

Copyright 2004 by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)  
Arab States Regional Office  
P.O. Box 830896 Amman 11183 Jordan  
Tel: 00962-6-5678586/7  
Fax:00962-6-5678594  
Email:amman@unifem.org.jo  
Website:www.unifem.org.jo

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of UNIFEM.

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this report are entirely those of the authors and should not be attributed in any manner to the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Printed in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Layout and Production: SYNTAX, Amman  
Printed at: The National Press, Amman

## Foreword

### Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM Arab States Regional Office

This report on the status of Jordanian women comes under UNIFEM objectives which aim to empower women economically; enhance their role in society to secure a safe life; develop institutional abilities in the field of planning; integrate gender in governance; secure women's development by ensuring women's human rights and eliminating all forms of violence against them; achieve women's progress in economic, social and political fields; attain equality between men and women; and improve women's status through their participation in sustainable development. Recent studies have shown a correlation between economic, social and political sectors. Women have indicated that their current participation in society is not enough, and this can be attributed to two main reasons.

Firstly, women's participation has been dwindling, and this represents a fundamental lack of acknowledgement of the importance of their participation. As a result, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) finds it necessary to concentrate on social and economic indicators to measure the extent of their participation.

UNIFEM has selected three major fields of study for this report: economic participation, political participation and violence against women. This is in order to identify those indicators of women's achieved progress in comparison to those of men as well as to advocate the use of statistical data as a tool for change.

Secondly, women's participation in positions of authority and decision-making at most levels has been lacking. Historical, social or political biases have largely been

the main obstacles hampering efforts to improve women's status in their personal lives and in society in general.

Thus, improving women's status requires that women participate more in decision-making at all levels and in all fields and that their decision-making abilities are improved and supported. Additionally, an effort must be made to change the structures and practices of the economic, social and political realms so that women can achieve full participation in society. This is not an easy process. It requires selecting a methodology and drawing a strategy to integrate gender in the Department of Statistics so that dialogue is improved between those who use the Department's data and those who produce it. As a result, the long-term quality of the statistical process will be improved.

This initiative comes from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in cooperation with the Department of Statistics and the Jordanian National Commission for Women in view of the difficult socio-economic conditions resulting from the "new world order" and its various difficulties and challenges.

The Fund thanks its partners for their sincere readiness to cooperate and hopes to continue this fruitful cooperation in the future.

**Dr. Haifa Abu-Ghazaleh**  
Regional Programme Director  
United Nations Development  
Fund for Women  
Arab States Regional Office

## Foreword

### Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission For Women

This report on the status of Jordanian women is an important achievement that deserves appreciation, due to the deficiency in accurate statistical data on gender—the main challenge facing agencies concerning women’s affairs. A comprehensive national report containing this data is an achievement that will be of great benefit to those aiming to uplift women’s status.

The importance of this statistical report is found in its serious scientific attempt to fill a statistical gap concerning the critical aspects in the lives of Jordanian women. It is a model of cooperation and successful coordination between UNIFEM, the Department of Statistics and the Jordanian National Commission for Women. Similarly, it is also a step forward in enabling programs and policies concerning women to better concomitantly empower and uplift the status of Jordanian women.

The report provides accurate and documented statistical indicators on Jordanian women’s participation in economic and political fields, and it also describes the demographic characteristics of Jordanian society from a gender perspective that focuses on women.

We are certain that classifying statistics according to gender, as this report does, has many benefits. This includes aiding the ability to draft general policies, upgrade legislative or institutional targets for men and women in society and develop documentation on the enhancement of women’s status and the extent of their achievements through cooperative national efforts to uplift and improve their conditions.

The Jordanian National Commission for Women thanks and appreciates its partners for preparing this report and hopes that decision-makers, general policymakers, researchers in various fields and interested persons benefit from the variety of statistical material provided in this report and that the rich indicators it contains facilitate their efforts.

**Dr. Amal Al-Sabbagh**  
Secretary General  
Jordanian National Commission  
for Women

## **Foreword**

### **Director General, Department of Statistics**

Issues relating to women are presently of great importance, since they relate to all fields—both familial and societal—and represent the activities of any society. Similarly, issues related to economics, decision-making and violence against woman are also important elements when looking at the condition of women, particularly in developing countries like Jordan.

To gain knowledge about the status of woman, it is crucial that new data is accurate and realistically reflects conditions by using technical sources in the fields of collection, classification and analysis that are honest, neutral and transparent. The Department of Statistics welcomes its continuous cooperation with the United Nations Development Fund for Women in all fields related to women that will aid in exploring their conditions and improving them.

This report is the product of the cooperation between the Department of Statistics and UNIFEM. It reflects the current status and role of Jordanian women in the fields of economics, decision-making and violence against women. Despite the importance of the subjects dealt with in this report, other issues related to Jordanian women which are not less important also require research, study and analysis which may lead to a bet-

ter and more complete understanding of the conditions of Jordanian women.

The Department of Statistics thanks UNIFEM for their continuous efforts and effective contribution in technically producing this report. We also affirm our continuous cooperation and coordination with UNIFEM in those fields related to women and improving their conditions and activating their roles in different fields, all of which positively reflect Jordan's development efforts.

**Dr. Hussein Shakatreh**  
Director General  
Department of Statistics

**Report Preparation Team:**

Kamal Sedky Saleh, Department of Statistics

Fahad Saleh Al-Hiyari, Department of Statistics

May Yousef Shahateet, Department of Statistics

Hind Mahmoud Diab, Department of Statistics

Mohamed Sharary Al-Alasaf, Department of Statistics

Batool Nafeth Obeid, Department of Statistics

**Chief Editor**

Hussein Ibrahim Shakhathreh, Department of Statistics

**Editing and Reviewing Team:**

Amal Adeeb Al-Sabbagh, Jordanian National Commission for Women

Ibtisam Mohamed Atiyat, Jordanian National Commission for Women

Shirin Jaber Shukri, UNIFEM

Firyal Younis Salman, UNIFEM

**Translation Team:**

Kamal Sedky Saleh

Suleiman Abu Kharmeh

**English Version Editor:**

Amanda Lane

# Contents

<b>Foreword By The Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM Arab States Regional Office</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Foreword By The Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission For Women</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Foreword By The Director General, Department of Statistics</b>	<b>iii</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>I</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter I: Demographic Situation in Jordan</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Population Size and Structure</b>	<b>5</b>
Population Size	5
Population Growth Rates	6
Population Spatial Distribution	6
Age-Sex Structure	8
Sex Ratio	9
Youth Proportion and Aging Index	10
Population Median Age	10
<b>Household Indicators</b>	<b>11</b>
Average Size of Private Households	11
Average Household Size by Sex of Head	12
Heads of Private Households	12
Availability of Public Amenities and Durables	12
<b>Marriage Indicators</b>	<b>13</b>
Marital Status	13
Marriage and Divorce Rates	14
Marital Divorce Rate	14
Singulate Mean Age at Marriage	14
Marriage Frequency Rate	15
<b>Fertility Levels</b>	<b>16</b>
Crude Birth Rate	16
Fertility Rates	16
<b>Mortality Levels</b>	<b>17</b>
Crude Death Rate	17
Child Mortality Rates	18
Life Expectancy at Birth	18
<b>Internal Migration</b>	<b>19</b>
Internal Migration Streams	19
Internal Migration by Sex	20

<b>Chapter 2: Women and Economic Participation</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Women's Economic Participation</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Crude Activity Rate</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Refined Activity Rate</b>	<b>27</b>
Refined Activity Rate According to Marital Status	27
Refined Activity Rate According to Educational Level	27
Refined Activity Rate According to Governorate	28
Industrial Structure of Economic Activity	28
<b>Occupational Structure</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Work Sector</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Wage Levels</b>	<b>34</b>
Wages in Public Sector Establishments	36
Wages in Private Sector Establishments	37
<b>Monthly Wages and Working Hours</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>38</b>
Unemployment by Age	40
Unemployment by Educational Level	40
Unemployment by Marital Status	41
Duration of Unemployment	41
<b>Women and Economic Empowerment</b>	<b>42</b>
Women and Real Estate Ownership	43
Women and Agricultural Holdings	43
Women and Cattle Ownership	44
Loan Accessibility	44
Women and Agricultural Training	45
Women and Counseling Services	45
Women and Project Accessibility	45
Women's Role in the Central Bank	45
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 3: Women and Political Participation</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Women's Participation in Household Decision-Making</b>	<b>48</b>
Decisions on the Use of Women's Earnings	48
Women and Decisions Related to Household Affairs	49
<b>Women and Decisions on Family Planning</b>	<b>50</b>
Women and Decision-Making in the Governmental Sector	50
<b>Women in the Judiciary</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Women and the Parliament</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Women in Municipal Councils</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Women in Professional Associations</b>	<b>58</b>

<b>Women and Political Parties</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Women in Non-Governmental Organizations</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Women and Journalism</b>	<b>61</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 4: Violence Against Women</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Definition of Violence Against Women</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Causes of Violence Against Women</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Legislation Regarding Violence Against Women</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Organizations for Protecting Women and the Family</b>	<b>64</b>
Governmental Organizations	65
Non-Governmental Organizations	65
Data Resources	69
<b>Forms of Violence Against Women</b>	<b>70</b>
Physical Violence	70
Sexual Violence	70
Verbal Abuse	71
Social Violence	74
Health Care Violence	77
Economic Violence	78
<b>Women and Crime</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women</b>	<b>84</b>
Attitudes of Fathers and Mothers	84
Attitudes of Youth Towards Violence Against Women	86
<hr/>	
<b>Sources</b>	