arab countries do not have universal social protection systems.
- Out of 22 Arab countries, ILO's World Social Protection Report 2014-2015 indicates that only two Arab countries, Algeria and Tunis, offer universal coverage, which includes the 8 main branches, provided in 77 countries globally. This is despite the need to be cautious concerning the unemployment system in Tunisia, which is based on a conditional assistance approach, based on loss of the job, and not an insurance approach to unemployment.
- Two other countries, Egypt and Morocco, have a semi-universal system (comprising 7 branches)
- The scope of coverage remains limited or very limited in the remaining Arab countries.

- The limited nature of social protection systems in Arab countries seems evident from these indicators. However, while it is understandable for lower-income countries, it raises the question about the reasons preventing the expansion and universality of protection systems in high-income countries, which are all classified as limited or very limited in scope, such as Qatar, Oman, and Kuwait.

Chapter Four: Main Branches of Social Protection

1. Unemployment

Country	Percentage with Actual Unemployment Benefits
Algeria	% 8.8
Djibouti	...
Egypt	...
Mauritania	N/A
Morocco	N/A
Somalia	N/A
Sudan	N/A
Tunisia	3%
Bahrain	% 9.8
Iraq	N/A
Jordan	N/A
Kuwait	N/A
Lebanon	N/A
Libya	N/A
Oman	N/A
Palestine	N/A

Qatar	N/A
Saudi Arabia	N/A
Syria	N/A
UAE	N/A
Yemen	N/A
Comoros	N/A
World	% 11.7
Africa	1%
Middle East	% 2.2
Europe	% 63.8
North America	28%

Source: ILO Social Protection Database

Comments:

- Unemployment coverage is one of the most important branches of social security, securing a minimum income for people falling into unemployment and enabling them to meet the minimum requirements of decent living and health care. The table shows that:
 - Only three Arab countries provide social coverage for the unemployed, Algeria, Tunisia, and Bahrain; Saudi Arabia has recently adopted a new system of coverage in this regard.
 - It should be noted that this branch of social protection suffers from critical weaknesses in developing countries. While the average global rate of persons enjoying the benefits of unemployment coverage is around 11.7%, this figure is 63.8% in European countries and 28% in North America, compared to 2.2% in the Middle East and 1% in Africa.
 - The number of unemployed actually benefiting from social coverage against unemployment is 9.8% in Bahrain, 8.8% in Algeria, and 3% in Tunisia. It should be noted that in Tunisia, the system only provides cash grants in the range of a minimum guaranteed wage for workers in the event of technical unemployment and only for up to one year, with continued health coverage for the same period. In the event of indefinite loss of job, health coverage remains in effect for one year. However, the system only provides limited social assistance on the occasion of religious holidays and insuring the entitlements and rights of workers in institutions facing sudden closure. Laid-off workers could also benefit from a cash grants for participating in vocational training or rehabilitation.
 - It is unfortunate that countries with the highest unemployment rates lack social insurance schemes to protect from this social misfortune closely linked to poverty and marginalization. This is considered one of the key challenges facing Arab countries in expanding their social protection systems and achieving universal coverage.

2. Employment Injuries and Vocational Disease

Table 15: Coverage of Employment Injury in Arab Countries

	Ratio of Employment Injury Coverage Beneficiaries from Total Labor Force			Labor Force	Covered #	Self-Employed
	Compulsory	Optional	Total			
Algeria	53.8		53.8	10,661,000	5,735,618	Uncovered
Djibouti						contribution 7%
Egypt	51.5		51.5	26,529,100	13,662,487	Uncovered
Mauritania	8.6		8.6			Uncovered
Morocco	39		39	11,537,600	4,499,664	Uncovered
Somalia						
Sudan	62.1		62.1			Nominal Contribution: 25% of declared income
Tunisia	42	15.3	57.3	3,844,600	2,202,956	Voluntary Contribution
Bahrain	84.6		84.6	671,300	567,920	Uncovered
Iraq						
Jordan	44.6		44.6			Uncovered
Kuwait	97.7		97.7	2,166,900	2,117,061	Uncovered
Lebanon	47.8		47.8			Uncovered
Libya				1,882,500		Covered through general contribution (pensions and health)
Oman	40.2		40.2			Uncovered
Palestine				1,072,200		
Qatar				1,277,400		
Saudi Arabia	77.4		77.4	10,544,100	8,161,133	Uncovered
Syria	47.8		47.8	5,530,800	2,643,722	Uncovered
UAE						
Yemen	37.7		37.7			Uncovered
Comoros						
Average 11 Arab Countries	55.30%	0.08%	55.38%			
World	33.9%					

Source: World Social Protection Report 2014-2015, ILO; the average for Arab countries was calculated based on available data on coverage rates and implementation in 11 countries.

Comments:

- Information is unavailable at the ILO for half of the Arab countries; in itself, an indicator of limited coverage in this regard.
- The proportion of compulsory coverage against industrial accidents and occupational diseases in Arab countries, where data is available, is estimated at about 55.3% of the workforce, which seems relatively high in proportion with the global average, estimated at 33.9% and approaches the rate in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Unlike some other branches, coverage rates against industrial accidents and occupation-

al diseases in high-income Arab countries are relatively high. They range from 97.7% in Kuwait, to 84.6% in Bahrain and 77.4% in Saudi Arabia. However, they remain weak in Oman (40.2%), while no data is available on the UAE or Qatar.

- In middle and low-income countries, the rate seems to be average in Sudan (62.1%), Tunisia (57.3%), Algeria (53.8%), Egypt (51.5%), and to a lesser extent, in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, and Morocco, ranging from 47.8% to 39%. Nevertheless, it remains very low in Mauritania, where it does not exceed 8.6%.
- Concerning beneficiary groups, the self-employed category do not enjoy coverage against industrial accidents and occupational diseases, except in only four Arab countries: Sudan, Djibouti, Libya, and Tunisia, although it is optional in the latter. This underlines the fragile social conditions of this segment of labor, which represents a large proportion in the Arab region, as noted in the previous chapter. It is also one of the main facets of the deficient coverage of social systems in the Arab countries.

3. Maternity

Table 16: Period and Value of Maternity Leave in Arab Countries

	Maternity Allowances		Self-Employed
	Weeks #	of Salary %	
Syria	17	100	Uncovered
Algeria	14	100	Uncovered
Djibouti	14	100	...
Mauritania	14	100	Uncovered
Morocco	14	100	Uncovered
Somalia	14	50	Uncovered
Libya ¹	14	50-100	Covered
Comoros	14	100	Uncovered
Egypt	13	100	Uncovered
Jordan	10	100	Uncovered
Kuwait	10	100	Uncovered
Palestine	10	100	Uncovered
Saudi Arabia ¹	10	50-100	Uncovered
Iraq	9	100	Uncovered
Yemen	8.5	100	Uncovered
Sudan	8	100	Uncovered
Tunisia ¹	From 4 to 8	50-67-100	Covered
Lebanon	7	100	Uncovered
Qatar	7	100	Uncovered
Bahrain ¹	6.4-5.5	100	Uncovered
UAE ¹	6.4	50-100	Uncovered
Oman	0	0	Uncovered

¹ Varies by scheme

Source: World Social Protection Report 2014-2015, ILO.

Comments:

- All Arab Countries, except Oman, where statistics are unavailable, have adopted systems of maternity grants for working women.
- The period of grants ranges between:
 - Three months and above in 9 countries: Syria (17 weeks); Algeria, Djibouti, Comoros, Mauritania, Morocco, Libya, and Somalia (14 weeks); and Egypt (13 weeks).
 - Two months to less than three months in eight countries: Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Tunisia.
 - Less than two months in each of Qatar, UAE, Lebanon, and Bahrain.
- Daily allowances have been set at full current daily wage by 15 countries. However, countries like Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Libya utilize various amounts, based on the quality of the systems where women are subscribed, ranging from half, to two-thirds, to full daily wage.
- It should be noted that self-employed women do not benefit from this type of protection, except in Libya and Tunisia. This highlights once again the discrimination and inequality between workers in the formal sectors and those in the informal sectors, in general, and the exclusion and discrimination suffered by women, in particular, and especially in the Arab region, with a massive informal sector employing vast numbers of women.

4. Old Age

Table 17: Subscribers to Pensions Systems out of Active-Age Population and Actual Beneficiaries

Countries Descending According to In- (come Bracket)	Retirement Age	Subscribers to Pensions System out of Active-Age Population	Percentage of Actual Beneficiaries
Qatar	women - 60 men 55	3.9	7.9
Kuwait	50	18.4	27.3
UAE	...	...	...
Saudi Arabia	women - 60 men 55	50.1	...
Oman	women - 60 men 55	13.7	24.7
Bahrain	women - 60 men 55	15.1	40.1
Libya	women - 65 men 60	19.6	43.3
Lebanon	64		
Iraq	...	45.2	56
Algeria	women - 60 men 55	86.6	63.6
Jordan	women - 60 men 55	51.5	42.2
Tunisia	60	79	68.8
Egypt	60	55.3	32.7
Morocco	60	30.2	39.8
Syria	women - 60 men 55	28.4	16.7
Palestine	...	12	8
Yemen	women - 60 men 55	5.2	8.5
Sudan	60	4.9	4.6
Djibouti	60	12.6	12
Mauritania	women - 60 men 55	17.2	9.3
Comoros	...	...	...
Somalia	...	...	...
Arab Countries		41.3	33.6
World		41.4	51.5
Latin America and Caribbean		38	56.1
Advanced Countries		92.9	89.1

Source: World Social Protection Report 2014-2015, ILO.

Comments:

- The official retirement age in Arab countries differs from one country to another:
 - 10 countries adopt 60 years for men and 55 years for women.
 - 5 countries adopt 60 years for both sexes.
 - Lebanon set this age at 64 years, while in Kuwait, it is at 50 years.
- The average ratio of subscribers in pension systems out of the labor force in Arab countries is estimated at 41.3%, which is close to the global average estimated at 41.4% and higher than in Latin American and Caribbean countries at 38%. In developed countries, the rate is 92.9%.
- However, the overall average in Arab countries conceals significant variations between countries, with its consequences on the fate of millions of workers in old age:
 - Algeria and Tunisia witnessed relatively more progress, with rates estimated at 86.6% and 79% respectively.
 - In Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq, the rate is higher than the Arab average, but remain relatively moderate, ranging between 55.3% and 45.2%.
 - In other countries such as Morocco and Syria, the proportion is still lower than one third of the workforce.
- In the remaining countries with available data, the proportion of subscribers compared to the workforce is less than one fifth of the workforce, ranging between 19.6% in Libya and 3.9% Qatar.
- This situation will create a major challenge for systems caring and assisting the elderly in the coming decades, when those groups who did not contribute to the pensions systems reach old age and invalidity.
- In terms of actual beneficiaries of pensions, the situation is even worse, recording 33.6%, compared to a global average of 51.5% and 56.1% for Latin America and the Caribbean. This situation varies from one Arab country to another:
 - This rate ranges from 68.8% in Tunisia to 4.6% in Sudan; Tunisia, Algeria, and Iraq are the only countries where the rate exceeds the global average.
 - In 6 Arab countries, Libya, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco, Egypt and Kuwait, this ratio ranges between 43.3% and 27.3%.
 - In the remaining countries, the rate is less than 25%.
- Once again, weak contribution rates and lack enjoyment of the benefits of pension systems are a characteristic of high-income countries, despite the adequate financial space for the development of advanced social protection to ensure the dignity of their citizens and decent living for them and their families, in the various stages of life and founded on the principles of human rights and decent work.

5. Spending on Old-Age

Table 18: Percentage of Total Social Protection Expenditures to GNP and Proportion of Pensions from Total

Countries (Descending by Income)	Total Social Protection Ex- % penditures to GNP	Proportion of Pensions from Total
Kuwait	11.44	30.6
Bahrain	4.01	25
Libya	6.55	30.5
Iraq	12.14	32.1
Algeria	9.73	52.9
Jordan	12.11	62
Tunisia	10.4	45.2
Egypt	12.57	23.9
Morocco	6.57	44.1
Syria	1.99	65.2
Yemen	1.86	26.9
Djibouti	7.29	20.6
Mauritania	4.47	13.4
Arab Countries	10.7	34.3
Latin America and Caribbean	13.9	33.2
Asia and Pacific	4.6	43.3
World	8.8	37.3

Source: World Social Protection Report 2014-2015, ILO. Latest statistics dated between 2007-2011.

Comments:

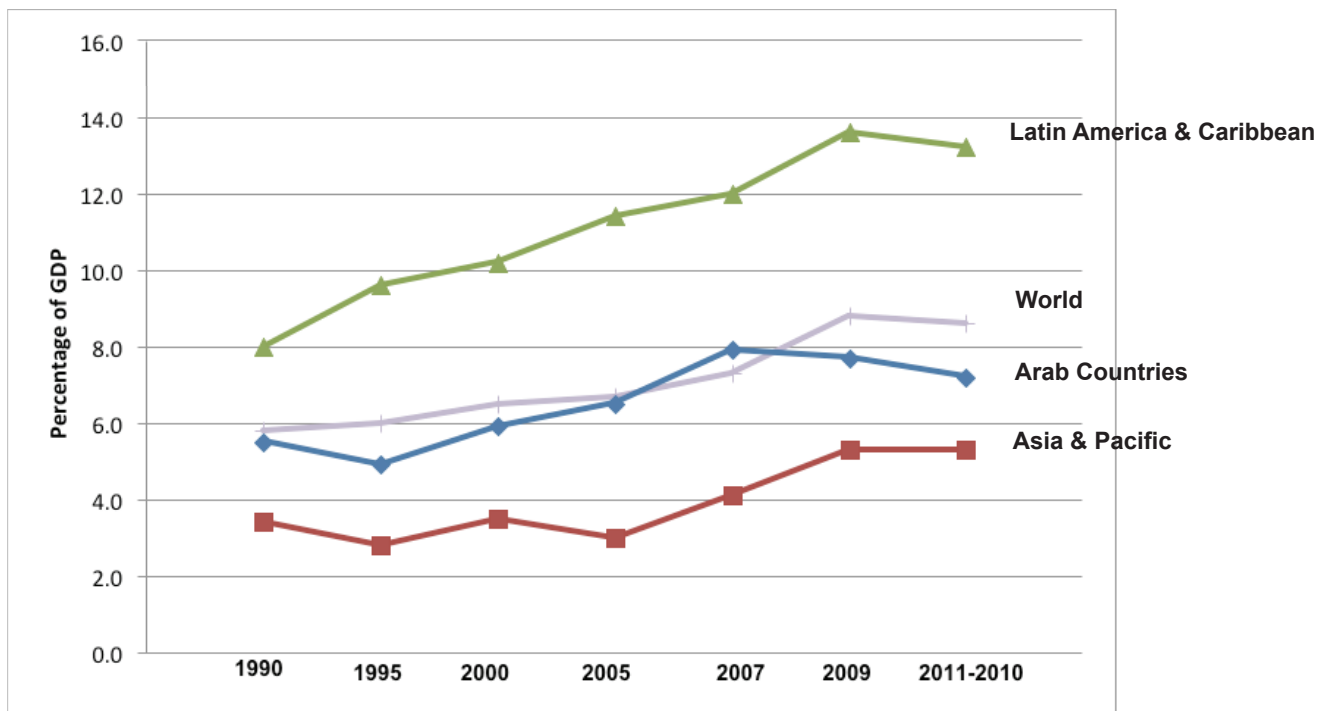
- Average public spending in Arab States on social protection as a proportion of GDP (calculated by taking into account the size of the population) is estimated at 10.7%, which is higher than the global average (8.8%), but below the rates in other areas such as Latin America and the Caribbean (13.9%). Even though Arab countries spend more compared to their GDP than other regions, like Asia and the Pacific, Arab achievements in terms of coverage and actual benefit from social protection remains below par compared to those countries, which poses questions about the efficacy of costs and effectiveness of programs.
- On the other hand, the table highlights significant disparities between Arab states, where Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and Tunisia allocate more than 10% of GDP on public expenditures related to social protection. Algeria, Djibouti, Morocco, and Libya, on the other hand, spend between 9.7% and 6.55%. While Mauritania, Bahrain, Syria, and Yemen, spend less than 5% of GDP.

Chapter Five: Social Protection Expenditure

1. Evolution of Public Social and Health Expenditures

Table 19: Evolution of Proportion of Total Public Expenditure on Social Protection to GDP							
Country	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010-2011
Qatar	...	...	2.65	2.28	1.5	2.13	1.74
Kuwait	9.4	11.12	13.49	6.54	5.29	8	11.44
UAE	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saudi Arabia	...	...	...	...	...	3.9	3.64
Oman	2.5	3.52	3.58	3.88	3.11	3.19	3.8
Bahrain	3.17	3.64	3.26	2.87	3.03	4.73	4.01
Libya	...	...	...	2.47	...	6.6	6.55
Lebanon	4.5	3.15	2.33	1.29	3.23	1.25	1.12
Iraq	...	...	...	...	...	12.14	11.65
Algeria	7.6	4.5	6.3	7.45	8.04	9.73	8.53
Jordan	7.05	7.42	8.44	16.23	13.14	10.63	12.11
Tunisia	7	7.52	6.94	8.08	8.22	8.83	10.4
Egypt	4.37	5.3	8.57	8.81	12.91	14.21	13.21
Morocco	2.4	3.54	3.92	4.78	5.98	6.45	6.57
Syria	...	...	3.22	3.08	2.21	1.99	1.91
Palestine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yemen	...	...	1.38	1.59	1.47	2.15	5.9
Sudan	1.1	1.49	1.36	1.72	2.33	2.46	2.27
Djibouti	...	...	...	...	7.29	...	...
Mauritania	1	3.62	4.27	3.96	3.06	4.07	4.87
Comoros	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Arab Countries	5.5	4.9	5.9	6.5	7.9	7.7	7.2
World	3.4	2.8	3.5	3	4.1	5.3	5.3
Latin America and Caribbean	8	9.6	10.2	11.4	12	13.6	13.2
Advanced Countries	5.8	6	6.5	6.7	7.3	8.8	8.6

Source: World Social Protection Report 2014-2015, ILO.



Source: Authors, based on World Social Protection Report 2014-2015, ILO.

Comments:

- On average, social and public health expenditure in Arab countries is below the global average and the Latin America and the Caribbean, but remains higher than in Asia and the Pacific, which achieved higher levels of human development. There is no doubt that human development in Arab countries neither conforms to their status in terms of per capita income and available financial space, nor to the size of public expenditures in each country. This entails the need to delve deeper into the extent of programs and expenditures efficacy and adequacy, as indicated above.
- Although the evolution of this percentage since the 1990s kept an upward trend, globally and for the various regional groups, the pattern of evolution began an overall decline and became negative in the beginning of 2009 everywhere, certainly a result of the global financial crisis. However, the Arab region began to record the decline in 2007, before the emergence of the crisis.
- However, this decline was not recorded in all Arab countries. Appearing in 2007 in Qatar, Oman, Jordan, Yemen, and Mauritania, it reached Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, in 2010. In contrast, countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, and Kuwait have not experienced a decline since 2005.

2. Health Expenditures

Table 20: Health Expenditure in Arab Countries in 2011

	Health Expenditure from GDP (%)	Public Health Expenditures from Total Health Expenditures (%)	Private Expenditures from Total Health Expenditures (%)	Health Insurance Expenses from Total Health Expenditure (%)	Private Health Insurance from Private Health Expenditure (%)
Qatar	1.9	78.6	21.4		24.3
Kuwait	2.6	82.4	17.6		9.6
UAE	3.1	69.5	30.5		27.3
Saudi Arabia	3.5	67.3	32.7		18.6
Oman	2.4	81.7	18.3		22.4
Bahrain	3.8	69.9	30.1	1.6	22.0
Libya	3.9	77.3	22.7		
Lebanon	7.4	38.0	62.0	49.7	25.8
Iraq	2.7	75.1	24.9		
Algeria	4.4	82.0	18.0	31.6	5.1
Jordan	8.8	65.5	34.5	28.2	18.1
Tunisia	7.0	59.4	40.6	56.3	10.7
Egypt	4.9	40.7	59.3	19.4	1.7
Morocco	6.3	33.1	66.9	24.5	11.7
Syria	3.4	46.3	53.7		
Palestine					
Yemen	5.0	26.8	73.2		1.3
Sudan	6.7	30.2	69.8	11.1	1.0
Djibouti	8.7	57.4	42.6	9.5	0.8
Mauritania	5.9	65.2	34.8	11.1	0.6
Comoros	3.6	40.2	59.8		0.0
Somalia					
Low-income	5.2	38.9	61.1	4.3	1.5
Lower-Middle-income	4.4	36.6	63.4	16.4	4.4
Upper-Middle-Income	5.8	56.2	43.8	50.3	17.2
High Income	11.9	61.3	38.6	65.4	49.0
World	9.1	58.8	41.1	60.6	38.2

Source: WHO World Health Statistics 2014.

Definitions:

- Public Health Expenditures: Total public administrative expenditures in the field of health, including the health component of social security.

Comments:

- It is clear that health expenditure ratios in all Arab countries fall below the global average estimated at 9.1% of GDP, resulting in weak health indicators and deep concerns regarding many countries of the region, as explained in the chapter on human development.
- Comparing between Arab countries and their counterparts in the respective income bracket shows:
 - In high-income countries, average global health spending is 11.9% of GDP. But in the six high-income Arab countries, this percentage ranges from 3.8% in Bahrain to as low as 1.9% in Qatar.

- In the upper-middle-income Arab countries, the ratios for 3 out of 6 Arab countries in this bracket exceed the global average for this group (5.8%): Jordan with 8.8%, followed by Lebanon (7.4%) and Tunisia (7%). Libya, Algeria, and Iraq, on the other hand, fall below the global average for this bracket.
 - In lower-middle-income countries, Morocco and Egypt registered higher than the global average, 6.3% and 4.9%, respectively. In contrast, the proportion of spending Syria remains below the average, not exceeding 3.4%.
 - In the countries with the lowest income, the rates in Djibouti (8.7%), Sudan (6.7%), and Mauritania (5.9%) were higher than the global average for this bracket (5.2%) and the average for lower-middle-income countries (4.4%). While this indicates significant financial efforts undertaken by low-income countries on health, it may also explain, to some extent, the importance of external funding received in the sector. Despite the marked decline between 2000 and 2011, external funding still represents 29.9% of total health expenditure in the Comoros, 12.9% in Djibouti, 9.7% in Mauritania, 4.2% in Sudan, and 4.1% in Yemen. On the other hand, the rates indicate poor performance, considering the modest results recorded in this regard.
- Regarding the distribution of health expenditures, WHO statistics indicate that public expenditure represents 58.8% of total health expenditure globally, rising to 61.3% in high-income countries. Public expenditure on health in Arab countries in this group ranges from 82.4% of GDP in Kuwait to 67.3% in Saudi Arabia, which is higher than the average global rate for this bracket.
 - In general, public health expenditures exceed two-thirds of total health expenditure in rentier Arab states, amounting to 82% in Algeria and 82.4% in Kuwait.
 - As for upper-middle-income Arab countries, the share of public expenditure is higher than the global average in Jordan and Tunisia, but remains relatively weak in Lebanon, falling 18 points short of average for this bracket. In the lower-middle-income tier, Egypt and Syria registered higher figures, but Morocco's spending was 3.5% below the average for the bracket.
 - The share of public expenditure in low-income Arab countries, Mauritania, Djibouti, and Comoros, was higher than the global average for LDCs.
 - Private health expenditure is weak in high-income Arab countries, but represents an important share of total health expenditure in Yemen, Sudan, Morocco, Lebanon, and Egypt, where it exceeds 50%, compared to a global average of 41.1%. Except for Lebanon, where private insurance accounted for more than a quarter of expenses, the largest share is carried by households and thus represents a heavy burden on the poor.
 - Social security expenditures are a key aspect of public spending in countries with relevant universal health insurance, reducing the burden on public finances, as well as households. The table shows that in 10 Arab countries, social security systems pay for a chunk of public health costs, ranging between 56.3% in Tunisia and 49.7% Lebanon and to a lesser extent Algeria and Jordan. Social security expenditure in the remaining countries is very weak and completely non-existent in high-income GCC countries, with the exception of Bahrain.
 - On the other hand, private insurance contributes to the health expenditures of 16 Arab countries, ranging in share from 27.3% in the UAE, followed by Lebanon with 25.8%, then Qatar with 24.3%, Oman with 22.4%, and Bahrain with 22%. In the remaining Arab countries with such schemes, the share ranges between 18.1% in Jordan and 0.6% in Mauritania.

Chapter 6: Social Assistance

Social assistance is one of the basic components of social protection systems. According to the World Bank report on “The State of Social Safety Nets 2014”:

- Social Assistance programs have been adopted by 107 developing or emerging countries, including 57 countries with social safety net coverage commensurate with the scale of poverty in the country. In the 50 other countries, program coverage is below the scale of the poverty challenge.
- Without accounting for expenditures related to subsidies on fuel and basic services, average expenditure on social assistance and safety nets amounts to 1.6% of GDP in those countries.
- The combined spending in this field amounts to \$337 billion in the countries covered by the report, which is enough to provide an allowance of \$1.25 a day for all the population of developing and emerging countries who live under the extreme poverty threshold.
- These programs are providing assistance to 1 billion people in those countries in one form or another, which is close to the population living under the extreme poverty line (around 1.2 billion). However, only 345 million are covered by social safety nets and about 870 million people remain uncovered, which entails a strong need to correct this situation and achieve more justice in assistance.

- The survey found 475 programs in 146 countries, which fit into this framework. They divided into five major categories are:
 - Conditional assistance:
 - Cash
 - In-kind
 - Unconditional assistance:
 - Cash
 - In-kind
 - Employment programs.

- As for the Arab world, the following table illustrates the nature of the programs mentioned in the World Bank report for the relevant countries. Although this data is certainly incomplete and imprecise, but it does shed some light on the nature and extent of the social safety nets in Arab countries.

Table 22: Percentage of Spending on Social Assistance from GDP

Country	Conditional Assistance				Unconditional Assistance				Public Works Programs	
	Food and Quasi-Cash Assistance		Conditional Cash Assistance		Food and Quasi-Cash Assistance		Conditional Cash Assistance		Type or Title of Program	Beneficiaries
	Type of Assistance	Beneficiaries	Type of Assistance	Beneficiaries	Type of Assistance	Beneficiaries	Type of Assistance	Beneficiaries		
Algeria	School Meals	31000								
Tunisia	School Meals	240000					Grants for vulnerable families	235000 families		
Egypt	School Meals	7002000			Food Assistance	15000	Social Solidarity Grants	22000 families	Support for Vulnerable Rural populations	8000
Morocco	School Meals	1423000		80000	Cities Without Slums	324000 families				
Mauritania	School Meals	186000	Training Grants	15000	Protection from malnutrition Program	73000				
Sudan	School Meals	1630000			General Food Distribution Program	5127000			Food for Work	952000
Somalia	School Meals	76000			Supplementary Meals Program	718000	CWMG	967000	Food for Work	780000
Comoros	School Meals	20000							Supporting Social Development	3800
Kuwait	School Meals	136000					Disability Allowances			
KSA	School Meals	2121000	Schools Clothes and Bags	428000			Assistance to Widows and Divorcees	371000		
Qatar	School Meals	57000								
Lebanon	School Meals	295000					Family and School Allowances			
Syria	School Meals	46000							Public Works	
Iraq	School Meals	555000								

Jordan	School Meals	115000			Targeted Food Assistance in Urban Areas	115000	National Security Fund	250000		
Palestine							Cash	100000 families		
Yemen	School Meals	65000					Social Welfare Fund		Labor intensive works	574000

Source: The State of Social Safety Nets 2014, World Bank.

Comments:

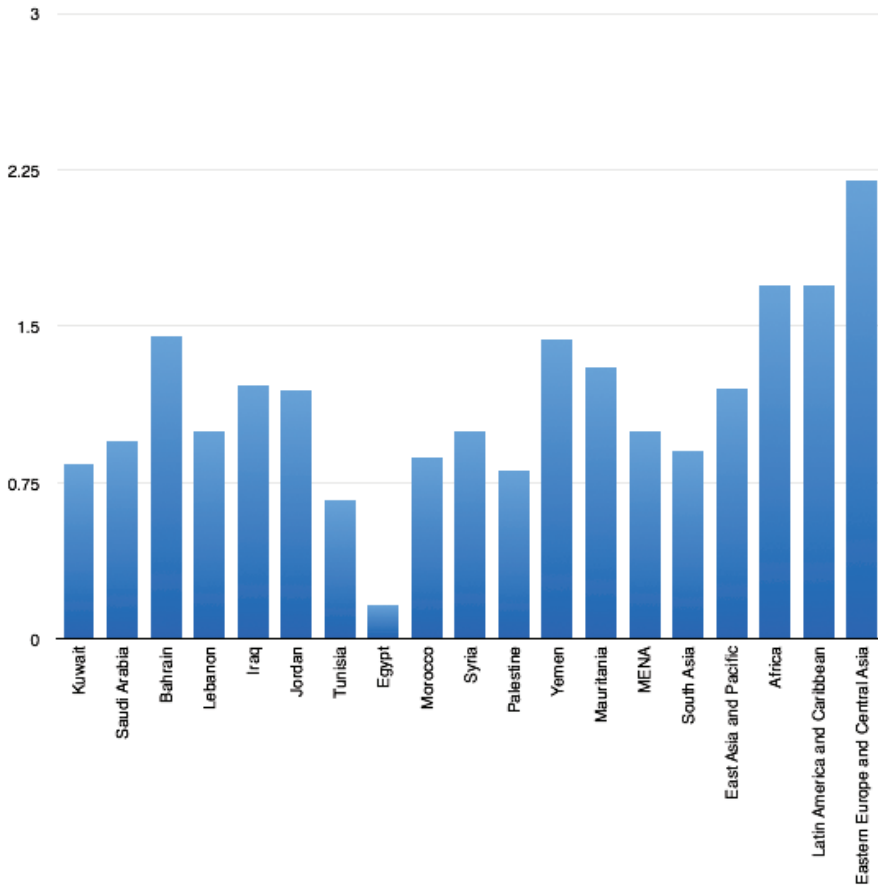
- The data in the table indicates a focus on School Meals as a common aspect of social assistance in the great majority of Arab countries, serving almost 14 million beneficiaries.
- Other key programs based on the number of beneficiaries are:
 - Public food distribution and food-for-jobs program for over six million inhabitants in Sudan.
 - Supplementary meals and the food-for-jobs program in Somalia, benefiting around 1.5 million inhabitants.
 - Cities Without Slums program in Morocco, targeting 324 thousand families.
 - Emergency grants program for 235 thousand deprived households in Tunisia.
 - Assistance to widows and divorced women in Saudi Arabia, with 371 thousand beneficiaries.
 - Targeted food assistance in urban areas in Jordan, with 115 thousand beneficiaries.
 - Labor-intensive public works in Yemen, for the benefit of 574 thousand inhabitants.

Table 22: Percentage of spending on social assistance from GDP

Country	Spending on Social Assistance		(Poverty (\$2 daily	
	%	Year	%	Year
Kuwait	0.84	2010		
Saudi Arabia	0.95	2009		
Bahrain	1.45	2009		
Lebanon	1.00	2010		
Iraq	1.22	2009	21.4	2007
Jordan	1.19	2009	1.6	2010
Tunisia	0.67	2011	4.3	2010
Egypt	0.16	2010		
Morocco	0.87	2008	14	2007
Syria	1.00	2010	16.9	2004
Palestine	0.81	2010	0.3	2009
Yemen	1.44	2008	46.6	2005
Mauritania	1.30	av- 2013 - 2008 erage	47.7	2008
MENA	1.00			
South Asia	0.90			
East Asia and Pacific	1.20			
Africa	1.70			
Latin America and Caribbean	1.70			
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	2.20			

Source: The State of Social Safety Nets 2014, World Bank.

Figure 8: Spending on Social Assistance as Percentage of GDP




Comments:

- Average spending on safety nets and social assistance, without taking subsidies into account, is estimated at 1.6% of GDP in developing and emerging countries. In the MENA countries, the average is only 1% of GDP, compared to 2.2% in Europe and Central Asia, 1.7% in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 1.2% in East Asia and the Pacific.
- Based on data available in the above-mentioned report, Arab countries could be divided into three groups:
 - 5 countries spending more than 1% of GDP: Bahrain, Yemen, Mauritania, Iraq, and Jordan. Extreme rates of poverty in Yemen, Mauritania, and Iraq may explain the relatively high level of spending. However, spending in Jordan is comparably high, despite the low poverty rate.
 - Countries that spend 1% of GDP or slightly less: Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Palestine.
 - Two countries where expenditure is low, Tunisia with 0.67%, and very low, Egypt with 0.16%.
- However, the data in this field must be handled very carefully due to the limited nature of information provided and quick conclusions should be avoided. There is a need to delve deeper into the outputs of the World Bank program to evaluate the results and adequacy of social interventions, in order to correct them and the extent of their impact on the situation of the poorest target group. It should be noted that 9 Arab countries are listed in this program, entitled ASPIRE: The Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity; namely Mauritania, Morocco, Egypt, Djibouti, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq.

Main Conclusions

- The weak contribution of the Arab region as a whole in the global output compared to its demographic weight, which requires pushing ahead with the development process, accelerating the pace of growth, and increasing the operational content, particularly since many Arab countries are experiencing high rates of unemployment and precarious employment.
- Deteriorating human development indicators in most countries in the region – the weakest compared to the remaining geographic regions and states, even in rich countries – reflect the weakness of social protection systems due to the organic relationship between the two. Progress in these indicators has also witnessed a significant slowdown, and is lower than in other geographical regions.
- It also points to the failings of human development in the Arab world, in particular, with high poverty rates, poor life expectancy, high mortality rates for children under five and maternal mortality at birth, with a few exceptions in some high-income countries. School enrolment rates are also the lowest in the world.
- Indicators on labor and activity, on the other hand, highlight key present and future challenges facing Arab countries in the field of social protection, especially given the serious dependency ratios and the lack of participation in the labor force, the lowest globally. This is in addition to high unemployment rates and precarious employment, especially for women, which overwhelms segments working in the informal sector with the burden of the rest of society. It also and makes the expansion and promotion of social protection systems absolutely necessary, on one hand, but extremely difficult to implement and very expensive, on the other.
- The severity of these challenges increases, when considering the great burden falling on Arab hosting refugees, in addition to migrant workers making up a significant portion of the population in other countries. Due to the difficult situation facing by these two most vulnerable groups in terms of human rights violations, particularly their right to social protection and the various components of decent work, additional efforts should be spent to protect and preserve their dignity and rights.
- A review of the situation of social protection systems in the Arab region illustrates several aspects of the shortcomings, most notably:
 - Lack of comprehensive and adequate social protection systems contributing to secure all segments of society against the sundry risks of life and accidents, based on the principles of human rights, the principles of decent work, and international standards. There is also a clear neglect regarding the ratification of international instruments in this field.
 - Lack of unemployment insurance (except in three countries) in a region registering the highest rates of unemployment and precarious employment, exposing millions of unemployed people to poverty and marginalization.
 - Poor coverage against industrial accidents and occupational diseases, and its almost complete absence in the informal sector.
 - Weak participation rates in pension systems, in particular, those actually enjoying the benefits of retirement.
 - Women, in particular, suffer from weak activity rates, unemployment, and precarious employment (underemployment), and thus poverty, exclusion, marginalization, and inequality. Their activity is focused in the informal sector, which deprives them of care related maternal and reproductive health. The situation requires specific programs to protect women and advance their situation.
- In terms of expenditure, the collected data indicates that despite higher allocation ra-



tios than other regions or global averages, the results recorded by Arab countries seem low and incommensurate with social spending levels, whether in terms of human development in general or the scope of social coverage and its universality. This raises the question of the allocation programs' efficacy, effectiveness, and soundness of governance.

- These various conclusions indicate major challenges. However, there is an urgent need for the further development of expanded and tightly-knit social protection systems in the Arab world, to addresses many of their sometimes deep shortcomings, based on the principles of human rights, decent work, and international standards.
- On a different note, there is a need to develop statistics and the collection of data and information, in addition to more transparency in this regard. Arab regional organizations should aim to collect data related to their respective mandates, due to the general lack of aggregate data on Arab countries as a stand-alone geographic area in international organizations.
- This could be followed in the future with the development of a methodology to standardize indicators and data collection and treatment by national sources.