

IMAGES Country Study Documentation

Kuwait

2018

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KEY OBJECTIVES

Kuwait faces persistent challenges in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Men's involvement in addressing gender inequality and violence against women has not been widely considered in the national strategies and plans. There has been little rigorous research conducted in Kuwait to document men's perceptions and practices related to gender equality. This information is essential for developing policies and programs that more productively engage men and boys in achieving gender equality and reducing gender disparities.

Within this context, the International Men and Gender Equality Survey, Middle East and North Africa (IMAGES MENA) was conducted in Kuwait in 2018. IMAGES MENA is a key component of the TK programme, under the Supreme Council for Development and Planning, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the State of Kuwait. This is a multi-year initiative to promote women's economic, political and community engagement, under the aegis of UNWomen and UNDP, and coordinated by the Women's Research and Study Center, Kuwait University.

1 KEY OBJECTIVES

As part of this initiative, IMAGES MENA Kuwait is a comprehensive household survey on men's attitudes and practices – along with women's opinions and reports of men's practices – on a wide variety of topics related to gender equality. The overall goal of IMAGES MENA Kuwait is to build a greater understanding of men's practices and attitudes related to gender equality in order to inform policy and programmatic development on gender equality in the State of Kuwait.

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DATA COLLECTION

Data collection used a specially designed IMAGES MENA Kuwait questionnaire for men and a related questionnaire for women. The questionnaires were based on IMAGES MENA questionnaires previously developed and deployed in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine (see Section 1.4 above). The questionnaire covered a range of topics related to gender equality: socio-economic characteristics; physical and mental health; childhood experiences; marriage and divorce; household relations; parenting; gender-based violence; work experience; attitudes toward women in public life and laws and policies related to gender equality.

In consultation with members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Strategic Consultative Group (SCG)—local experts from academia, government and civil society—the survey questionnaire was further refined to take account of the particular needs and sensitivities of Kuwait society. The questionnaire was significantly shortened, to 280 items, to optimize response rates.

2 DATA COLLECTION

Among other changes, questions previously fielded on childhood and intimate partner sexual violence were omitted at the request of the government, along with a module on migration (which is an uncommon practice among Kuwaiti nationals).

Questions on household assets were adapted to take account of Kuwait's highly developed economy, as were questions on gendered division of household labor in order to accommodate the ubiquity of domestic labor; a new panel of questions on gender-based violence against domestic workers was also included.

The survey was translated into Modern Standard Arabic, for ease of use by both respondents and interviewers.

3

SAMPLE SIZE AND LOCATION

The target sample consisted of a nationally-representative selection of 2000 respondents, 1000 men and 1000 women, across the six governorates of Kuwait: Al-Asimah (Capital), Hawalli, Al-Ahmadi, Al-Jabra, Al-Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer. All respondents were Kuwaiti nationals.

A multi-stage cluster sampling strategy was designed and selected by CSB using the 2011 Kuwait National Census master sample as a frame. The sample comprised a total of 198 clusters: 99 clusters for male respondents and 99 clusters for their female counterparts.

In each cluster, a total of 10 households were selected to be interviewed and 10 households were designated to serve as replacements in case of failed interviews, or lack of eligible respondents. In total, CSB provided a listing of 1980 households in the main sample and 1980 as replacements. In each household, one eligible man or woman aged 18 -59 years was randomly selected using a grid Kish table. A total of 982 men and 979 women were successfully interviewed during the survey.

4

RESPONSE RATE

During the main fieldwork and callback phases of the survey, 2464 out of 2572 households visited were occupied, and 1961 households were successfully interviewed, giving a response rate of 80 per cent (Table 2.5.1). Of those households interviewed, 10-20 per cent were located in each of the six governorates, with a higher household response rate in Al- Farwaniya (87 per cent), Al-Asimah (87 per cent) and Al-Ahmadi (81 per cent) than in Al- Jahra and Mubarak Al-Kabeer (71 per cent).

A total of 982 men were interviewed, distributed across the six governorates, with an overall response rate 100 per cent. A total of 979 women in the six governorates were identified as eligible to be interviewed in IMAGES MENA Kuwait, with a universal response rate.

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WEIGHTING PROCEDURE

No additional information available in this section.

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MISSINGNESS ASSESSMENT

No additional information available in this section.

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QUALITY CONTROL

The survey was translated into Modern Standard Arabic, for ease of use by both respondents and interviewers.

Local fieldworkers were extensively trained. Survey questionnaires were extensively pilot-tested, questions revised based on the feedback, and fieldworkers engaged for a further round of training.

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INTERVIEWER TRAINING

More than 50 prospective fieldworkers and four supervisors, recommended by CSB, were invited to attend a two-week training, conducted by El-Zanaty and Associates in collaboration with UNWomen, Promundo and Women's Research and Study Center, Kuwait University. The 14-day training included background information on IMAGES MENA, talks and exercises on masculinities and gender-based violence, as well as a question-by-question discussion of the questionnaires on paper, role-playing and mock interviews. As the IMAGES MENA Kuwait household survey was administered using electronic data capture, further training was conducted with tablets, including practice through role-playing and mock interviews.

After two rounds of evaluation, a final group of 20 fieldworkers (10 male and 10 female) and four supervisors were selected from the attendees, joined by a further two supervisors from El Zanaty and Associates.

8

INTERVIEWER TRAINING

The field staff was divided into six teams, each consisting of one supervisor, two male interviewers and two female interviewers to cover each of the six governorates. The questionnaires were piloted in a sample of 300 households in Al-Asimah and Hawalli governorates, selected by CSB. A total of 138 men and 135 women in 296 households participated in the pilot.

Based on feedback from the pilot, income questions were adjusted to improve response rates, and field workers received additional training on how to constructively engage with respondents on questions related to intimate partner violence and sexual violence in public places, so as to build trust and encourage accurate reporting.

Fieldwork for the actual survey ran from early April to early May 2018. Male interviewers surveyed male respondents, and their female colleagues interviewed female respondents.

Each interview took around 40 minutes to complete.

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DATA COLLECTION PARTNER

The survey was implemented by El-Zanaty & Associates on behalf of Promundo, in partnership with UN Women Regional Bureau of Arab States.

10 ETHICAL APPROVAL

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. 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.

11 NOTES ON STUDY

No additional information available in this section.

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