



# Gender Dynamic: Examining Public Opinion Data in Light of Covid-19 Crisis

April 27, 2020

# About Arab Barometer:

## SCOPE

- The Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network based at Princeton University that works with universities and research institutions in the region.
- We have been conducting high quality and reliable public opinion surveys in the Middle East and North Africa since 2006.
- Through 2020, the Arab Barometer has conducted 50 national surveys over five waves including more than 70,000 interviews in 15 Arab countries.
- Arab Barometer survey data and reports are publicly available for download and free of charge at [www.arabbarometer.org](http://www.arabbarometer.org).

## DATA QUALITY

- Extensive training of interviewers and fieldwork team
- Increased oversight by an independent third party using standard practices suggested by the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
- Almost exclusively Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) allowing near real-time monitoring
- Specially developed software flags any suspicious interviews automatically
- Extensive examination of the data during and after fieldwork to ensure high quality

# About AB5 survey:

## SCOPE

- For the fifth and latest wave of surveys, the Arab Barometer interviewed over 25,000 people in 12 countries. This is the largest in-depth survey ever carried out in the region.
- The survey took place between September 2018 and June 2019.
- All country surveys are based on nationally representative probability sample of the population aged 18 and above. Each country surveyed includes approx. 2,400 respondents, on average. The error margin of our surveys is  $\pm 3$  percent.

## NOTES

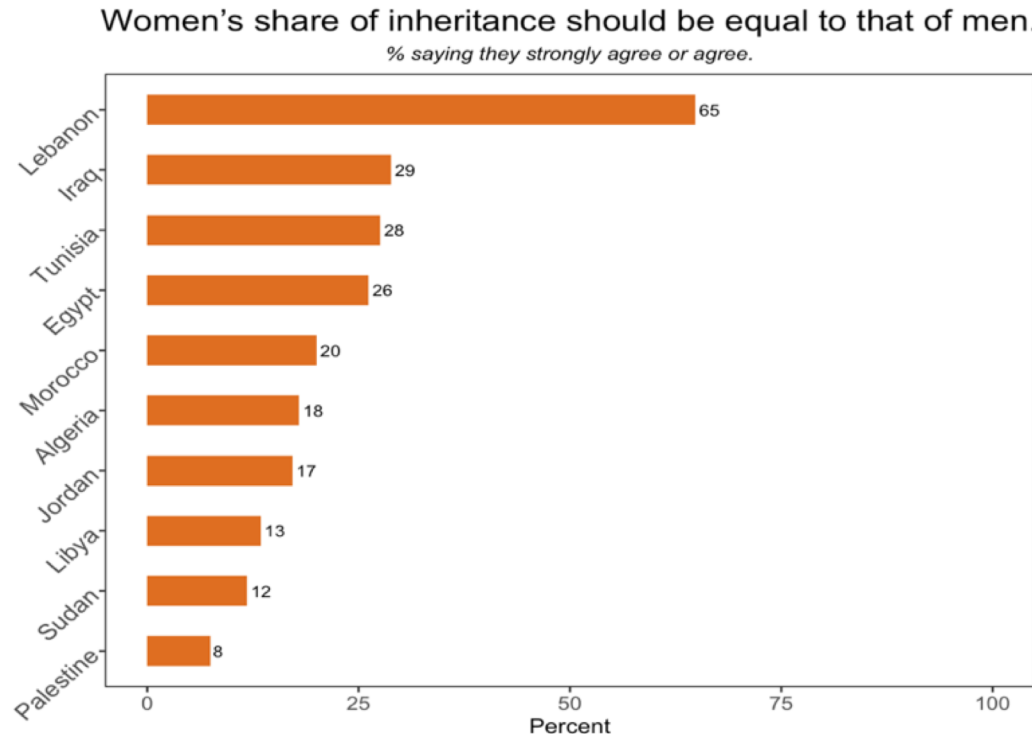
- The 45 minute, largely tablet-based interviews were conducted in private and face-to-face with individuals randomly selected to fairly represent their communities.
- The survey is of citizens across most of the Arab world. Exceptions include countries where full and fair access to the survey was not possible or the safety of interviewers could not be guaranteed.
- Full details on all methodology are available on the Arab Barometer website.  
<https://www.arabbarometer.org/survey-data/methodology/>

# **Views on Women's Agency in MENA**

Are women in MENA able to make effective choices and decisions for themselves and their societies?

# Share of Inheritance

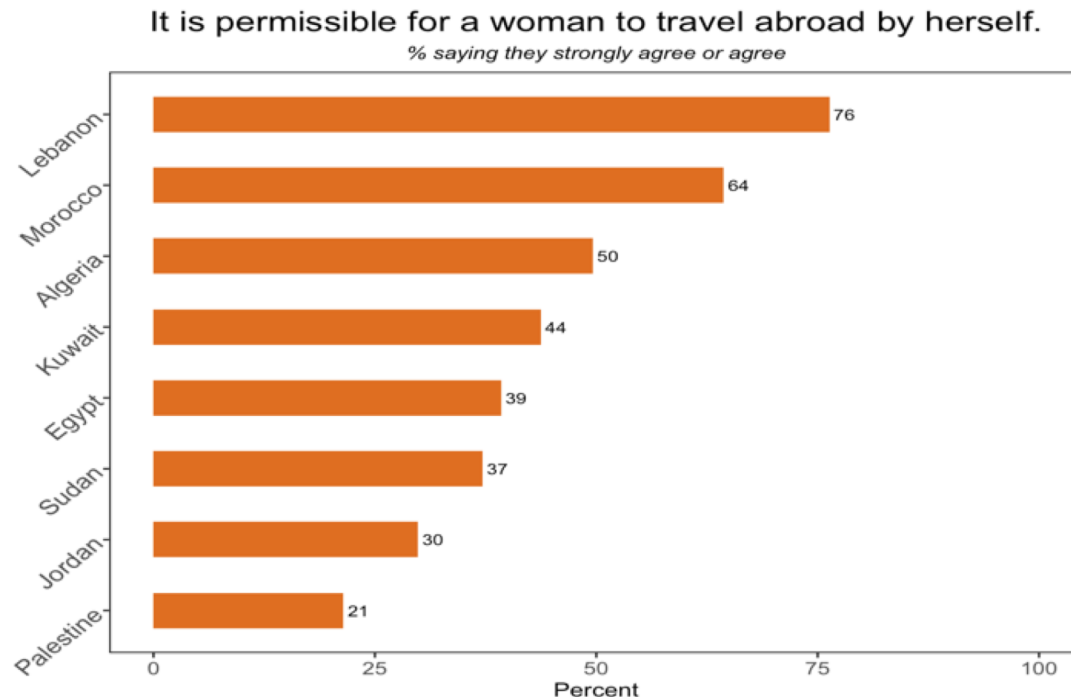
In all but one country surveyed, a majority do not believe that women's share of inheritance should be equal to that of men.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

# Travel Independently

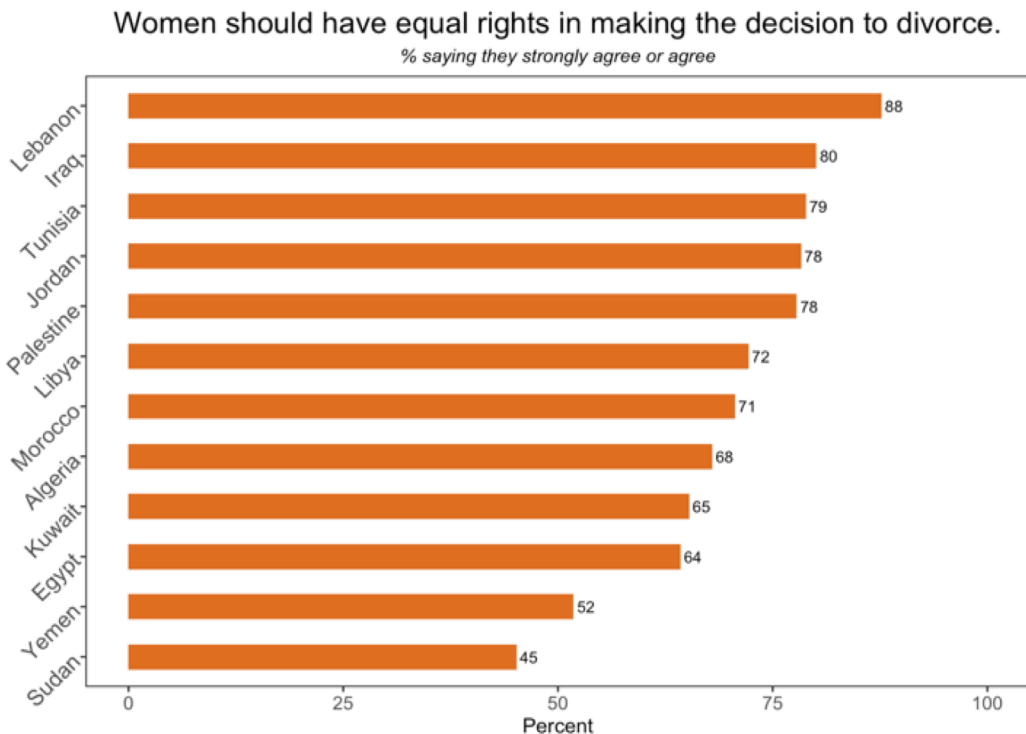
In a majority of countries surveyed, a minority say it is permissible for a woman to travel abroad by herself.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

# Divorce

While a majority of citizens across the region (71%) support an equal right to divorce for women, including more than two-thirds in most countries ...

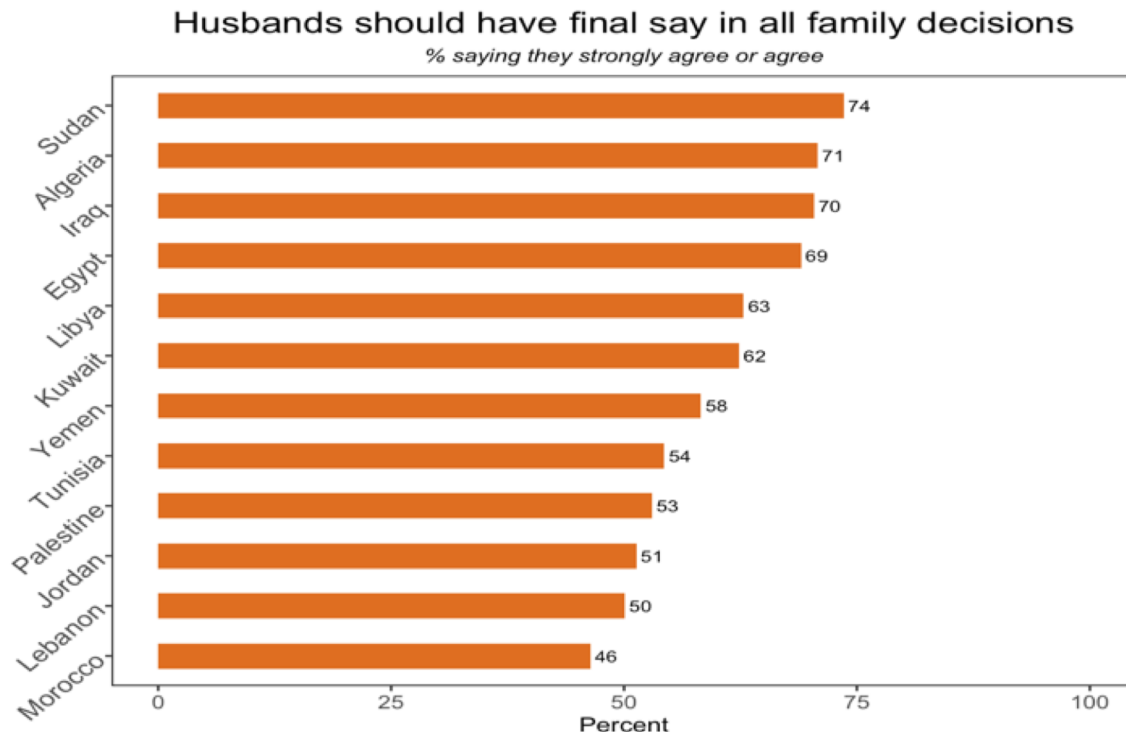


Notes: Weighted Estimates.

Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

# Head of Household

Around the same margin (60%) say husbands, rather than wives, should always have the final say on family decisions.

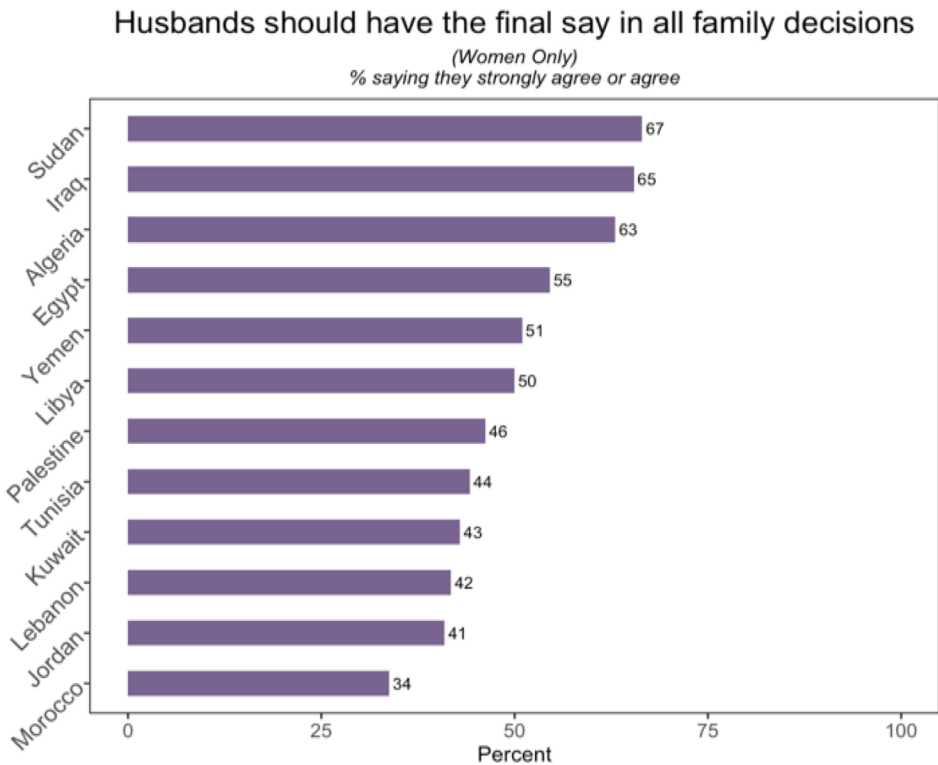


Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5



# Many Women Agree Their Husbands Should Have The Final Say

In 6 of 12 countries surveyed, more than half of the women believe that a husband should be the ultimate decision maker.

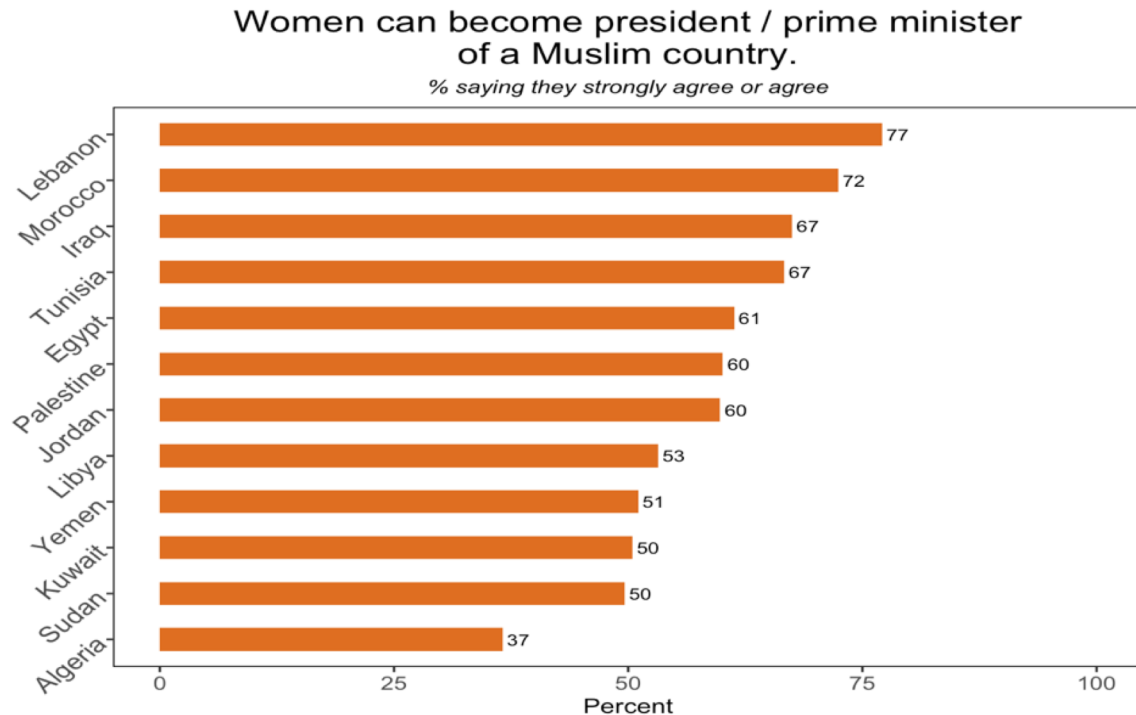


Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

"Husbands should have final say in all decisions concerning the family."			
	% Men who agree	% Women who agree	Difference
Kuwait	83	43	+40
Egypt	83	55	+28
Libya	76	50	+26
Morocco	59	34	+25
Tunisia	65	44	+21
Jordan	61	41	+20
Lebanon	58	42	+16
Algeria	78	63	+15
Yemen	66	51	+15
Palestine	60	46	+14
Sudan	80	67	+13
Iraq	75	65	+10
Arab Barometer, Wave 5			

# Women in MENA As Political Leaders

The majority of citizens across the region are amenable to seeing more women in political leadership positions.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.

Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

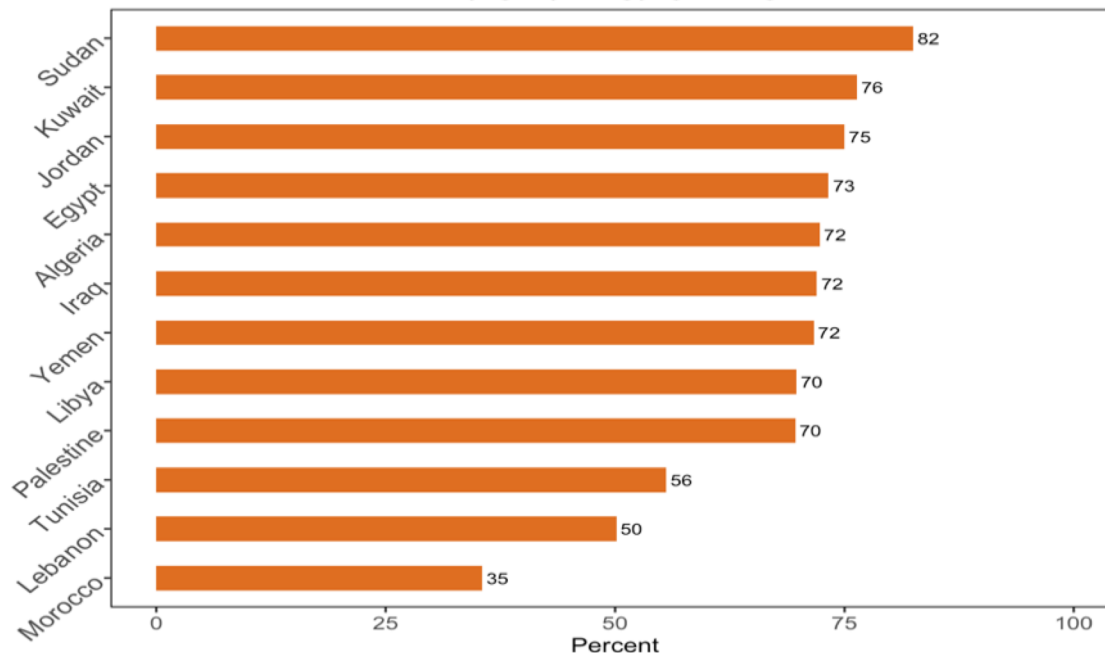
\*For those who identify as Muslims only

# Citizens' bias in the recognition of women's political decision-making competence

The majority of citizens across MENA still consider men as more capable political leaders compared to women.

**In general, men are better at political leadership than women.**

*% saying they strongly agree or agree*



Notes: Weighted Estimates.

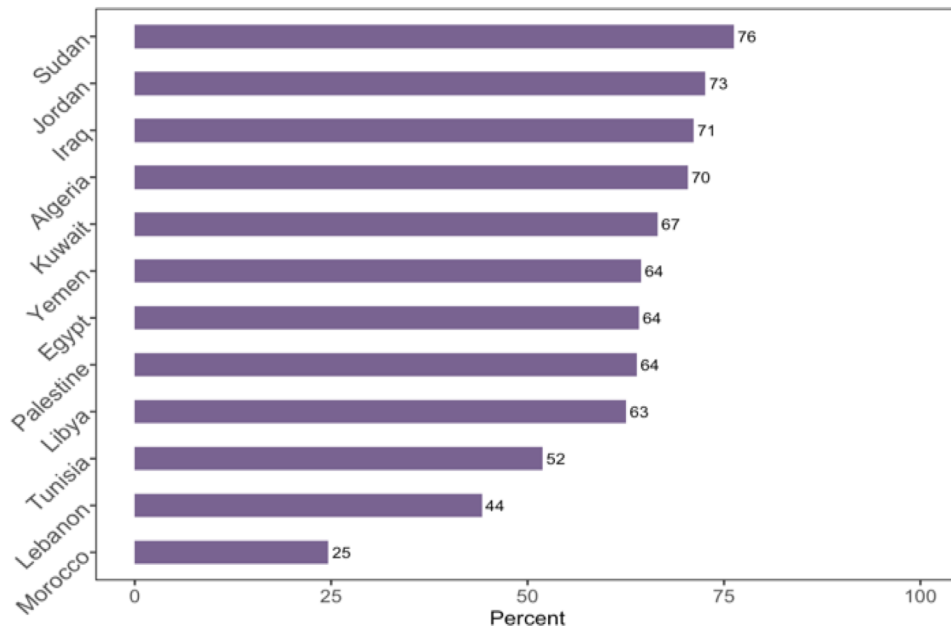
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

# Gender Bias : Women in MENA as Political Leaders

In 10 of 12 countries, more than half of women believe that men are better at political leadership than women.

In general, men are better at political leadership than women

(Women only)  
% saying they strongly agree or agree



Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

"In general, men are better at political leadership than women."			
	% Men who agree	% Women who agree	Difference
Egypt	84	62	+22
Morocco	46	25	+21
Sudan	90	75	+15
Kuwait	83	70	+13
Yemen	79	66	+13
Lebanon	56	44	+12
Libya	77	65	+12
Palestine	74	64	+10
Jordan	78	71	+7
Tunisia	59	52	+7
Algeria	75	70	+5
Iraq	73	71	+2
Arab Barometer, Wave 5			

## Examining Data in light of Covid-19 Crisis

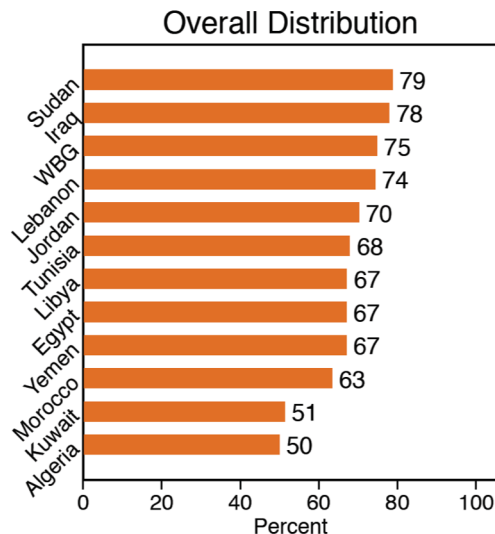
- The under-representation of female leadership in the Covid-19 responses hurts girls and women in the Arab world who are uniquely impacted by this humanitarian crisis.
- Citizens' bias play a role in the lack of women occupying high-rank political leadership positions. And, especially during times of crisis, citizens want to see a leader that they can trust to take charge and to make the tough decisions.
- How do we get more women into top political positions and what might help change citizens' perceptions of women capabilities as political leaders?
- AB data shows that citizens' education level doesn't change their perceptions of women's capabilities to lead in public life. Other mechanisms might play a role: gender quota and the role model effect.
- Perhaps, Gender Quotas might help to expedite the change; to achieve gender-equal representation in political leadership and to create female role models in politics.

# Gender Quota and Women's Political Leadership

In all countries surveyed, there is a broad acceptance of the implementation of women's quotas for elected office.

**Q601A: Some people think in order to achieve fairer representation a certain percentage of elected positions should be set aside for women. To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

*% saying they strongly agree or agree.*

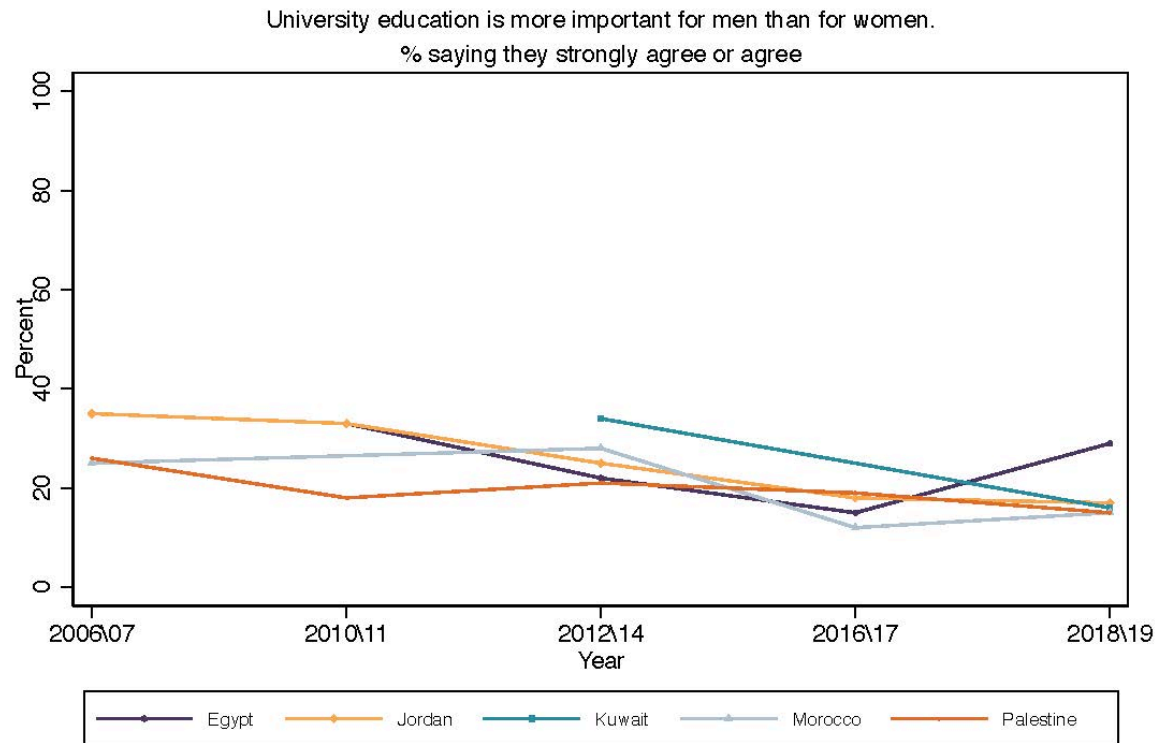


Notes: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer V.

# **Positive Attitudes Towards Some Women's Rights**

## Right to Education

There has been change over time in relation to girls and women's right to education in MENA. Relatively few say that university education is more important for a man than a woman.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer.

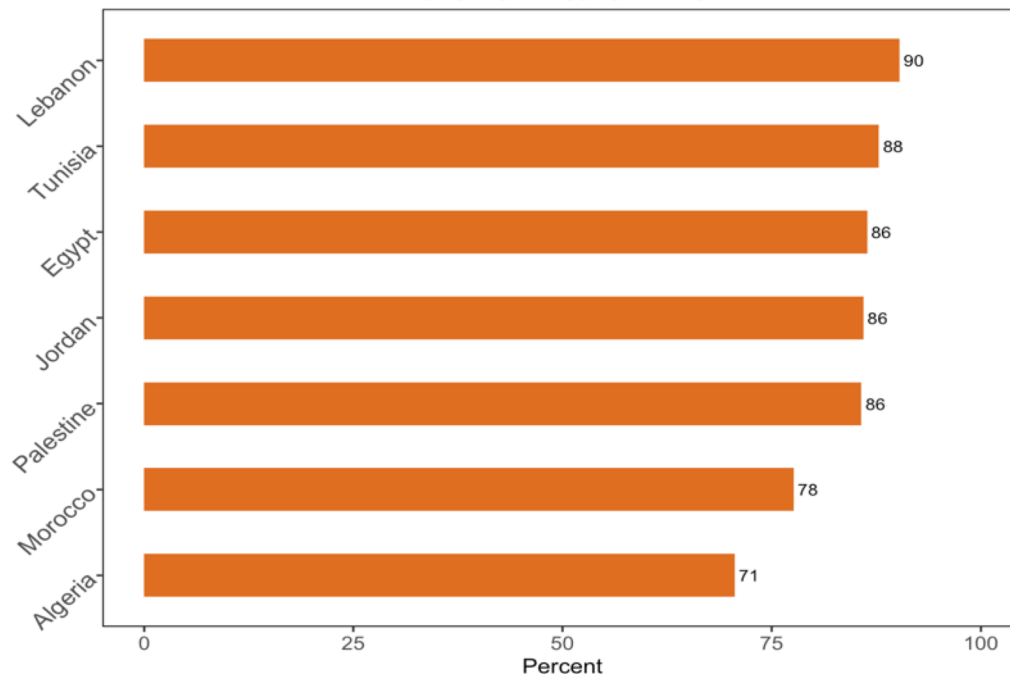


## Right to Work

Additionally, in most countries, a majority affirm that a married woman can work outside the home if she wants.

**A married woman can work outside the home if she chooses.**

*% saying they strongly agree or agree.*



Notes: Weighted Estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 4

# **The Ripple Effect: Higher Education for Women across MENA**

Breaking the cycle of  
economic hardship and gender inequality

# Higher Education For Women Can Help Break The Cycle of Hardship and gender inequality

- Across MENA, women with a technical or a university degree have better chances of securing a job, make a difference for their families' economic security and are more likely to have more independence in household- decision making.

# Higher Education Linked To Higher Employability

A higher percentage of college-educated women across MENA reported that they are employed compared with those who have a secondary degree or no education.

Women in MENA: Employment Status* by Education**			
	% women with university degree & employed	% women with secondary degree or below & employed	Difference
Kuwait	85	40	+45
Libya	60	18	+42
Egypt	55	16	+39
Morocco	48	10	+38
Iraq	41	5	+36
Lebanon	57	22	+35
Algeria	42	15	+27
Yemen	31	4	+27
Jordan	30	4	+26
Tunisia	39	14	+25
Palestine	25	6	+19
Sudan	33	16	+17
Arab Barometer, Wave V	48	12	+36
* Includes those who said employed, self-employed, and retired			
** Includes those with a technical/professional degree, 4-year university degree, and Master's or higher			

# Improved Economic Conditions For The Household

Households that include women who are employed are less likely to face economic hardship in comparison with households where women are unemployed.

<b>Net household income covers expenses and either are able to save or cover expenses without notable difficulties</b>			
	<b>% employed women who agree</b>	<b>% unemployed women who agree</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Morocco	70	41	+29
Iraq	67	46	+21
Egypt	44	26	+18
Yemen	35	17	+18
Jordan	37	20	+17
Palestine	60	44	+16
Algeria	58	42	+16
Tunisia	43	28	+15
Lebanon	52	38	+14
Sudan	54	41	+13
Libya	48	37	+11
Kuwait	68	72	-4
Arab Barometer, Wave 5			+15
* Includes those who said employed, self-employed, and retired			
**Includes those who said housewives, and unemployed or looking for a job			

# Household Decision-Making Shift

Women's employment in MENA plays a significant role in women's attitudes at home.

<b>"Husbands should have final say in all decisions concerning the family."</b>			
	<b>% employed women who agree</b>	<b>% unemployed women who agree</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Morocco	11	42	-31
Egypt	41	61	-20
Iraq	50	70	-20
Jordan	24	44	-20
Tunisia	29	48	-19
Lebanon	33	47	-14
Algeria	54	67	-13
Kuwait	41	52	-11
Libya	47	50	-3
Yemen	54	54	0
Sudan	68	67	1
Palestine	50	46	4
Arab Barometer, Wave 5			-12
* Includes those who said employed, self-employed, and retired			
**Includes those who said housewives, and unemployed or looking for a job			

## Examining Data in light of Covid-19 Crisis

- Corona pandemic might unravel the limited progress that we have seen in terms of gender equality, women's participation in the workforce and positive attitudes towards some women's rights and their roles in society in the Arab world.
- 67% of citizens in MENA say that men should be more entitled to a job rather than a woman when jobs are scarce- this data is from World Values Survey that was conducted between 2010-2014.
- It is crucial is to ensure that access to learning is a top priority for girls and women in MENA. Otherwise, the loss of education due to the corona pandemic will most likely reverse the previously mentioned gains and progress. And, this will ultimately impact the lives of girls and women in the Arab world for generations.

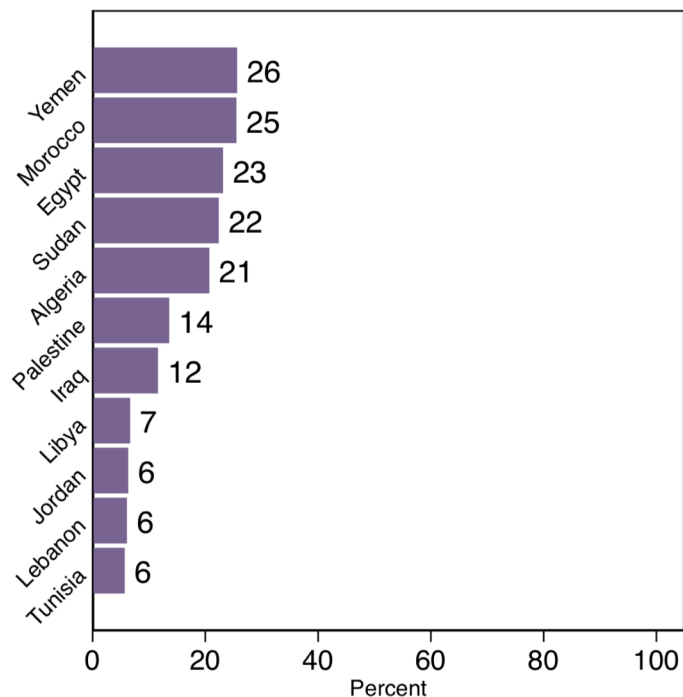
## **Domestic Violence:**

Who Do Women Turn To for help?



# Domestic violence and Women Victims

## Frequency of Domestic Violence



Notes: Weighted estimates.  
Source: Arab Barometer V.

## Domestic violence households that have a woman victim in the past 12 months



## Who do women victims seek help from?

% of women victims of domestic violence who seek assistance from the following actors						
	Female Relative	Male Relative	Local Police	Hospital	Local Organization	None of the above
Palestine	64%	14%	7%	12%	/	6%
Iraq	50%	18%	6%	9%	/	16%
Sudan	47%	41%	8%	7%	3%	6%
Algeria	45%	34%	9%	/	/	17%
Morocco	44%	60%	9%	13%	1%	8%
Tunisia	43%	24%	12%	6%	/	14%
Yemen	40%	34%	8%	3%	3%	10%
Jordan	39%	19%	6%	6%	/	/
Lebanon	34%	30%	49%	/	/	/
Egypt	32%	37%	16%	13%	/	12%
MENA	55%	28%	12%	6%	1%	8%
Arab Barometer, Wave V (208-2019)						

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