

The Human Development Index Statistical Update on Gender

The Human Development Index (HDI) focuses on three basic dimensions of human development: the ability to lead a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; the ability to acquire knowledge, measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling; and the ability to achieve a decent standard of living, measured by gross national income per capita.

Human Development Index (HDI)

The HDI is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. A long and healthy life is measured by life expectancy. Knowledge level is measured by mean years of education among the adult population, which is the average number of years of education received in a life-time by people aged 25 years and older; and access to learning and knowledge by expected years of schooling for children of school-entry age, which is the total number of years of schooling a child of school-entry age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates stay the same throughout the child's life. Standard of living is measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita expressed in constant 2011 international dollars converted using purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion rates. For more details see [Technical Note 1](#).

To ensure as much cross-country comparability as possible, the HDI is based primarily on international data from the United Nations Population Division (the life expectancy data), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (the mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling data) and the World Bank (the GNI per capita data). As stated in the introduction, the HDI values and ranks in this Statistical Update are not comparable to those in past reports because of a number of revisions to the component indicators. To allow for assessment of progress in HDIs, the 2018 Statistical Update includes recalculated HDIs from 1990 to 2017 using consistent series of data.

Lebanon's HDI value and rank

Lebanon's HDI value for 2017 is 0.757— which put the country in the high human development category—positioning it at 80 out of 189 countries and territories. The rank is shared with Azerbaijan and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Between 2005 and 2017, Lebanon's HDI value increased from 0.732 to 0.757, an increase of 3.4 percent. Table A reviews Lebanon's progress in each of the HDI indicators. Between 1990

and 2017, Lebanon's life expectancy at birth increased by 9.6 years, mean years of schooling increased by 1.2 years and expected years of schooling increased by 0.8 years. Lebanon's GNI per capita increased by about 49.1 percent between 1990 and 2017.

Table A: Lebanon's HDI trends based on consistent time series data and new goalposts

	Life expectancy at birth	Expected years of schooling	Mean years of schooling	GNI per capita (2011 PPP\$)	HDI value
1990	70.2	11.7		8,973	
1995	72.1	12.5		12,945	
2000	74.4	15.0		12,778	
2005	76.8	13.2	7.5	12,149	0.732
2010	78.4	13.2	7.9	16,230	0.758
2015	79.4	12.5	8.5	13,174	0.752
2016	79.6	12.5	8.6	13,011	0.753
2017	79.8	12.5	8.7	13,378	0.757

Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI)

The HDI is an average measure of basic human development achievements in a country. Like all averages, the HDI masks inequality in the distribution of human development across the population at the country level. The 2010 HDR introduced the IHDI, which takes into account inequality in all three dimensions of the HDI by 'discounting' each dimension's average value according to its level of inequality. The IHDI is basically the HDI discounted for inequalities. The 'loss' in human development due to inequality is given by the difference between the HDI and the IHDI, and can be expressed as a percentage. As the inequality in a country increases, the loss in human development also increases. We

also present the coefficient of human inequality as a direct measure of inequality which is an unweighted average of inequalities in three dimensions. The IHDI is calculated for 151 countries. For more details see [Technical Note 2](#). Due to a lack of relevant data, the IHDI has not been calculated for this country.

Gender Development Index (GDI)

In the 2014 HDR, HDRO introduced a new measure, the GDI, based on the sex-disaggregated Human Development Index, defined as a ratio of the female to the male HDI. The GDI measures gender inequalities in achievement in three basic dimensions of human development: health (measured by female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). For details on how the index is constructed refer to [Technical Note 3](#). Country groups are based on absolute

deviation from gender parity in HDI. This means that the grouping takes into consideration inequality in favour of men or women equally.

The GDI is calculated for 164 countries. The 2017 female HDI value for Lebanon is 0.701 in contrast with 0.788 for males, resulting in a GDI value of 0.889, placing it into Group 5. In comparison, GDI values for Jordan and Kuwait are 0.857 and 0.990 respectively (see Table D).

Table D: Lebanon's GDI for 2017 relative to selected countries and groups

	Life expectancy at birth		Expected years of schooling		Mean years of schooling		GNI per capita		HDI values		F-M ratio
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	GDI value
Lebanon	81.6	78.2	12.4	12.7	8.5	8.9	5,523	21,182	0.701	0.788	0.889
Jordan	76.3	72.8	13.4	12.9	10.1	10.6	2,459	13,971	0.658	0.767	0.857
Kuwait	76.1	73.9	14.3	12.9	8.0	6.9	39,570	93,476	0.791	0.799	0.990
Arab States	73.4	69.8	11.6	12.2	6.2	7.7	5,380	25,533	0.630	0.736	0.855
High HDI	78.2	74.0	14.3	13.9	8.0	8.6	10,945	18,948	0.740	0.773	0.957

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

The 2010 HDR introduced the GII, which reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates; empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and attainment in secondary and higher education by each gender; and economic activity is measured by the labour market participation rate for women and men. The GII can be interpreted as the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in the three GII dimensions. For more details on GII please see [Technical Note 4](#).

Lebanon has a GII value of 0.381, ranking it 85 out of 160 countries in the 2017 index. In Lebanon, 3.1 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 53.0 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 55.4 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 15 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 11.8 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19. Female participation in the labour market is 23.2 percent compared to 71.1 for men.

In comparison, Jordan and Kuwait are ranked at 108 and 57 respectively on this index.

Table E: Lebanon's GII for 2017 relative to selected countries and groups

	GII value	GII Rank	Maternal mortality ratio	Adolescent birth rate	Female seats in parliament (%)	Population with at least some secondary education (%)		Labour force participation rate (%)	
						Female	Male	Female	Male
Lebanon	0.381	85	15	11.8	3.1	53.0	55.4	23.2	71.1
Jordan	0.460	108	58	22.4	15.4	81.4	85.8	14.0	63.7
Kuwait	0.270	57	4	9.0	3.1	54.8	49.3	47.4	84.1
Arab States	0.531	—	149	46.3	18.0	45.1	54.6	20.7	74.2
High HDI	0.289	—	38	26.6	22.3	69.5	75.7	55.0	75.5

Maternal mortality ratio is expressed in number of deaths per 100,000 live births and adolescent birth rate is expressed in number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19.

Dashboard: Life-course gender gap

This dashboard contains a selection of 12 key indicators that display gender gaps in choices and opportunities over the life course – childhood and youth, adulthood and older age. The indicators refer to education, labour market and work, political representation, time use and social protection. Three indicators are presented only for women and the rest are given in the form of female-to-male ratio. Countries are grouped partially by their performance in each indicator into three groups of approximately equal size (terciles). Sex ratio at birth is an exception - countries are grouped into two groups: the natural group (countries with a value of 1.04-1.07, inclusive) and the gender-biased group (countries with all other values). Deviations from the natural sex ratio at birth have implications for population replacement levels, suggest possible future social and economic problems and may indicate gender bias.

Table G provides the number of indicators in which Lebanon performs: better than at least two thirds of countries (i.e., it is among the top third performers), better than at least one third but worse than at least one third (i.e., it is among the medium third performers), and worse than at least two thirds of countries (i.e., it is among the bottom third performers). Figures for Jordan and Kuwait are also shown in the table for comparison.

Table G: Summary of Lebanon's performance on the Life-course gender gap dashboard relative to selected countries

	Childhood and youth (5 indicators)			Adulthood (6 indicators)			Older age (1 indicator)			Overall (12 indicators)			Missing indicators
	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	
	Number of indicators												
Lebanon	3	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	5	3
Jordan	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	4	4
Kuwait	1	2	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	3	5	3

Dashboard 2: Women's empowerment

This dashboard contains a selection of 13 woman-specific empowerment indicators that allows empowerment to be compared across three dimensions – reproductive health and family planning, violence against girls and women and socioeconomic empowerment. Three-color coding visualizes a partial grouping of countries by indicator. Most countries have at least one indicator in each tercile, which implies that women’s empowerment is unequal across indicators and countries.

Table H provides the number of indicators in which Lebanon performs: better than at least two thirds of countries (i.e., it is among the top third performers), better than at least one third but worse than at least one third (i.e., it is among the medium third performers), and worse than at least two thirds of countries (i.e., it is among the bottom third performers). Figures for Jordan and Kuwait are also shown in the table for comparison.

Table H: Summary of Lebanon's performance on the Women's empowerment dashboard relative to selected countries

	Reproductive health and family planning (6 indicators)			Violence against girls and women (3 indicators)			Socioeconomic empowerment (4 indicators)			Overall (13 indicators)			Missing indicators
	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	Top third	Middle third	Bottom third	
	Number of indicators												
Lebanon	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	4	1	2	6
Jordan	4	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	6	3	2	2
Kuwait	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	1	7