The Status of Women in the Middle East and North Africa (SWMENA) Project
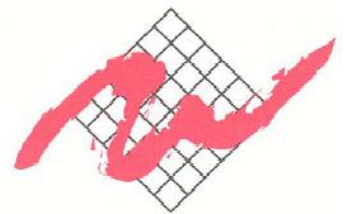
Focus on Yemen| Project Overview & Respondent Demographics

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
- Before conducting the SWMENA survey, key NGOs in Yemen that work on several aspects of women's issues completed a short survey to identify their data needs and advocacy priorities.
- 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, a final report will be created with comparisons across regions, between countries, and between communities within each country.

Project Research Areas
- Political and civic participation; Economic participation and 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 and education

Yemen SWMENA Survey Details and Methodology
- Fieldwork for the SWMENA Yemen survey was implemented between June 5, 2010 and June 26, 2010 by the Yemeni survey firm Yemen Polling Center (YPC).
- The survey is nationally representative: the sample size is 2,501; includes 1,993 women and 508 men. There is an oversample of women to allow for robust comparisons amongst women across ages, education levels, urban/rural residents, and other demographic segments. The smaller sample of men is mainly used to allow the gender disaggregation of the data.
- The margin of error for the women's sample is ± 2.20% and the margin of error for the men's sample is ± 4.35%.
- All respondents are aged 18 and above.
- The sample was allocated proportionally to the various regions of Yemen with a slight oversample of a number of small-population governorates to allow for regional comparisons. The survey data was weighted by age and governorate to bring the realized sample in line with the parameters of the Yemeni population aged 18 years and over.
- Illustrative data and key findings from the Yemen survey are shown in the Topic Brief Documents.

Respondent Demographics

Regional Distribution of the Sample

All Yemeni governorates except Al-Dhale', Al-Mahrah, and Sa'ada were covered by the survey. Both Al-Dhale' and Sa'ada were excluded from the sample due to security reasons. Al-Mahrah was excluded because it is remote and its population represents only 0.46 percent of Yemen's overall population. Survey interviews were allocated proportionally to the size of the population in each governorate. However, certain governorates that have a low population were oversampled and regional weights were subsequently applied to bring back the sample in line with population parameters. **Figure 1** shows the breakdown of respondents by governorate.

Figure 1 – Number and percent of respondents by governorate			
Governorate	**# of respondents by governorate** *(unweighted)*	**% of respondents by governorate** *(unweighted)*	**% of respondents by governorate** *(weighted)*
The Capital	210	8%	9%
Sana'a	104	4%	5%
Aden	98	4%	3%
Taiz	273	11%	13%
Ibb	244	10%	12%
Al-Hudayda	249	10%	12%
Dhamar	153	6%	7%
Al-Bayda	96	4%	3%
Amran	99	4%	5%
Lahj	94	4%	4%
Shabwa	98	4%	3%
Ma'rib	100	4%	1%
Al-Jawf	99	4%	2%
Abian	98	4%	2%
Hajjah	171	7%	8%
Al-Mahwit	98	4%	3%
Hadramout	119	5%	5%
Raymah	98	4%	2%
Total Sample	**2,501**	**100%**	**100%**

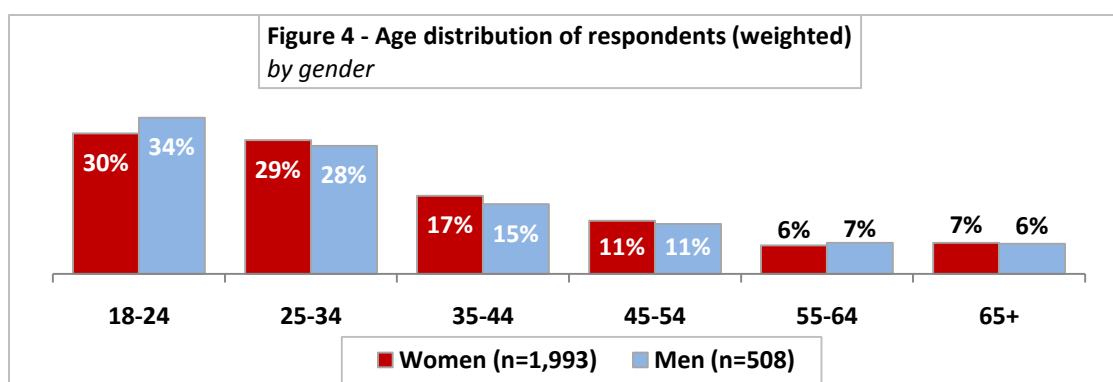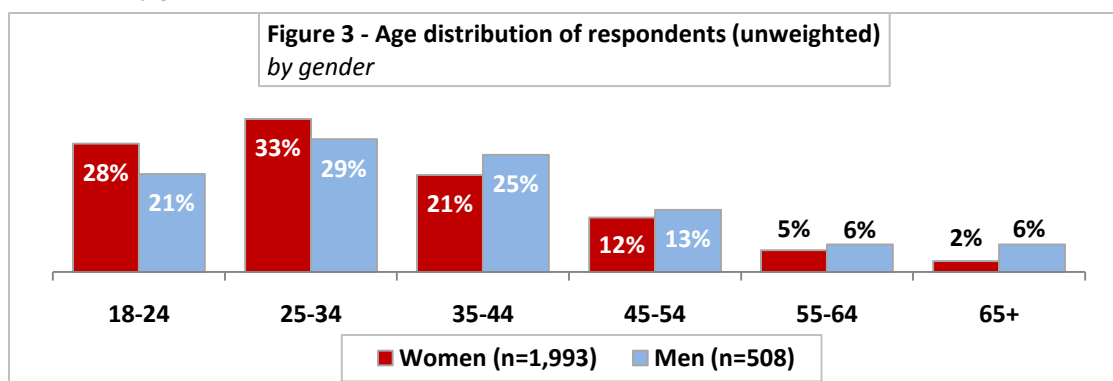In the analysis, the governorates were grouped into five regions:

- **Midlands Region:** The Capital, Taiz, and Ibb.
- **Southern Region:** Aden, Lahj, and Abian.
- **Northern Region:** Sana'a, Dhamar, Amran, and Al-Jawf.
- **Eastern Region:** Al-Bayda, Shabwa, Ma'rib, and Hadramout.
- **Western Region:** Al-Hudayda, Hajjah, Al-Mahwit, and Raymah.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of respondents by the broader geographic regions described above.

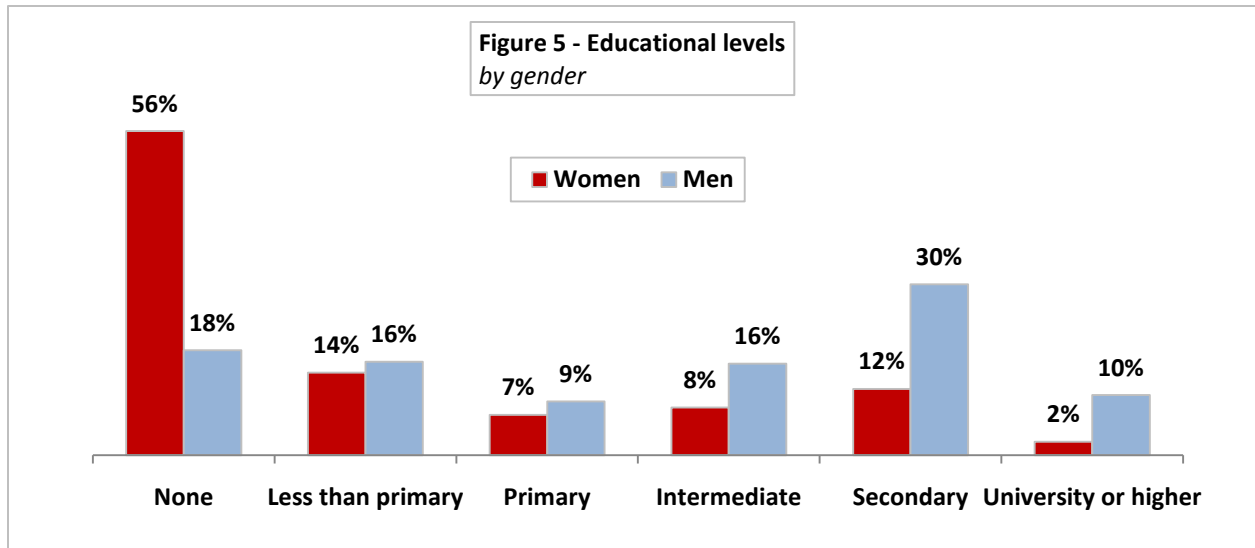| Figure 2 – Number and percent of respondents by region			
Region	# of respondents by region *(unweighted)*	% of respondents by region *(unweighted)*	% of respondents by region *(weighted)*
Midlands region	727	29%	34%
Southern region	290	12%	9%
Northern region	455	18%	19%
Eastern region	413	17%	12%
Western region	616	25%	25%
Total Sample	**2,501**	**100%**	**100%**

Age Distribution of Female and Male Respondents

In addition to the introduction of regional weights (by governorate), weights were also applied to bring the age distribution of the female and male samples in line with the age profile of the Yemeni population. Figure 3 shows the unweighted age distribution of respondents by gender and Figure 4 shows the weighted age distribution by gender.

Figure 3 - Age distribution of respondents (unweighted)
by gender

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Women (n=1,993)	28%	33%	21%	12%	5%	2%
Men (n=508)	21%	29%	25%	13%	6%	6%

Figure 4 - Age distribution of respondents (weighted)
by gender

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Women (n=1,993)	30%	29%	17%	11%	6%	7%
Men (n=508)	34%	28%	15%	11%	7%	6%

Education Levels by Gender

Figure 5 shows education levels by gender. As seen below, the incidence of illiteracy is much higher among Yemeni women (56%) than men (18%).

Figure 5 - Educational levels *by gender*

■ Women ■ Men

- None: Women 56%, Men 18%
- Less than primary: Women 14%, Men 16%
- Primary: Women 7%, Men 9%
- Intermediate: Women 8%, Men 16%
- Secondary: Women 12%, Men 30%
- University or higher: Women 2%, Men 10%

Marital Status by Gender

Figure 6 shows the marital status of surveyed women and **Figure 7** shows the marital status of surveyed men. Interestingly, many more women (14%) than men (2%) in the sample are formerly married. Indeed, 3% of women are divorced and 11% are widowed. Two-thirds of men and women are married. One-third of men are single compared with 20% of women. Six percent of married women and 4% of married men are in polygynous unions.
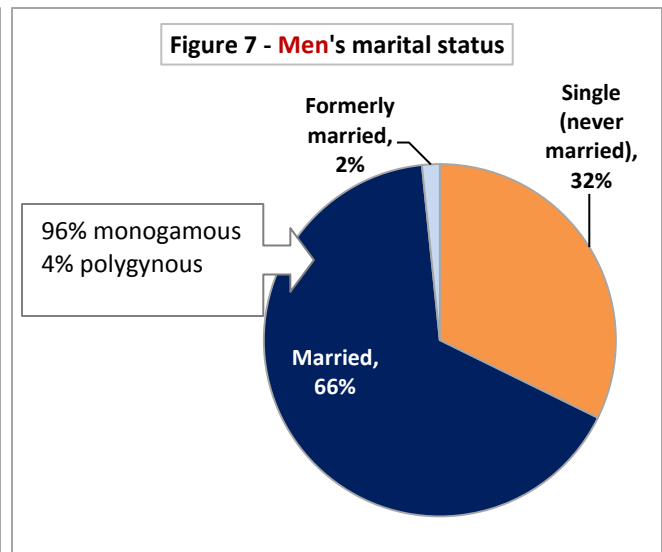
Figure 6 - Women's marital status

- Formerly married, 14%
- Single (never married), 20%
- Married, 66%
  - 94% monogamous
  - 6% polygynous

Figure 7 - Men's marital status

- Formerly married, 2%
- Single (never married), 32%
- Married, 66%
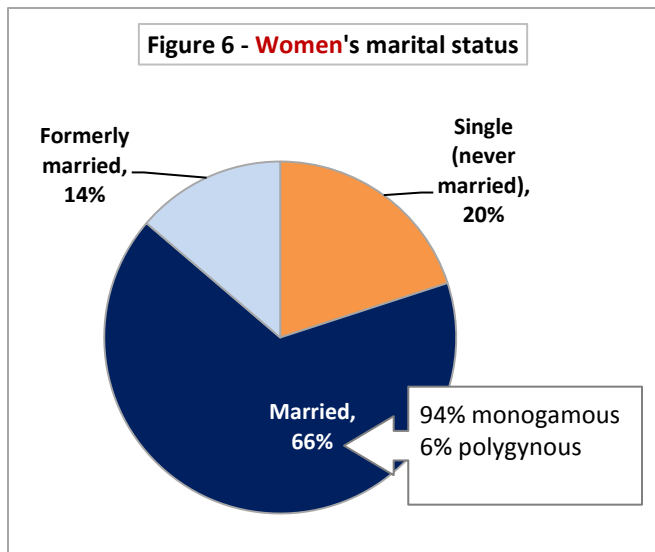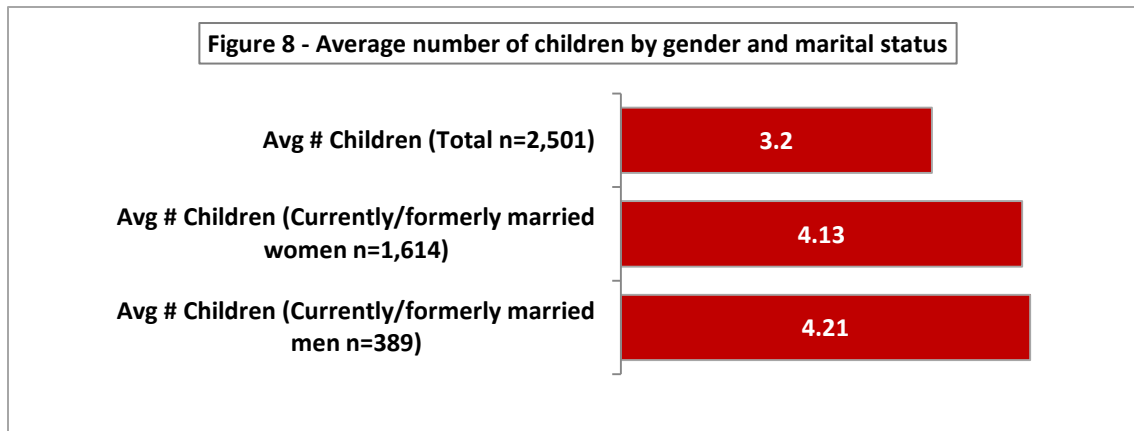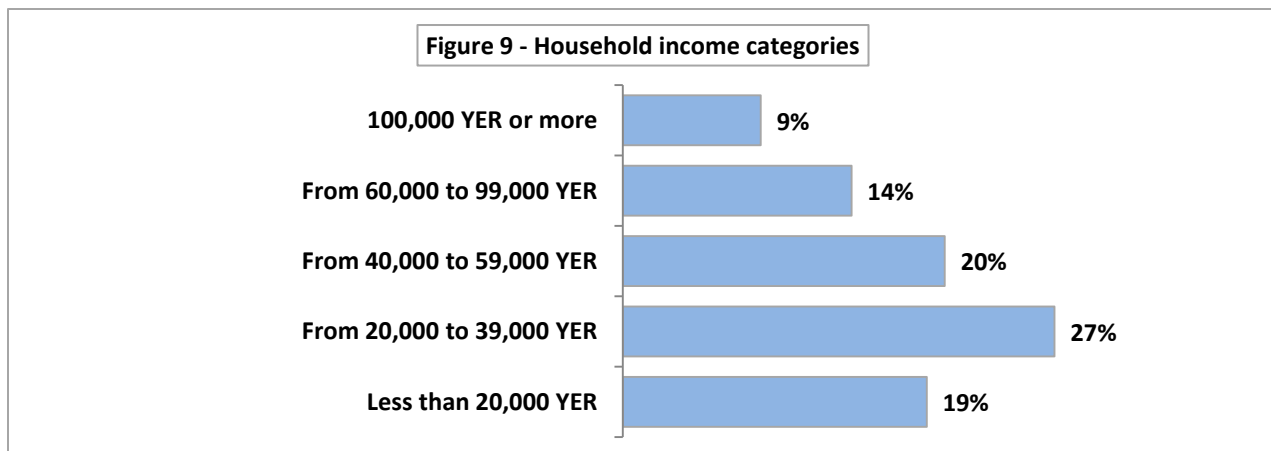 - 96% monogamous
  - 4% polygynous

Figure 8 shows respondents' average number of children. The average number of children for currently/formerly married women is 4.13 and the average number of children for currently/formerly married men is 4.21. The higher average for married men may be a reflection of the phenomenon of polygamy in Yemen. The average number of children when divided by the total sample size is 3.2.

Figure 8 - Average number of children by gender and marital status

Category	Value
Avg # Children (Total n=2,501)	3.2
Avg # Children (Currently/formerly married women n=1,614)	4.13
Avg # Children (Currently/formerly married men n=389)	4.21

Household Income Levels

Each SWMENA respondent was asked to identify the income range that most closely reflects their household's monthly income. **Figure 9** shows the income profile of respondents. The data shows that 19% of respondents live in households that earn less than 20,000 Yemeni Riyals (YER) per month (USD 94), 27% are in the YER 20,000- 39,000 income range (USD 94 - 183). Twenty percent of households are in the YER 40,000-59,000 income range (USD 188 – 277) and 14% are in the YER 60,000 – 99,000 income range (USD 282 – 465). No more than 9% of respondents live in households that earn more than YER 100,000 (USD 470) per month.

Figure 9 - Household income categories

Category	Percentage
100,000 YER or more	9%
From 60,000 to 99,000 YER	14%
From 40,000 to 59,000 YER	20%
From 20,000 to 39,000 YER	27%
Less than 20,000 YER	19%

Employment by Gender

Figure 10 shows data on employment by gender. There is a large gender discrepancy as measured by those who report working for pay and those who do not. Yemeni men are almost nine times as likely as women to be working for pay (62% versus 7%).
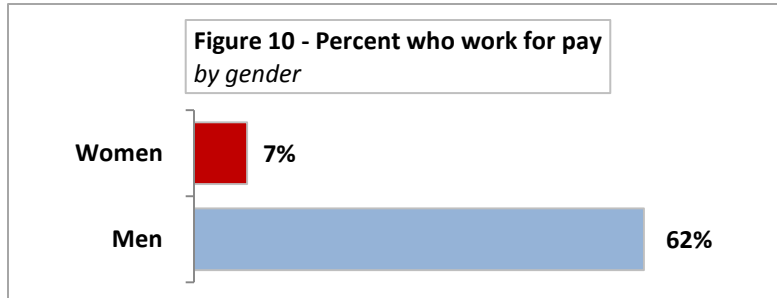
Figure 10 - Percent who work for pay
by gender

Women	7%
Men	62%

Figure 11 shows respondents' monthly earning levels from all paid work by gender. Working women in Yemen earn less than working men. Forty-three percent of working women compared to only 14% of working men earn less than YER 20,000 per month. Men are more than three times as likely as women to earn YER 60,000 or more per month (16% and 5%, respectively).

Figure 11 - Estimated monthly earnings
Employed respondents by gender

	<YER 20,000	YER 20,000-39,000	YER 40,000-59,000	60,000<	DK/NR
Women (n=229)	14%	38%	31%	16%	1%
Men (n=337)	43%	25%	20%	5%	7%