

# **IMAGES Country Study Documentation**

# **Palestine**

**2017**

# 1

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey–Middle East and North Africa (IMAGES MENA) study includes quantitative and qualitative research with men and women aged 18 to 59 in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine. Specifically, the study seeks to provide insights into the following questions: Where are men in terms of gender equality in the MENA region? How are men of all ages, and younger men compared to older men, reacting to the gradual but significant efforts to improve the position of women and girls in the region? How are ideas about masculinity affected by political and economic stresses, and by the impact of the Arab Spring? In short, what does it mean to be a man in the Middle East and North Africa in 2017, and beyond?

# 2 DATA COLLECTION

The conceptual or theoretical framework for IMAGES emerges from the social constructionist approach to gender and gender relations. This approach posits that norms, attitudes, and practices related to gender are reinforced in families, social institutions, the media, and national laws and policies, and are internalized by girls and boys, women and men. IMAGES is also informed by a life-cycle approach, the idea that gender norms, in part, are internalized from childhood experiences and evolve over the course of a life through interactions with key social institutions and relationships. Accordingly, the IMAGES conceptual framework is constructed to assess the relationships between attitudes, childhood experiences and relationship factors, and current relationship practices and life outcomes. The full IMAGES questionnaire is always adapted to local settings to include, to the extent possible, contextual issues. Among the additional topics included in IMAGES MENA are men's attitudes toward female genital mutilation (FGM), and the gendered effects of migration.

# 2 DATA COLLECTION

The sampling frame and design varied slightly from country to country because of the different administrative structures present in each setting. All countries used a stratified, multi-stage cluster-sampling methodology, randomly selecting between 30 and 60 primary sampling units (PSUs), half of which served for sampling male respondents, and half for sampling female respondents. PSU selection was proportionate to the population of the larger administrative units (e.g., districts, governorates, prefectures). Within each PSU, households and respondents were randomly selected and interviews were conducted. Sample sizes were chosen based on expected levels of non-response or refusal.

# 2 DATA COLLECTION

## Quantitative Study

The adapted survey tools were translated into local Arabic dialects and, prior to full data collection, pilot-tested with respondents from different socio-demographic groups in all four countries. Data collection was completed between April 2016 and March 2017. Questionnaires were administered face-to-face using hand-held electronic tablet devices. Given the sensitive nature of the questions, and in accordance with IMAGES procedures, female interviewers interviewed women and male interviewers interviewed men. Strategic Consultative Groups, formed in each country with representatives from academia, civil society, government, and UN agencies, reviewed the overall research design and findings.

# 2 DATA COLLECTION

## Qualitative Study

Country research teams developed their own qualitative research plans, combining a mixture of focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth individual interviews (IDIs). In general, FGDs were used to triangulate the survey findings, while, individual interviews were also used to identify and investigate "more empowered" women and "more equitable" men, in both cases referring to men and women whose life trajectories showed divergence from the gender norms of their settings. These life-history interviews were analyzed to identify factors or circumstances that supported individual pathways to gender equality.

# 2

## DATA COLLECTION

In Palestine, a subset of in-depth interviews included former political prisoners whose specific life circumstances provided useful insights into gender relations and masculinities in the context of conflict. In contrast to the common IMAGES MENA household questionnaire used in all four countries, the qualitative component of IMAGES MENA was designed to account for greater local variability, thereby better capturing local specificities. In addition, each country used its own criteria for selection of qualitative participants, with a view to capturing, to the extent possible, diversity according to urban/rural location, age, sex, income, and religious and ethnic differences.

Individual interviews included: 10 “more equitable” men, 12 “more empowered” women, and 12 former political prisoners, including both men and women. Focus group discussions were also conducted with university students (two groups) and male former political prisoners (one group). Qualitative data collection took place in Jerusalem and the West Bank.



# 3

## SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

IMAGES MENA consists of surveys with nearly 10,000 men and women between the ages of 18 and 59 from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine, including those from both urban and rural areas (as well as refugee settlements, where appropriate). 1,200 men and 1,199 women, aged 18 to 59, representing Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were surveyed, following a randomized, nationally representative sample following the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics sampling framework and representing the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

- The age distribution reflects the young population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip; 32 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women in the survey were aged 18 to 25.
- 68 per cent of the sample draws from urban settings, 19 per cent from rural settings, and 13 per cent from refugee camps.
- 60 per cent of men and 70 per cent of women have ever been married; the mean age of marriage in the sample is 25 for men and 20 for women.



# 3

## SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

- 35 per cent of men and 36 percent of women have received some higher education.
- 69 per cent of men in the sample are currently employed, compared with only 11 per cent of women.
- 54 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women spend most of their time out of work, or looking for work; 28 per cent of men and 14 per cent of women have given up on looking for work.
- Average household monthly income in the sample was approximately US \$710 (reported by men) and US \$730 (reported by women), which approaches the poverty line of about US \$620. Around half of the respondents qualify as poor according to the national statistics and standards. To enable the study to test associations with family wealth, respondents were classified into three “wealth index” groups of equal size, based on many reported factors of their household wealth.

# 4

## RESPONSE RATE

Response rates were generally very high (around 90 per cent or more) in all four countries. Reasons for refusal or non-response included: sickness, unavailability of respondents (i.e., out of town or not at home), refusal to open the door or to participate in the survey, and premature termination of the interview.

Response Rate–Men 100%

Response Rate–Women 100%

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

The gender attitude questions that are employed include those from the Gender Equitable Men Scale (GEM Scale), which assesses men's and women's beliefs toward a set of equitable or inequitable norms. The GEM Scale was developed by Promundo and the Population Council and is now widely adapted to suit specific cultural contexts and used globally as both a population assessment tool and an evaluation instrument.

Gender Equitable Men (GEM) Scale: To measure men's and women's gender-related attitudes in quantitative terms, IMAGES MENA asked respondents to agree or disagree with a range of statements on gender norms. Using validity tests, a sub-selection of these statements were then used to construct a MENA-specific version of the GEM Scale. Versions of the GEM Scale have been validated and widely used in studies in more than 30 countries, including all previous IMAGES reports (see Section 1.2).

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

The MENA-specific GEM Scale includes 10 items:

- A woman's most important role is to take care of the home and cook for the family.
- A man should have the final word about decisions in the home.
- There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.
- To be a man, you need to be tough.
- Changing diapers, bathing children, and feeding children should all be the mother's responsibility.
- A woman should tolerate violence to keep the family together.
- A married woman should have the same rights to work outside the home as her husband.
- It is a man's duty to exercise guardianship over his female relatives.
- Unmarried women should have the same right to live on their own as unmarried men.
- Boys are responsible for the behaviour of their sisters, even if they are younger than their sisters.

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Respondents could choose one of four options to all of these items: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. These four options were given integer scores from zero to three, where zero reflects the most gender-inequitable response and three represents the most gender-equitable response. The GEM Scale score presented in this report is the respondent's average response, on a scale of zero to three, combining all 10 items.

Depression scale: To measure depression symptomatology, the IMAGES MENA survey used the CES-D Scale. This scale includes 20 statements of symptoms associated with depression, all of which have been used in longer, previously validated scales. Examples include "I thought that my life had been a failure" and "my sleep was restless", among 18 other items.

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Respondents reported whether they had experienced these symptoms “rarely”, “some of the time”, “a moderate amount of the time”, or “most or all of the time”, in the week prior to the survey. Most items reflect depressive symptoms, while some items reflect the absence of depressive symptoms. Each of the 20 statements was given an integer score from zero to three, where zero reflects the lowest reporting of depressive symptomatology and three reflects the highest. According to the international standard calculation, any respondent with a total score of 16 points or higher was said to have met the screening standard for depression.

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Wealth index: The IMAGES MENA questionnaire followed the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) methodology for constructing the wealth index in each site. This included asking respondents about a range of assets and objects their household might or might not possess, including arable land, livestock, appliances, automobiles, and many others. The index was constructed using factor analysis in the combined women's and men's data set (so that women's and men's households were held to the same wealth standard), accounting for differences in wealth dynamics in urban and rural settings, and then dividing respondents into equal tertiles and quintiles based on their factor scores. While the wealth index calculation did not include respondents' self-reported income earnings, some analysis related to reported income is also included in the country chapters. The full procedure for calculating the wealth index from the DHS questionnaire module is available online at [www.dhsprogram.com](http://www.dhsprogram.com)



# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Intimate partner violence: The IMAGES MENA survey sought to measure men's perpetration and women's experience of intimate partner violence using a standard battery of questions. These questions measured four types of intimate partner violence: emotional, economic, physical, and sexual. Each question asked how often a certain act of violence might have occurred in the respondent's lifetime. If the respondent reported that the violence had ever occurred, then they received a follow-up question to determine whether this act had occurred within the previous year. Prevalence rates were calculated by adding up respondents who reported any one or more of the acts of that particular form of violence. Questions in this section never used the word "violence" or its Arabic equivalent, because of the shifting, subjective nature of this term. The IMAGES MENA questions and approach for measuring intimate partner violence followed guidance established by the WHO and PATH. The questionnaire also included a smaller battery of questions to ascertain women's perpetration of intimate partner violence.

# 5

## WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

Intimate partner violence: Country chapters include detailed information on survey results related to intimate partner violence. Given local cultural sensitivities, an intimate partner was defined as a spouse in the four countries surveyed in IMAGES MENA.

Care work, domestic work, and caregiving: The questions included on this topic come from a variety of household surveys, including the aforementioned DHS and GEQ surveys. They were asked of men and women, each describing their own caregiving or domestic work and their male/female spouse's caregiving activities, with the caveat that these excluded any assistance the respondent or his/her spouse might have received through outside help by others.

# 6

## MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

Large-scale survey research in general, and IMAGES MENA in particular, presents noteworthy limitations and challenges. In order to cover the breadth of necessary topics in this study in sufficient detail, the survey questionnaire was long (typically taking more than an hour to complete). The length of the questionnaire was among the reasons respondents cited for refusing to participate in the study in some settings. The sensitivity of questions that related to certain topics—among them, violence and sexuality—also presented challenges for research teams. In anticipation of these challenges, data collectors' trainings included thorough discussions on topics of gender, violence, sexuality, and how to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all survey respondents. While IMAGES draws on years of testing various ways to minimize social desirability bias and maximize the comfort of men and women answering sensitive questions, these are challenges in any survey research on such topics.

# 6

## MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

Local sensitivities meant that certain questions, including those related to sexuality, were not included, in accordance with the requirements of the Egyptian government's Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

Palestine: Palestine's political situation presented particular, in some cases extreme, challenges to data collection. Field workers' movement was restricted, in certain cases, especially when Israeli security forces closed cities, such as Hebron and Jerusalem, during the data collection period. Also during data collection, a group of settlers attacked Palestinian civilians on main roads in Jerusalem, compelling the team to take additional security precautions. In addition, due to restrictions on travel, it was impossible for the researchers in the West Bank to travel to Gaza and vice versa, thereby doubling the length of the training period and necessitating the deployment of additional field supervisors. In Gaza, three field researchers were arrested and held for several hours by local authority security forces, which further complicated the data collection process.

# 7

## QUALITY CONTROL

The adapted survey tools were translated into local Arabic dialects (as well as French for IMAGES MENA in Morocco) and, prior to full data collection, pilot-tested with respondents from different socio-demographic groups in all four countries. Data collection was completed between April 2016 and March 2017.<sup>2</sup> Questionnaires were administered face-to-face using hand-held electronic tablet devices. Given the sensitive nature of the questions, and in accordance with IMAGES procedures, female interviewers interviewed women and male interviewers interviewed men. Strategic Consultative Groups, formed in each country with representatives from academia, civil society, government, and UN agencies, reviewed the overall research design and findings.

# 8

## INTERVIEWER TRAINING

Prior to data collection, interviewers received training on gender, violence, ethical procedures in gender and masculinities research, and how to ask sensitive questions and respond to respondents in distress; in the case of questions about suicidal ideation, respondents were offered contact information for local service providers able to provide care and support. Data collectors' trainings included thorough discussions on topics of gender, violence, sexuality, and how to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for all survey respondents.

# 8 INTERVIEWER TRAINING

In the more than 30 IMAGES surveys to date, when possible, hand-held devices have been used for data collection; when resources or local conditions have not permitted, the questionnaire has been paper-based and interviewer-applied, with extensive training of enumerators, given the sensitivity of the survey questions. The decision to use this method is based on availability of and experience with hand-held survey applications in the country; familiarity with the technology on the part of the implementing partner; and local conditions (for example, in some countries, electronic data collection is regarded with suspicion by respondents, thereby compromising results or putting enumerators at risk).



# 9

## DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

### **Promundo**

Founded in Brazil in 1997, Promundo works to promote gender equality and create a world free from violence by engaging men and boys in partnership with women and girls. Promundo's strategic partners in the United States (Promundo-US), Brazil (Instituto Promundo), Portugal (Promundo-Portugal), and Democratic Republic of the Congo (Living Peace Institute) collaborate to achieve this mission by conducting applied research that builds the knowledge base on masculinities and gender equality; developing, evaluating, and scaling up gender-transformative interventions and programmes; and carrying out national and international advocacy to promote gender equality and social justice. For more information, see: [www.promundoglobal.org](http://www.promundoglobal.org)

# 9

## DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

### UN Women

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN member states as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes, and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UNWomen also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality. For more information, see:

[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

# 9

## DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University

Established in 1994, the Institute of Women's Studies (IWS) at BZU is the first academic initiative in the gender studies in Palestine and one of only two programs in the Arab world. Furthermore, the Institute's Master Program in Gender and Development Studies is the first graduate program of its kind in the region. The launching of the IWS came at a critical time, when Palestinian higher education clearly needed to develop new academic and research programs that addressed the developmental needs of Palestinian society. Palestinian women still face formidable challenges in adopting effective strategies to address basic social and development issues in order to build a society based on gender equality.

# 10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

The household survey and qualitative studies in each of the four countries were approved by ethical review boards. The study followed standard ethical procedures for research on intimate partner violence (IPV). Researchers sampled men and women in different clusters to avoid interviewing men and women in the same household. All respondents were fully informed about the purpose and procedures of this study and were told that their participation in the survey was voluntary and that they had the right to terminate the survey, at any point, or refuse to answer any questions. Confidentiality of the interviews was strictly guarded.

Questions related to sexual attitudes and practices were omitted due to research partners' understanding of local cultural sensitivities. Similarly, questions related to parenting, intimate partner violence, and reproductive health practices and decision-making were asked only of married respondents.

# 11

## NOTES ON STUDY

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey–Middle East and North Africa (IMAGES MENA) is the first study of its kind in the MENA region to take a wide-angle, comparative lens to the lives of men—as sons and husbands and fathers, at home and at work, in public and private life—to better understand how they see their positions as men, and their attitudes and actions toward gender equality. Equally important, IMAGES provides women’s perspectives on these same issues. Its wealth of quantitative and qualitative findings complements a growing body of research on men and masculinities in the MENA region.

# 11

## NOTES ON STUDY

The results of IMAGES MENA cut through the stereotypes and prejudices that too often obscure the complexity of dynamic gender identities and relations in the region. The four countries included in this first phase of IMAGES MENA—Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine—are diverse, each presenting a particular political, economic, and social context that is central to the country-specific analyses presented in the multi-country report. The study results are strengthened by this diversity, and they show a rich variety, both across and within countries, of men’s and women’s perspectives on the ways in which gender roles and women’s rights are changing in their own lives and in the wider world around them.

# 11

## NOTES ON STUDY

For this four-country IMAGES MENA study, a year-long consultation, starting in 2015, was conducted with research partners in the region, as well as with civil society, UN Women staff in each of the countries, and government counterparts. A review of existing research and surveys on context-specific issues related to masculinities and gender equality in the MENA region complemented this process; these are referenced in the country chapters and in an accompanying overview of existing research. This four-country consultative and review process led to the adaptation of existing survey questions and the creation of new, region-specific modules on:

- Gendered laws and policies in the MENA region;
- Women in public life
- Gender-based violence in public spaces (also referred to as sexual harassment/assault in public spaces);
- Honour and honour killing;
- Men and marriage;
- Men and migration;
- Female circumcision/FGM



The background is a solid teal color with several dark blue, hand-drawn style lines. These lines are abstract and somewhat chaotic, with some forming large loops and others being straight or slightly curved. The lines vary in thickness and have a slightly textured, chalk-like appearance.

# IMAGES

International  
Men and Gender  
Equality Survey