**Regional briefing: Arab States**

**Regional briefings**

**2013 HDR Statistics**

As in previous reports, there are two groups of statistical tables in this year’s Report—human development indicators tables, which provide an assessment of countries’ achievements on different aspects of human development and tables with statistics used for empirical analysis in the thematic part of the Report’s chapters.

This year, there are 14 tables in the Statistical Annex-- 5 tables on human development indices and the remaining on human development related issues including indicators on education, health, social integration, trade, innovation and technology and demography; as well as environmental indicators.

Where possible, aggregates have been included at the end of each table for Human Development Index (HDI) groups and developing regions. The regions are defined based on UNDP regional bureaus classification.

In addition to the printed tables, the Office compiles a series of other products which will be disseminated electronically via our Website (at <http://hdr.undp.org>) including access to time series data.

1. **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)**

We present the HDI and its component indicators in Table 1 and HDI trends based on consistent time series data in Table 2. This is to reiterate that countries should focus on achievement over medium to long term, rather than comparing HDI values and ranks from one report to the other.

**Country coverage**

We have maintained the coverage of 187 countries and territories achieved in 2011.

There are eight UN Member States for which it is still not possible to calculate the HDI[[1]](#footnote-1). These countries are included in nearly all of our tables as data are usually available for other indicators even if not for all of those needed to calculate the HDI.

Countries are grouped under four human development groups, Very high, High, Medium and Low, the cut-off of which are based on human development index quartiles. The quartiles have equal number of countries except for the Low Human Development group which has 46 countries.

**Arab States**

The “Arab States” region is defined for the purposes of this statistical briefing note as the group of developing countries in that region where UNDP has a programme presence. 19 out of 20 countries in the region are included in the HDI table, only Somalia is not included due to missing data for two HDI component indicators (Mean years of schooling for adults and GNI per capita).

**Data revisions**

Life expectancy at birth data, which are part of the World Population Prospects produced by UNDESA and are revised biennially. Like in 2011, the life expectancy at birth data used for the HDI and its trends are from the 2010 Revision of the World Population Prospects. For about 38 countries, of which 5 are Arab States (Djibouti, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman and Sudan), estimates are based on revised under-five mortality and/or significant revision of HIV prevalence time series by UNAIDS.

Gross national income (GNI) series is being continuously revised by World Bank. The 2012 data are based on the World Development Indicators database as of October 15, 2012. GNI for 2012 is estimated based on the real GDP growth as predicted by IMF in October 2012.

Mean years of schooling (MYS) series is based on data on educational attainment available at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. The estimates use Barro and Lee methodology.

**Regional aggregation**

Regional aggregates of composite indices are calculated as composite indices of the regional aggregates of the corresponding indicators.

* 1. **HDI, its components and trends**

We present HDI and its component indicators in Table 1 and HDI trends based on consistent time series data in Table 2. The evolution of achievements over time should be analysed based on Table 2 and not by comparing the HDI values and ranks from one report to the other.

**Arab States:**

* There are two countries in the region (Qatar and United Arab Emirates in the very high human development group and eight (Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Lebanon, Oman, Algeria and Tunisia) in the high human development group; six (Jordan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco and Iraq) in the medium human development group; and the remaining three (Yemen, Djibouti and Sudan) are in the low Human development group.
* The average HDI value for the region of 0.652 is below the world average of 0.694 and below the averages for East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The region just above the Arab State Region (East Asia and the Pacific) has average HDI value that is 0.031higher than the average for Arab States.
* Between 2000 and 2012, the region registered annual growth of 0.94% in HDI value, placing it fourth in comparison to other regions. Looking at individual countries in the region, Yemen achieved the fastest growth (1.66%). Followed by Morocco with 1.2% and Algeria, 1.1%. The least growth was registered by Kuwait (0.1%).

**HDI components**

The region’s average life expectancy at birth is 71.0 years, about a year higher than the world average and places the region ahead of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa regions. However, it is more than 3 years below the average for Latin America and the Caribbean, region with the highest average life expectancy at birth. The region’s average mean years of schooling of 6 years is 1.3 years higher than those of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa regions but 1.5 years below the World average and over 4 years below the average for Europe and Central Asia. Its average expected years of schooling of 10.6 years is a year below the world average of 11.6 years. The average gross national income per capita of $8,317 (PPP$ constant 2005 international) is about 82% the world average of $10,184

1. **INEQUALITY-ADJUSTED HDI (IHDI)**

The IHDI is the HDI adjusted for inequalities in the distribution of achievements in each of the three dimensions. The IHDI will be equal to the HDI value when there is no inequality, but falls below the HDI value as inequality rises. The difference between the HDI and the IHDI represents the ‘loss’ in potential human development due to inequality and can be expressed as a percentage. This year, the IHDI has been calculated for 132 countries, two countries fewer than in 2011 (134) and seven countries fewer than in 2010 (139). Data for five countries that had IHDI in 2011 (Bahamas, Micronesia, Paraguay, Russia and Tunisia) were not used because they refer to years before 2002 and the IHDI is not calculated using data more than 10 years old. IHDI was estimated for three new countries with data that became available - Angola, Bhutan and Malta.

**Arab States**

The IHDI was calculated for 7 out of the 20 countries in the region. It is not calculated for Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Iraq, Sudan and Somalia. Inequality in life expectancy at birth is calculated for 17 countries, in education for 8 countries and in income for 7 countries.

The region is ranked third out of 6 regions in terms of overall loss to HDI due to inequality in the distribution (25.4%) and over 2 percentage points higher compared to the world’s average loss of 23.3%. The education component is where the loss due to inequality is highest (39.6%) followed by income (17.5%).

Looking at the 7 countries with IHDI, the biggest loss due to inequalities is suffered by Djibouti (36%) followed by Yemen (32.3%). The country suffering the least loss is Jordan (19%).

In terms of the components, the biggest loss in life expectancy at birth is suffered by Djibouti (36.9%) followed by Sudan (33%). The country suffering the least loss on this component is Bahrain (6.2%). On the education component, Yemen suffers a loss of 49.8% and Djibouti 47%. Jordan suffers the least loss (22.4%). Lebanon suffers a loss of 30% when the income component is adjusted for inequalities in the distribution and the least by Egypt (14.2%).

**Gender Inequality Index (GII)**

The GII is designed to reveal the extent to which national achievements in Reproductive health, empowerment and labour market participation are eroded by gender inequalities. Unlike the HDI, a higher value indicates poor performance. This year, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) has been calculated for 148 countries. In 2011 there were 146 countries. Two countries, Suriname and Tonga entered the GII for the first time in 2012 while Egypt re-entered after being dropped in 2011 because of lack of data on parliamentary participation when its People’s Assembly and Shoura Assembly was dissolved that year.

**Arab States**

The GII is calculated for 17 out of the 20 Arab States. It is not calculated for Occupied Palestinian Territory, Djibouti and Somalia due to missing data on share of seats in parliament or population with at least secondary education. The average GII value for the region is 0.555—only better than South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

In terms of components, a relatively higher levels of maternal mortality ratio (176/100,000 in contrast with a world average of 145/100.000; a very low female share in parliamentary seats (13%, the lowest relative to other regions); as well as low female labour force participation rate (22.8% also the lowest) account for the poor performance on the GII.

Libya leads the region with a GII value of 0.216, followed by United Arab Emirates with 0.241 and Bahrain—0.258. The poorest performers in the region are Yemen with a value of 0.747 and Sudan scoring 0.604. Yemen also happens to have the poorest GII value in the world. Its GII value is 0.284 above the world average of 0.463.

**Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**

The MPI is a composite measure designed to capture overlapping deprivations that people suffer at the same time. The MPI reflects both prevalence of multidimensional deprivation and its intensity –-over-lapping deprivations people who suffer deprivation experience on average. It MPI identifies overlapping deprivations at the household level across the same three dimensions but measured by 10 different indicators.

The MPI builds on recent advances in theory and offers a valuable complement to traditional money metric measures of poverty. It is calculated for 104 countries in contrast with 109 in 2011. Countries with data older than 10 years are not included in the MPI. This year we present the MPI and related measures differently. Countries with most recent data (2007 to 2011) are presented at the top of the table in alphabetical order and those with data between 2002 and 2006 are present at the bottom, also in alphabetical order.

The MPI has been calculated for 11 out of the 20 countries in the region. Somalia has the highest MPI value (0.514) based on 2006 survey data followed by Yemen (0.283). The headcount ratio, (i.e. the percentage of the population suffering over-lapping deprivation) is 81.2% for Somalia and 52.5% for Yemen. These translate into 6.9 million people in Somalia and 11.2 million people in Yemen who suffer overlapping deprivation. United Arab Emirates has both the lowest MPI value and headcount ratio (0.002 and 0.6%).

Intensity of deprivation is also highest for the Somalia and Yemen where the multi-dimensional poor people on average, suffer over-lapping deprivation in 63.3% and 53.9% of the indicators respectively. Intensity of deprivation is relatively lower in Jordan (34.4%).

Deprivation in education accounts for 94.4% of United Arab Emirates MPI based on 2003 data. Deprivation in living standards is relatively lower in the region.

**International trade flows of goods and services**

In relation to the theme of this year’s report: “The rise of the global south: Human progress in a diverse world” we have introduced indicators on trade in goods and services to reflect on the extent to which each country is integrated into the global economy. These indicators are placed in table 10 of the Statistical Annex.

**Arab States**

In regards to merchandize goods exports, the total value for the region was $546.6 billion, representing 4% of total world exports of $13.6 trillion. Saudi Arabia leads in the region exporting goods to the tune of $245.9 billion in 2010, representing 59.4% its GDP in that year. This is followed by Algeria ($57.1 billion) and then Kuwait ($50.3 billion) representing 38% and 43.8% of their respective GDPs. Among countries in the region with data, the Occupied Palestinian Territory exports the least ($0.4 billion).

Manufactured goods account for about 18% of the region’s merchandize exports but only 11% of Saudi Arabia’s. It forms the bulk of Occupied Palestinian Territory’s exports (66.9%).

Merchandize imports follow similar pattern with Saudi Arabia leading with imports to the tune of $106.9 billion and 25.8% of its GDP. This is followed by Egypt with $53 billion and Algeria ($41 billion), constituting 26% and 27.3% of their respective GDPs. Merchandize imports represent 61.5% of Djibouti’s GDP.

The value of services exports is low in comparison with goods exports, with Lebanon leading in the region with a tune of $15.3 billion followed by Morocco with $12.5 billion. The total value of the region’s export in services is $86.4 billion constituting only 2.5% of the world total of $3.4 trillion.

**Social integration** is another important area related to the theme of the 2012 HDR. We assembled table 9 with 13 indicators grouped in four dimensions that indicate whether a society is inclusive and integrated. In particular, we look at the extent of equal rights and opportunities for employment, overall inequality, human safety, and trust and community satisfaction. Complementary objective indicators and perception-based indicators allow for a more nuanced picture of social integration. Life, freedom and job satisfaction focus on individuals’ views of their personal conditions, while trust in people and government, along with community satisfaction, give insight into people’s satisfaction with broader society.

**Arab States:**

* The region has the lowest employment-to–population ratio (52.6%) below the world average of 65.8%. There is also wide variation across countries ranging from a low employment-to-population-ratio of 41.2% in Occupied Palestinian Territory to 89.9% in Qatar.
* Data on youth unemployment are available only for 12 countries (Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Egypt, Syria and Morocco). The highest youth unemployment is reported for Egypt – 54.1% followed by Occupied Palestinian Territory—49.6%. On the other end is Qatar with 8.9% and Kuwait with 11.8%.
* Child Labour relatively high for Somalia where 49% of children of ages 5 to 14 years are economically active followed by Yemen (23%). The lowest is observed in Syrian Arab Republic (4%).
* The average overall life satisfaction based on the Gallup World Poll for the region is 4.8 (on the scale from 0 to 10), making it the third most dissatisfied region (after sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Satisfaction with the freedom of choice is measured by the % of people that responded with yes on the question if they are satisfied with the freedom to choose what they do with their lives. 54.6% responded “yes” which is the lowest compared to other regions and 19.3 percentage points lower than the world average.
* 63.9% responded that they are satisfied with their jobs and only 67.6% were satisfied with the economic conditions in their communities – both averages are the below the world averages of 73% and 78.9% respectively.
* On perception of safety, (62.9% responded that they feel safe), second to South Asia’s 66.9% The average homicide rate of 4.5 per 100,000 people is the third lowest and below the world average of 6.9 per 100,000 people.

1. Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, the People’s Democratic Republic of Korea, San Marino, Somalia, South Sudan and Tuvalu. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)