

Jordan Living Conditions at the Eve of the Century

Main results from the
1996 Jordan Living Conditions Survey

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The 1996 Jordan Living Conditions Survey

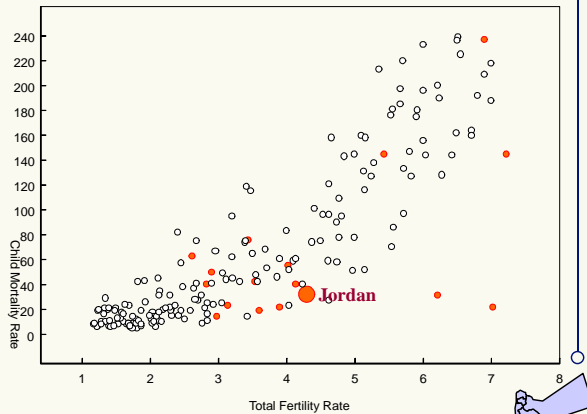
- Multi-topical national survey, 6000 households
- Commissioned by the Government of Jordan
- Funded by Norway and Canada
- Supported by UNICEF, IDRC and CIDA
- Implemented by Department of Statistics, Fafo

*”Jordan has done surprisingly well in terms of living conditions,
considering its troubled history of economic and demographic
shocks and the scarcity of its natural resources”*

Population: Compared to other countries in the world, Jordan has low mortality, reduced fertility

Part of the reason for the large population growth.

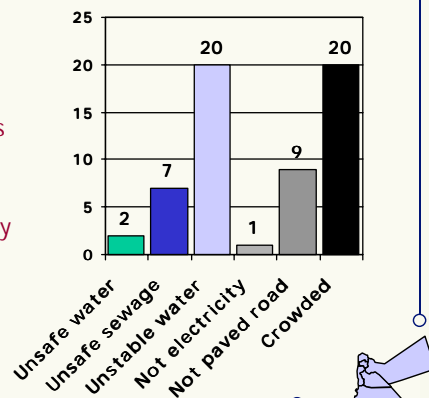
Some other Arab countries (red dots on chart) have similar characteristics.



Jordan Living Conditions

Infrastructure and housing generally satisfactory

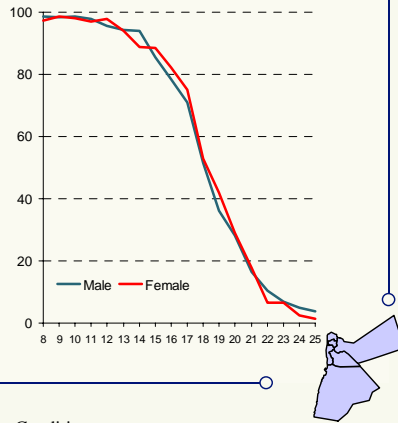
- Majority live in homes that they own..
- ... but crowding is a problem for 150 000 hhs
- Only 15 000 hhs lack access to safe water
- Of 7 basic amenities, only 7% lack 3 or more



Jordan Living Conditions

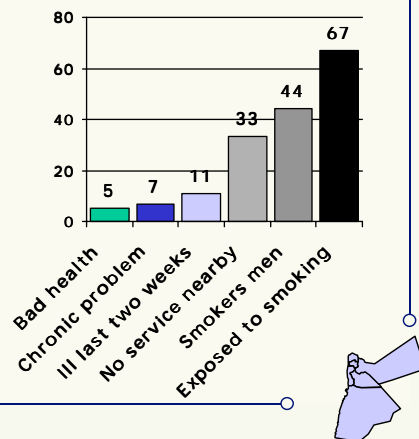
Education: Illiteracy rate decreasing (17%)
Drop-out rate 5%. Girls and boys similar enrolment in school

- ... but only up to secondary
- Unemployment among graduates of higher institutions a problem...
- ... but education pays
- 77% of households have basic school within 5-10 min. walk
- Of workforce: 50% basic, 20% secondary, 20% higher education



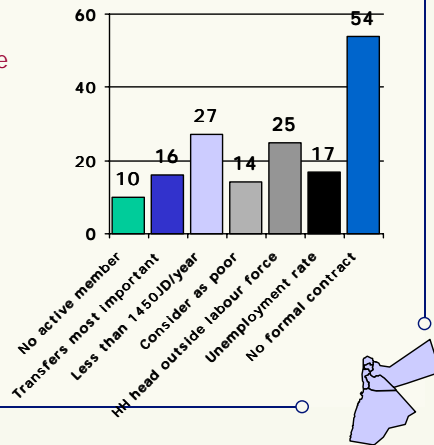
Health: Access to health services good

- Smoking a major health problem..
- .. But more for men than women
- Two-thirds of children and youth exposed to smoking at home
- During illness, 67% seek professional help
- Few needed help without seeking it



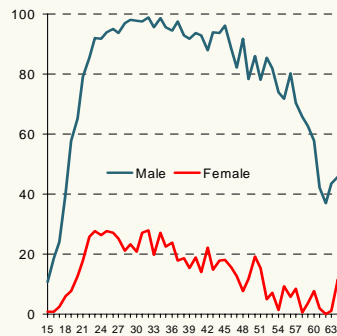
Wage income most important: but the rich combine several sources

- Wage employment most important source of income for 60% of households ...
- .. And most of these have secondary income
- Self employment most important source for less than 20%
- Education key to improve income



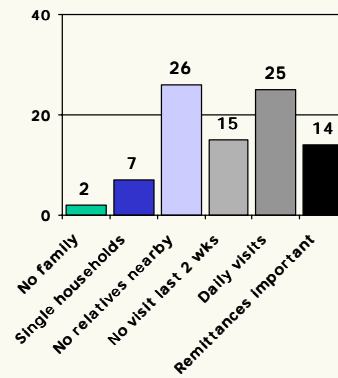
Labour force participation low: few work for many

- Overall 72% men, 15% women
- Compared to WB/Gaza 70/12 (1996)
Syria 78/18 (1991)
Egypt 72/30 (1991)
- Jordan female
1961 - 3%
1971 - 8%
1991 - 14%
1996 - 15%



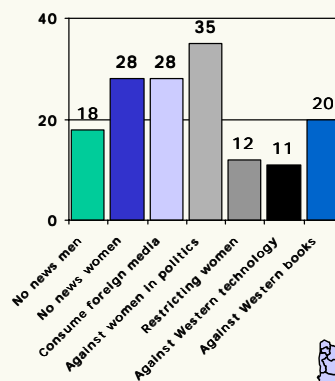
Family networks are important

- Few live alone
- People live with many close relatives nearby
- ... most often with the husband and his family
- Help from relatives provide security net ..
- ... as often as public pensions and support



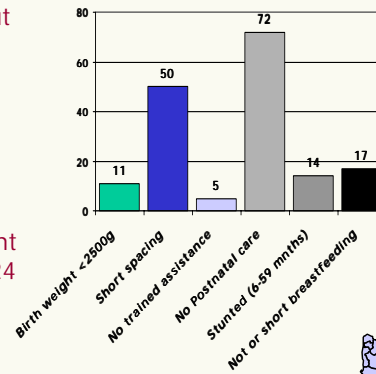
Men often negative to female involvement in politics and to female autonomy

- Six out of ten (men and women) have voted
- Men participate much more in politics than women
- 80% obtain news through TV, radio, newspapers
- 12%: "women should never go alone outside house"



Children live better than in many other countries, but problems remain

- Malnutrition diminished, but exists (stunting affects 80 000 children)
- Postnatal care insufficient
- Vaccination coverage good
- Breast feeding could be improved
- Birth spacing very insufficient (70 000 births earlier than 24 months after previous one)



Good access to services, housing, infrastructure AND income shortfall and unemployment

- Government investments, subsidies?
- Remittances?
(Of GNP: 2.5% in 1971, 30% in 1984, 18-20% today)
- Past economic history?
Growth in the 1970's, slow down in the 1980's, improvements in the 1990's due to Gulf returnees
- Or combination?

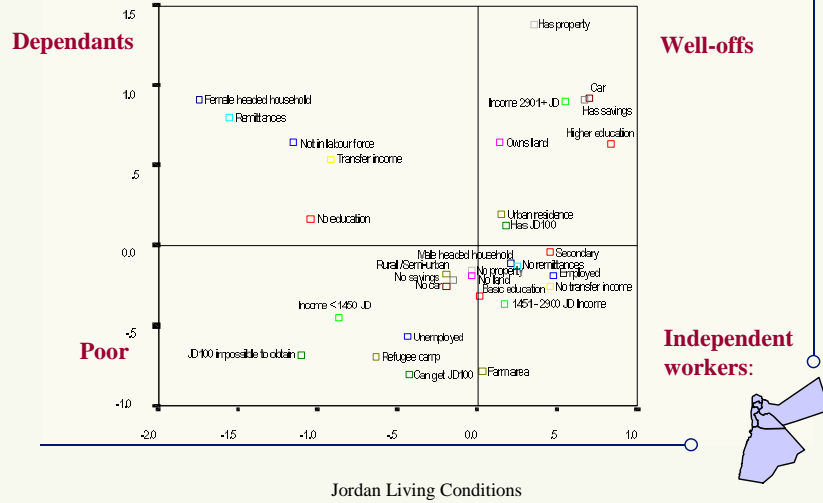
Living Conditions are multi-faceted: No single measure can summarise

- **Heaping:** Bad things or good things go together
- **Compensatory:** Good things compensate for bad ones
- **Unordered:** No factor predict others

Four living conditions types in Jordan

- **Well-offs:** heaping of significant resources
- **Poor:** low income, hh head unemployed, cannot raise 100 JD
- **Dependants:** subsist on remittances and transfers, low education
- **Independent workers:** employed, middle characteristics

Household socio-economic adaptations



Future: Bigger, older and more educated population requires transformation of the labour market and economy in Jordan

- Total population from 4.2 Million in 1995 to 6.1 in 2010
- Increase in labour force of 645.000 from 1995 - 2010
- A labour surplus economy
- Increase in female labour
- Adapt workplaces to higher educated workforce
- Change in structure and volume of education system
- Increased and changed demands for health services

