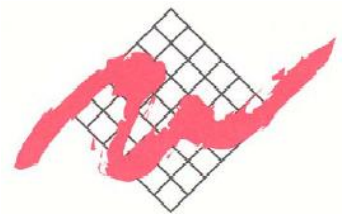


# The Status of Women in the Middle East and North Africa (SWMENA) Project

Focus on Lebanon | Project Overview & Respondent Demographics

*A project by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)*



**Project Background**

- The Status of Women in the Middle East and North Africa (SWMENA) is a gender-focused research project that evaluates the status of women in three countries: Lebanon, Morocco, and Yemen
- SWMENA is a project by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

**Project Goal**

- Improve the status of women in the broader MENA region by strengthening local NGO capacity to effectively advocate on behalf of women
- Train local NGOs on using solid data in their advocacy efforts and employ better strategies in approaching members of parliament, other governing bodies and the press about policy recommendations
- Build local data collection and analysis capacity

**Project Methodology**

- Evaluate existing data on women, identify gaps, and design national surveys to capture needed data
- Survey questionnaires include a core section that is standard across the three countries and a distinct country module that deals with country-specific gender issues
- After data collection in all three countries, composite social indices will be created to summarize key themes and allow comparisons across regions / communities within country and between countries

**Project Research Areas**

- Political & civic participation; Economic participation & well-being
- Social attitudes towards women's roles, violence, reforming laws
- Social autonomy (access to education, role in household decision-making, control over household resources)
- Health & education

**Lebanon SWMENA Survey Details and Methodology**

- Fieldwork for the SWMENA Lebanon survey was implemented between August 7 & August 29, 2009 by Statistics Lebanon.
- The survey is nationally representative: the sample size is 2,750; includes 2,000 women & 750 men. There is an oversample of women in order to have a large sample of women across various sects, ages, and other demographic segments, so that robust comparisons can be made amongst women. The smaller sample of men is used as a comparison between men and women.
- All respondents are aged 18 and above.
- The sample represents proportionally the various regions of Lebanon as well as the religions and confessional divisions in Lebanon.
- Illustrative data & key findings from the Lebanon survey are shown in the Topic Brief Documents.
- Respondent demographic information is below.

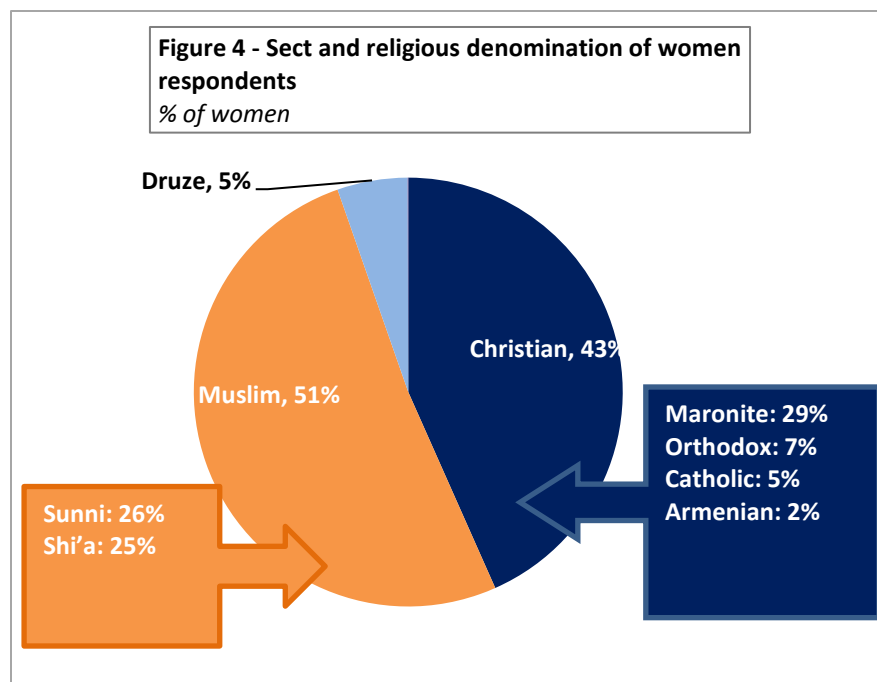
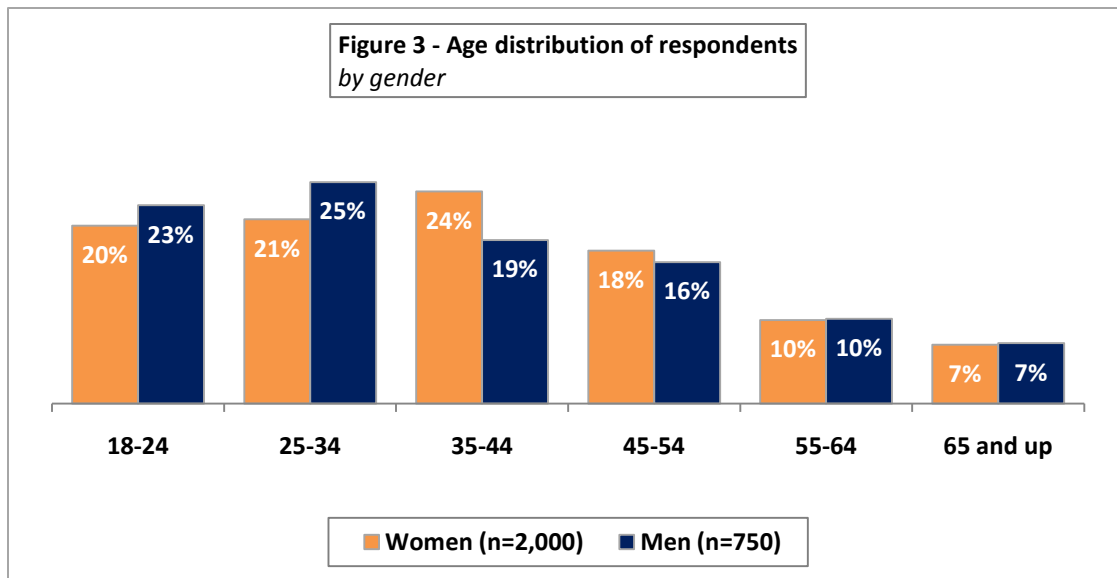


## Respondent Demographics

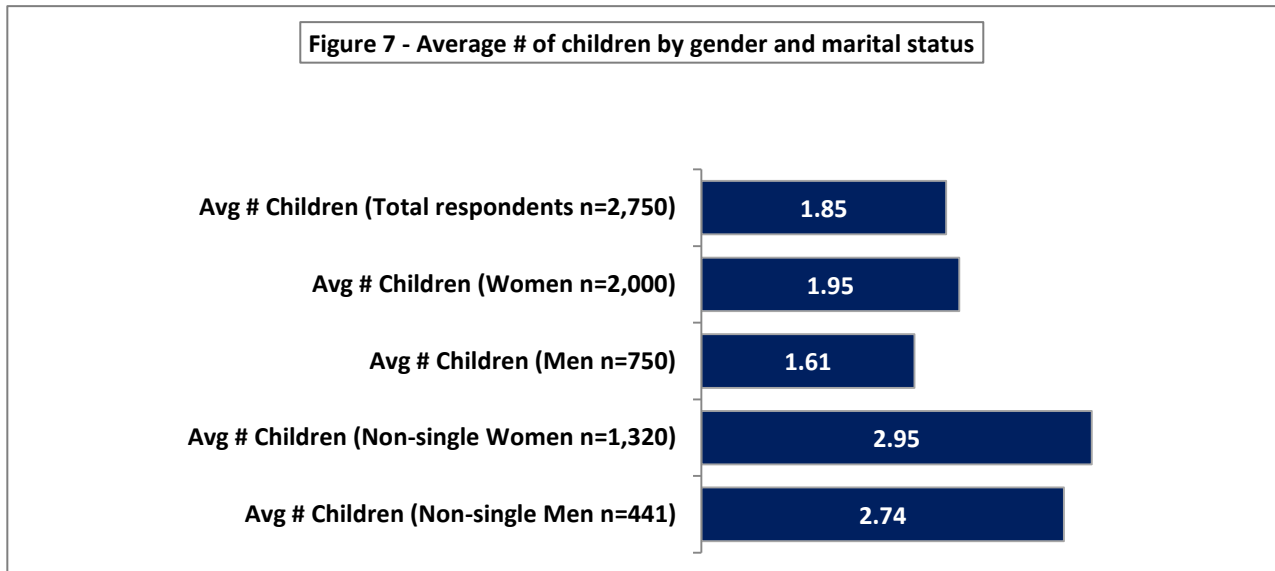
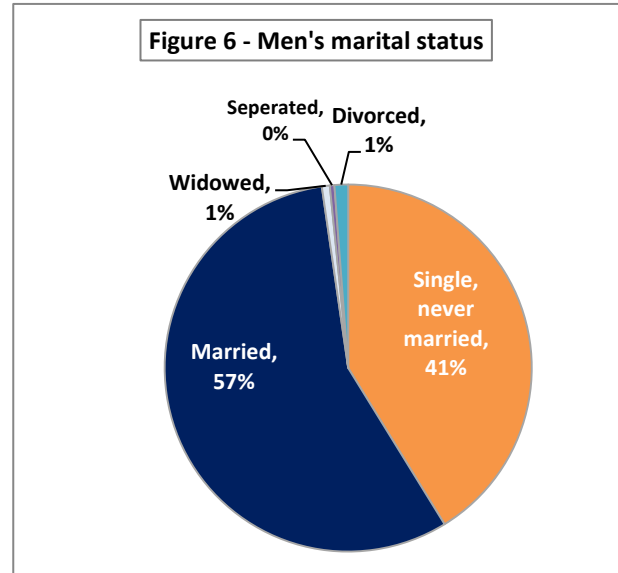
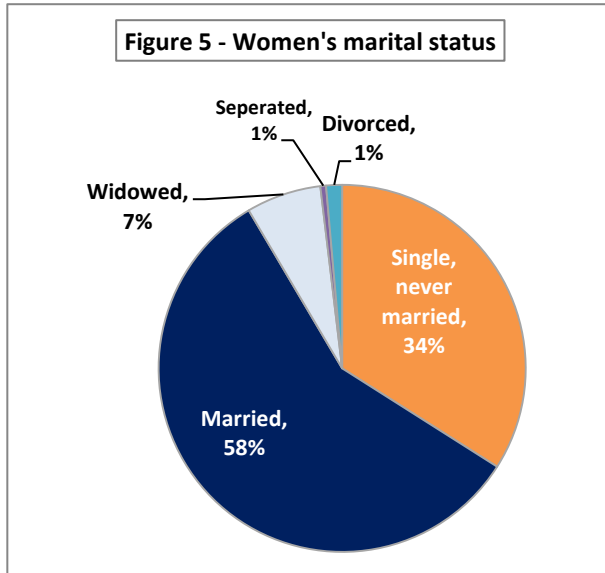
- **Figure 1** shows the regional breakdown of interviews for the total sample. These breakdowns are proportionate to the national population.
- **Figure 2** shows the breakdown of urban and rural respondents by region. 77% of respondents in the sample are from urban areas and 23% are from rural areas. These breakdowns are proportionate to the national population.

Figure 1 - % & number of respondents by region, total sample		Figure 2 - % and number of urban & rural respondents by region, total sample		
Region	Total Sample	Region	Urban	Rural
Beirut	302	Beirut	301	1
	11%		14%	0.2%
Mount Lebanon	1048	Mount Lebanon	928	120
	38%		44%	19%
North	560	North	396	164
	20%		19%	26%
Bekaa	309	Bekaa	153	156
	11%		7%	24%
South	303	South	252	51
	11%		12%	8%
Nabatieh	228	Nabatieh	77	151
	8%		4%	24%
Total	2,750	Total	2107	643
	100%		77%	23%

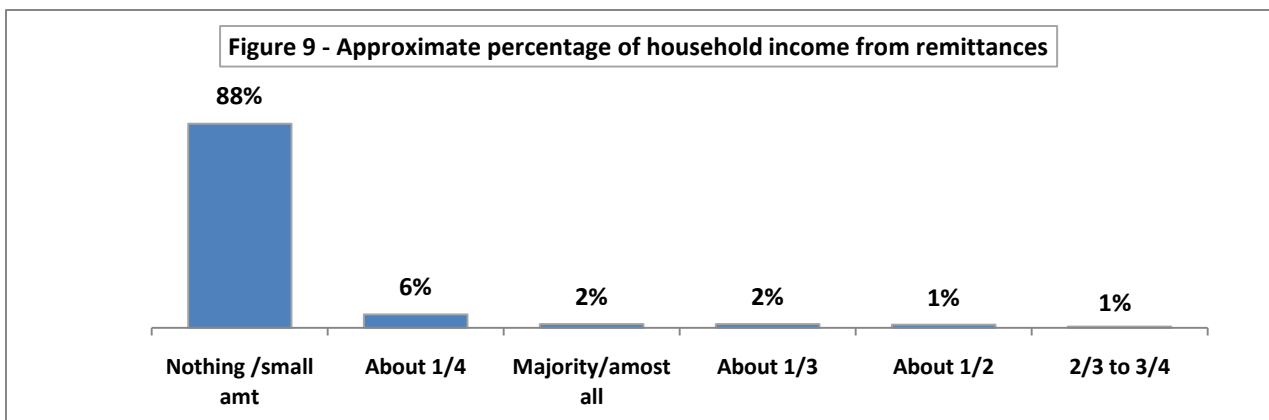
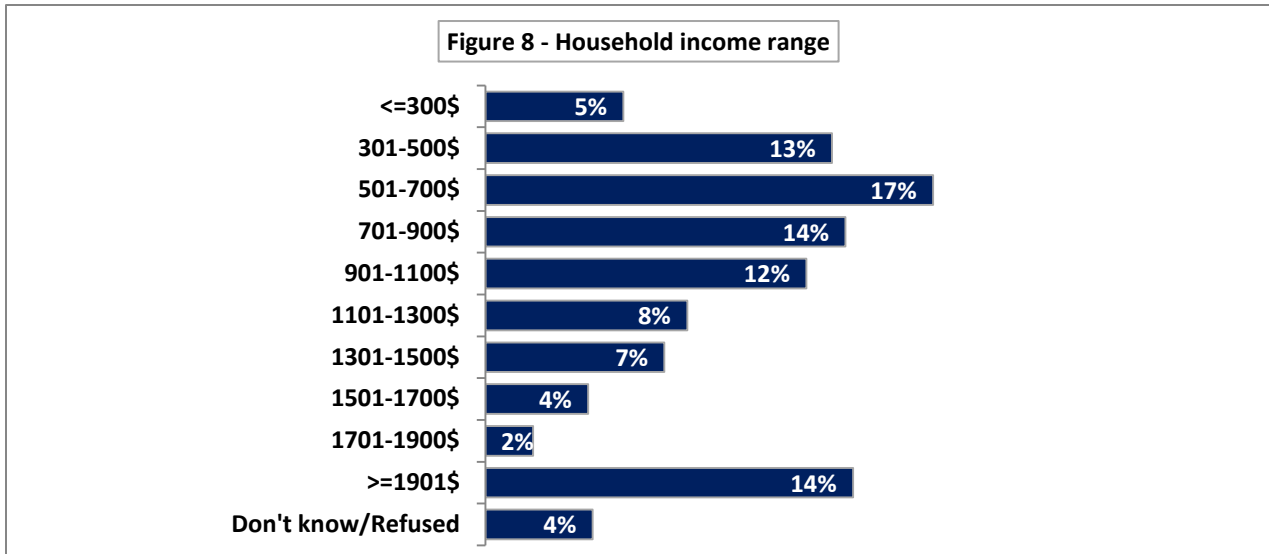
- **Figure 3** shows the age distribution of men and women captured in our survey.
- **Figure 4** shows the distribution of female respondents by sect: 52% of women respondents are Muslim (27% Sunni, 25% Shi'a), 43% are Christian (29% Maronite, 7% Orthodox, 5% Catholic, 2% Armenian), and 5% are Druze.



- **Figure 5** show marital status of women respondents and **Figure 6** shows marital status of men respondents.
- **Figure 7** shows respondents' average number of children by all respondents, women respondents only, men respondents only, non-single women, and non-single men. The average number of children of both men and women respondents is 1.85.



- **Figure 8** shows the household income ranges of both men and women respondents. As seen below, most household incomes fall between \$300 USD and \$1100 USD per month.
- **Figure 9** shows approximate percentage of household income from both men and women that come from remittances. As you can see, 88% of respondents report either a small amount or none of their household income comes from remittances and 6% report one quarter of their income is from remittances.



- Figure 10** shows education levels by gender. As you can see, education levels do not vary much between men and women. However, **Figure 11** shows that despite similar education levels, income levels do in fact vary by gender.

