

Project: Arab-Barometer: Public Opinion Survey conducted in Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen, 2006-2007

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- Processing Notes to Accompany Data and Survey Instrument
- New Variables created by PI and Co-PI's from original variables
- List of variables that are NOT asked in all the six countries.

A) PROCESSING NOTES TO ACCOMPANY DATA AND SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Although representatives from the participating country teams met regularly both in the Arab World and in the United States for the purpose of making decisions about the content and methodology of the Arab Barometer surveys, there are nonetheless a few instances in which data collection procedures led to differences in one or more countries in question wording or response codes. These processing notes identify the instances in which question wording or response codes in the Dataset differ slightly from those in the survey instrument. The data may be used with confidence as problems and inconsistencies have been identified and corrected in the Dataset, whereas the Survey Instrument is provided in its original form.

1) The following questions from the Survey Instrument (which are all open-ended) have not been included in the dataset.

“Q203 Which two organization are the most important to you?” is not in the dataset. Was it ever coded?

“Q208 What was the most important consideration you took in voting for the candidate you voted for?”

“Q209 Why didn't you vote?”

“Q218 Specify the source of newspaper/radio/television/internet/magazine)”

“Q220 Which of the listed political parties best represents you politically, socially and economically?”

“Q223 What is the single most important use of the internet?”

“Q229 Who would you got to in order to resolve the dispute?”

2) About missing values: There are sometimes discrepancies between the missing value options in the Survey Instrument and the missing value options in the Dataset.

Two options are usually (although not always) in the Survey Instrument:

8 = Don't Know

9 = Decline to Answer

Missing values in the Dataset are coded the following way:

97= Not clear

98= Can't choose/ Don't know

99= Decline to Answer

100= Not provided/Not usable (this response option is used when a particular question was not asked in a country)

- 3) Q207: In the Dataset there is a response option “3=illegible” that does not appear in the Survey Instrument.
- 4) Q245.1-Q245.4: All these variables have an additional response option “5=don’t know” in the Dataset that is not in the Survey Instrument
- 5) There are two variables for Q248 (Q248withoutpalestine and Q248onlypalestine) and two variables for Q249 (Q249withoutpalestine and Q249onlypalestine). The survey conducted in Palestine used a different set of response options for this question. Response options “4) Ending the US occupation in Iraq” and “5) The Arab-Israeli conflict” were changed in Palestine to “4) ending the occupation” and “5) Ending the security chaos”. Given this discrepancy, one of the variables contains all countries (except Palestine) and the other one contain only cases for Palestine.
- 6) Q255: This question in the Survey Instrument has several response options, each of which has been coded in the Dataset as a separate variable with the exception of response option “5=other”. This one has not been made into a variable.
- 7) Q610: Response labels are too long for the space provided in the Dataset, so refer to the Survey Instrument for complete wording
- 8) Q217: The Survey Instrument includes the response option “7=others (specify)”. However, in the Dataset, response option “7” is labeled as “not clear” as in all other questions, and a different code is assigned to “others”.
- 9) Q711: The Survey Instrument has 3 response options: 1= Muslim, 2= Christian and 3= other. The survey conducted in Lebanon included three additional response options: 1= Muslim; 2= Christian, 3= Sunni Muslim, 4=Shiite Muslim, 5=Druze. The latter codes (3-5) pertain to Lebanon, with a very small number of Christians in Jordan and Palestine.
- 10) The original dataset comes with two pairs of income variables Q715 and Q716 (for all countries except Morocco) and V715 and V716 for Morocco. This is because income in Morocco was coded in categories whereas in the other countries it is a continuous variable based on local currency.
- 11) Q701: Note that this age variable is continuous for all countries except Morocco. In Morocco, age was asked by categories. The values in this variable can be compared across all countries (except Morocco). In order to make “age” comparable across all countries, a new variable has been created (see below under “new variables created”) where we have recoded all other countries to follow the age categories used in Morocco.

B) NEW VARIABLES CREATED

1) **q701agecategories:** Age variable (Q701) is not comparable across countries so we created a new age variable based on the categories used in Morocco, which are the following:

- 1= 18-24
- 2=25-34
- 3=35-44
- 4=45-54
- 5=55-64
- 6=65-74
- 7=75 and older

2) **q703dichotomous:** This new variable was created to capture the concept of literacy. Illiterate was re-coded as "0". And all other educational categories were coded as "1". Categories "not clear" were coded as missing.

3) Income Variables: Q715incomedeciles and Q716incomedeciles

Existing monthly income variables (Q715withoutmorocco and Q716withoutmorocco) in the Dataset are expressed in local currency. For purposes of cross-country comparability, we have created two new income variables to express the distribution of income within each country in terms of deciles. The two new variables are: Q715incomedeciles (for monthly individual income) and Q715incomedeciles (for monthly family income).

Below are the cutting points (in local currency) for each decile in each country.

	Q715	Q716
Jordan	1=95 2=126 3=150 4=170 5=200 6=200 7=250 8=300 9=450	1=120 2=150 3=180 4=200 5=220 6=260 7=300 8=400 9=550
Palestine	1=0 2=0 3=500 4=800 5=1000 6=1500 7=2000 8=2200 9=3000	1=400 2=700 3=1000 4=1200 5=1500 6=2000 7=2500 8=3000 9=4000
Algeria	1=7000	1=10000

	2=9500 3=12000 4=14000 5=16000 6=19000 7=20000 8=26000 9=33700	2=12000 3=16000 4=20000 5=22000 6=28000 7=30000 8=40000 9=50000
**Morocco	1=0 2=0 3=1000 4=1000 5=1000 6=1000 7=1000 8=2000 9=2000	1=0 2=1000 3=2000 4=2000 5=2000 6=2000 7=2000 8=3000 9=4000
Lebanon	1=500000 2=700000 3= 800000 4= 1000000 5= 1000000 6= 1200000 7= 1500000 8= 1900000 9= 2500000	1=300000 2= 400000 3= 500000 4= 600000 5= 750000 6= 800000 7= 1000000 8= 1000000 9= 1500000
Yemen	1= 15000 2= 21000 3= 26000 4= 30000 5= 30000 6= 35000 7= 40000 8= 45000 9= 60000	1= 20000 2= 25000 3= 30000 4= 34000 5= 40000 6= 45000 7= 55000 8= 69000 9= 85500

Note several things:

- a) In some instances SPSS assigned the same cut-off point for two consecutive deciles. This is probably because there were a lot of cases with a certain level of income and SPSS decided to split them into two groups. For example, in Jordan decile 5 and 6 have the same cut-off point (at 200). I have taken all observations between 170 and 200 and assigned them the value 5.5 (in between 5 and 6).
- b) Morocco is the only country where income was not coded as a continuous variable but rather as categories. For this reason there are two separate variables for income in Morocco (V715onlymorocco and V716onlymorroco). Below are the categories in which they are coded [in local currency]. These categories have been approximately fitted into decile groups, but this is a large approximation and thus Morocco should be used with caution in these new income variables.

V715 (Morocco only)

- 0 = "no revenue" → 1.5 decile
- 1 = "less than 1000 Dh" → 5th decile (3-7 deciles)
- 2 = "1001-2000" → 8.5 decile (8 and 9 deciles)
- 3 = "2001-3000" → 10th decile
- 4 = "3001-4000" → 10th decile
- 5 = "4001-5000" → 10th decile
- 6 = "5001-6000" → 10th decile
- 7 = "6001-7000" → 10th decile
- 8 = "7001-8000" → 10th decile
- 9 = "more than 8000" → 10th decile

V716 (Morocco only)

- 0 = "no revenue" → 1st decile
- 1 = "less than 1000 Dh" → 2nd decile
- 2 = "1001-2000" → 5.5 decile (3-7 deciles)
- 3 = "2001-3000" → 8th decile
- 4 = "3001-4000" → 9th decile
- 5 = "4001-5000" → 10th decile
- 6 = "5001-6000" → 10th decile
- 7 = "6001-7000" → 10th decile
- 8 = "7001-8000" → 10th decile
- 9 = "more than 8000" → 10th decile

C) THE FOLLOWING VARIABLES WERE NOT ASKED IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:

JORDAN: Q248withpalestine, Q249withpalestine

PALESTINE: Q248withoutpalestine (coded missing), Q249withoutpalestine (coded missing), Q250.2, Q303.1 (coded 3 = -one), Q303.2 (coded 3 = -one), Q303.3 (coded 3 = -one), Q611 (coded 6 =-one), Q612, Q613.1-Q613.3 (coded 6 =-one), Q717 (coded 666)

ALEGRIA: Q248withpalestine, Q249withpalestine (coded missing), Q611 (coded 6 =-one), Q612, Q613.1-Q613.3 (coded 6 =-one), Q711 (98=-one), Q717 (8=-one)

LEABNON; Q248withpalestine, Q249withpalestine (coded missing), Q717 (8=-one)

MOROCCO: Q231.1, Q231.2, Q246.1-Q246.4, Q248withpalestine (coded missing),, Q249withpalestine, Q302.1 (coded -55=-one), Q302.2 (coded -55=-one), Q603.1-Q603.5, Q604 and Q604, Q606 and Q606, Q607 and Q607, Q711 (98=-one), Q717 (8=-one)

YEMEN: Q231.1, Q231.2, Q248withpalestine (coded missing),, Q249withpalestine (coded missing), Q250.2, Q302.1 (coded -55=-one), Q302.2 (coded -55=-one), Q604, Q605, Q606, 607, 609, Q717 (8=-one)