



FACT SHEET – select Arab countries

Women and Decision-making in the Arab World: What Governments, Donors, and Institutions Can Do to Fulfill their Commitments

TOTAL PERCENTAGE of WOMEN IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN ARAB REGION – 9.1%

Table 1 - GLOBAL COMPARISON: REGIONAL PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES 2008
In descending order:

Region	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
Nordic countries	41.4%	---	---
Americas	21.8%	20.2%	21.5%
Europe - OSCE member countries including Nordic countries	21.3%	19.4%	20.9%
Europe - OSCE member countries excluding Nordic countries	19.3%	19.4%	19.3%
Sub-Saharan Africa	18.1%	21.4%	18.5%
Asia	18.0%	16.5%	17.8%
Pacific	13.0%	32.6%	15.2%
Arab States	9.7%	7.0%	9.1%

- *Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Table 2 - PROGRESS OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS OF ARAB STATES, 2000-2008

Year	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
2008	9.7%	7.0%	9.1%
2007	9.6%	7.6%	9.0%
2006	9.3%	6.3%	8.6%
2005	7.0%	5.9%	6.8%
2004	6.7%	5.6%	6.5%
2003	6.0%	7.5%	6.2%
2002	6.1%	2.6%	5.7%
2001	4.6%	2.5%	4.3%
2000	3.8%	2.7%	3.6%

- *Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Increases are due in great part to efforts of civil society organizations in the Arab region to promote women's rights and women's political participation, and the implementation of quotas guaranteeing a percentage of legislative seats for women in Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, and Iraq.

Table 3 – PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF SELECT ARAB STATES

The country	Percentage of women at the Ministerial level	Percentage of women's representation in the Parliament		Percentage of women's representation in the Shoura Council
		1990	2007	
Lebanon	6.9	00	4.7	-
Jordan	10.7	00	5.5	12.7
Tunisia	7.1	4.3	22.8	13.4
Syria	6.3	9.2	12	-
Egypt	5.9	3.9	2	6.8
Morocco	5.9	00	10.8	1.1
Sudan	2.6	00	17.8	4

Human Development Report 2007-2008

In bicameral parliaments, the Shoura Council functions as the second legislative body of representatives.

Table 4 – WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY (NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS), IN SELECT ARAB COUNTRIES

The country	Percentage of women in NGO Boards of Directors	Percentage of women's participation in NGO General Assemblies
Lebanon	39.7%	35.2%
Jordan	36.9%	41.7%
Tunisia	44.6%	30.2%
Syria	25.6%	31.4%
Egypt	11.6%	44.0%
Morocco	32.0%	37.8%
Sudan	36.4%	94.6%
Palestine	32.1%	55.9%

- *Database of Arab Network for NGOs*

Table 5 – PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN THE JUDICIARY BRANCH IN SELECT ARAB STATES

The country	Percentage and numbers of women in Judiciary
Lebanon	5%
Jordan	14 judges
Tunisia	22.5%
Syria	11%
Egypt	45 judges
Morocco	50%
Sudan	75 judges
Yemen	53 judges

Some Arab countries have very recently allowed women the right to vote and to run for election—for example, Kuwait and Bahrain. However, no female candidates who ran won in the elections. Certain Arab countries do not yet allow women to run for election, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar.