



Production of International Migration Statistics in the Arab States: Overview



UNITED NATIONS

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1- Introduction

- The importance of comprehensive migration statistics (gender mainstreaming)
- The Arab states: 22 countries
 - High level of refugees both directions;
 - High Inward and Outward Mobility
 - Labour Migration:
 - Host: Gulf cooperation Countries,
 - Sending: North Africa countries
 - Hosting and sending
- Objective: Highlight key data sources, challenges, gender dimension

2.1- Data Sources of the IMS in the Arab States

•Population Censuses

- Conducted in most Arab states: 12 so far and 16 countries by December 2024
- Including migration data and refugees by socioeconomic characteristics
- **Limitation:** Emigration, labor migrants, irregular migrants

•Administrative Records

- Pop register, work permits, residence permits, border records, visa, MOFA
- Admin data owner?

•Surveys

- Migration survey
- Specialized migration surveys: **MEDHIMS (Mediterranean Household International Migration Survey): Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Lebanon**
- Labour Force Surveys (LFS): **(ESCWA 2023)**

Country	All residents	Nationals	Refugees	Indigenous people	Nomadic people
Egypt		●			
Iraq				●	
Jordan	●	●			
Kuwait					
Lebanon	●				
Libya	●				
Mauritania	●				
Morocco	●				
State of Palestine	●				
Saudi Arabia	●				
Somalia		●		●	
The Sudan	●	●	●	●	●
Syrian Arab Republic	●				
Tunisia	●	●	●		
United Arab Emirates	●	●	●	●	
Yemen	●				

2.2- Challenges in International Migration Statistics Production

1. Political Instability and Conflict

2. Lack of Standardized Data Collection Methods: Migrant vs non national, Refugees vs IDP, UNRWA, UNHCR

3. Informal and Irregular Migration

4. Limited Institutional Capacity

5. Privacy and Data Protection Concerns

6. Ownership and coordination (NSOs vs Gov Institution)

2.3- Country Comparisons

•Jordan

- Comprehensive data from censuses, Labour Force Surveys, and administrative records
- Data in admin records still not available for certain data;

•Lebanon

- Last census 1932 – Admin data not shared
- Political instability affecting data collection
- Receives :Refugees, labor migrants vs send labor migrants
- Using Nontraditional data sources: Syria refugees in Lebanon: pros and cons
- Palestinian refugees: UNRWA vs census

•Egypt

- Census, migration survey, admin records, borders records
- Egyptians abroad?
- Refugee and illegal migrants

2.4- Gender Mainstreaming : examples

A- The National Migration Observatory, (Morocco) 2011 in Mol.

→ through the identification of national priorities for research activities to improve migration data and to develop a roadmap to promote a better understanding of migration issues,

•Initiatives

- Established to monitor and analyze migration trends
- Focus on gender-specific data collection

•Impact

- Provides insights into the distinct experiences of male and female migrants
- Informs policy-making to address gender-specific needs

•Best Practices

- Regular publication of gender-disaggregated data
- Collaboration with local and international organizations

B. National Observatory of International Migration in Tunisia: Ministry of Social Affaires

The number of Tunisian **migrant women reached** 178,035, representing **31.5%** of the total Tunisian migrants:

- * 70% of them are married
- * 42.6% have a university education level
- * 82% of them are in European countries.

While the number of foreign women in Tunisia reached 26,360, representing **49.5%** of the total number of foreigners residing in Tunisia.

3. Egypt: Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate's Affair

1- Egypt-HIMS. Census and Admin data (Gov and Int)

2- HIMS provides the government and other national entities and the international community dealing with international migration and mobility in Egypt with the relevant instruments to formulate, implement and evaluate migration policies and programmes in a cost-effective manner.

The findings highlight that:

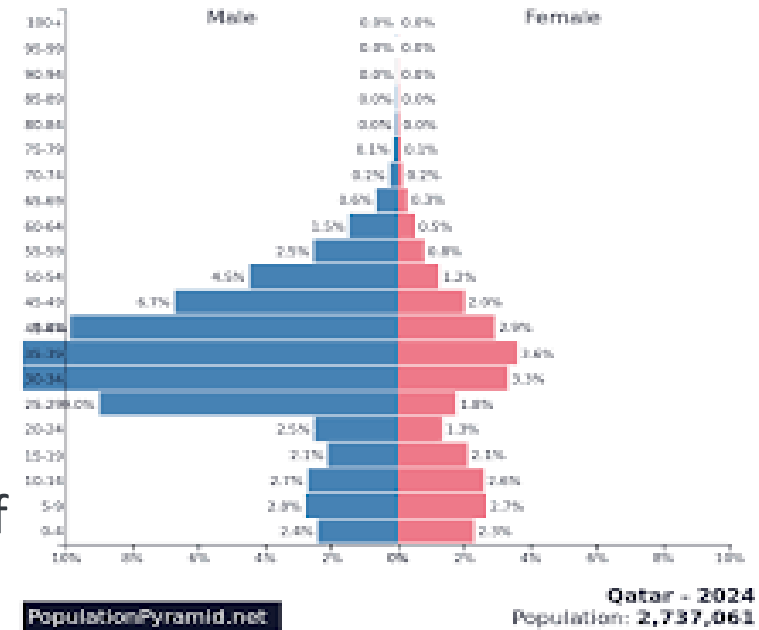
- **Around 87** per cent of Egyptian migrants migrate for economic reasons,
- **with Saudi Arabia (40 per cent)**, Libya (21.2 per cent) and Kuwait (13.5 per cent) being the three major destination countries.
- Around 66 percent of the migrants, **of whom 98 per cent are males**, fall in the 25-44 age bracket, the prime working age.

D. Qatar

1. **Census**, include data on Qatari- non-Qatari
2. **The LFS** targets both Qatari nationals and non-nationals,
3. **Admin data**: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor, and Social Affairs.

These records provide detailed information on the number of permits, and other migration-related data.

Qatar National Vision 2030 emphasizes social development and the empowerment of women. -
- improving the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data, including in the context of migration.



3. Conclusion and way forward

•Improving Data Collection Methods

- Include gender-related variables in surveys and records
- Standardize definitions and criteria across countries
- international migration statistics in accordance with international recommendations

•Collaboration and Capacity Building

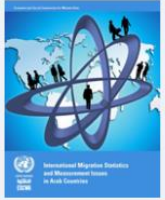
- Enhance collaboration between data-producing and policy-making agencies
- Joint seminars and training sessions

•Publication and Dissemination

- Regular publication of detailed and disaggregated data
- Thematic reports on international labour migration from censuses and surveys

Thank you

2.7- ESCWA Work on Gender and Migration Statistics (cont'd)



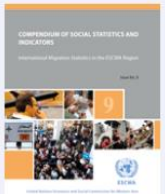
International migration statistics and measurement issues in Arab countries

PUBLICATION Reports & studies | E/ESCWA/SD/2014/TECHNICAL PAPER.1 | January 2014



Arab Society: Demographic and Social Trends, Issue No. 15

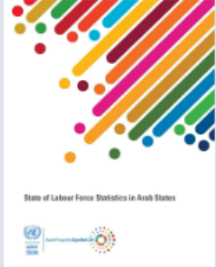
PUBLICATION Reports & studies | E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2020/1 | December 2021



Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators: International Migration in the ESCWA Region, No. 9

PUBLICATION Reports & studies | E/ESCWA/SD/2009/12 | January 2009

2.7- ESCWA Work on Gender and Migration Statistics



State of Labour Force Statistics in Arab States

PUBLICATION Information material | E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2024/TP.3 | May 2024



Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region

PUBLICATION Information material | E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2024/TP.1 | March 2024



Handbook on the Arab Gender Indicator Framework 2023

PUBLICATION Training material | E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2023/HANDBOOK.2 | January 2024

2.7- ESCWA Work on Gender and Migration Statistics (cont'd)



SDG vulnerability frameworks to leave no one behind

PUBLICATION Information material | E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2023/TP.1 | June 2023



National Gender Lens Pocketbook 2022

PUBLICATION Data and Statistics | E/ESCWA/CL4.SIT/2022/POCKETBOOK.1 | June 2023

3-4 JULY 2024

Sixth meeting on demographic and social statistics for Arab countries

EXPERT GROUP MEETING

25-27 JUNE 2024

Statistical business registers for Arab countries

WORKSHOP  Amman

25-26 JUNE 2024

2020 Population and Housing Census round: Experiences of selected Arab countries

WORKSHOP

4-6 JUNE 2024

Measurement of South-South cooperation

WORKSHOP  Doha, Qatar

7-9 MAY 2024

Virtual workshop on gender statistics

WORKSHOP

19 JULY 2022

ESCWA and IOM: advancing SDG indicators 10.7.2 and 10.7.3

WEBINAR  Virtual

22 JUNE 2022

ESCWA and ILO: advancing SDG indicators 5.5.2, 8.5.2, 8.b.1 and 10.7.1

WEBINAR  Virtual

6-8 JULY 2021

Improving the use of gender statistics in Jordan: 3rd workshop

WORKSHOP  Jordan

27-29 JUNE 2021

Improving the use of gender statistics in Jordan: 2nd workshop

WORKSHOP  Jordan

30 JUNE-3 JULY 2009

Regional Workshop on International Migration Statistics

WORKSHOP  Cairo

9-12 DECEMBER 2008

Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Labor Statistics in Iraq

WORKSHOP  Turin