



Women and COVID-19 in MENA

Findings from the Sixth Wave of Arab Barometer

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About Arab Barometer

- ▶ Arab Barometer is the longest standing and largest repository of publicly available data on ordinary citizens' views in MENA
- ▶ Arab Barometer has tracked views of ordinary citizens across MENA since 2006 providing insight into changes over time
- ▶ Arab Barometer goals
 1. Accurately track attitudes & behavior of ordinary citizens
 2. Build institutional capacity to conduct survey research
 3. Disseminate knowledge about ordinary citizens living in MENA to inform civil society, government, & international organizations

About the Project

- ▶ More than 90,000 personal interviews to date
- ▶ 70 nationally representative surveys
- ▶ Six waves across 15 countries providing trend data on how views have changed
 - ▶ Wave 1 (2006-7) in 7 countries
 - ▶ Wave 2 (2010-11) in 10 countries
 - ▶ Wave 3 (2012-14) in 12 countries
 - ▶ Wave 4 (2016-17) in 7 countries
 - ▶ Wave 5 (2018-19) in 12 countries
 - ▶ Wave 6 (2020) in 7 countries
- ▶ Data are open source & publicly available for analysis at arabbarometer.org

Arab Barometer 6th Wave

- ▶ Phone surveys due to health risks associated with in-person interviews from COVID-19
- ▶ Three rounds of surveys to track changes over the course of the pandemic
 1. July - September 2020
 2. October 2020
 3. March - April 2021
- ▶ Based on a sample of 1,000 respondents per country using random-digit dialing (RDD) techniques
- ▶ Fieldwork conducted by high quality partners based in the region

Key Findings

- ▶ Women more concerned about COVID-19 than men
- ▶ COVID-19 increased family stress
- ▶ Perceptions of gender based violence tended to decrease during the pandemic
- ▶ Structural barriers to work more pressing than cultural barriers

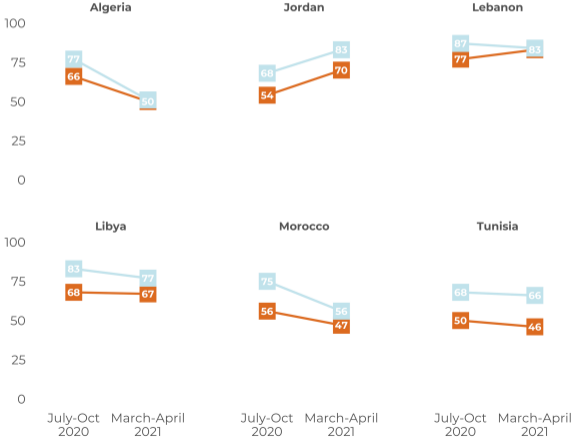
Women and COVID-19

Concern about COVID-19 Spreading

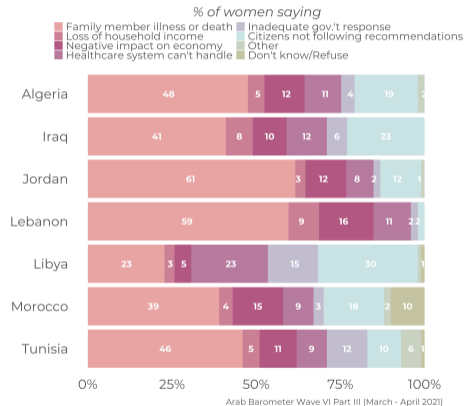
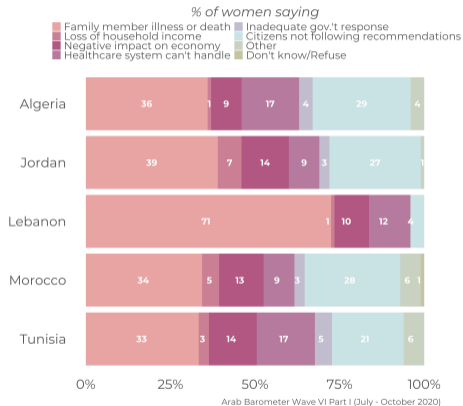
Extent of concern about COVID-19 spreading over the next 6 months

% saying very or somewhat concerned

Male Female



Reasons for Concern

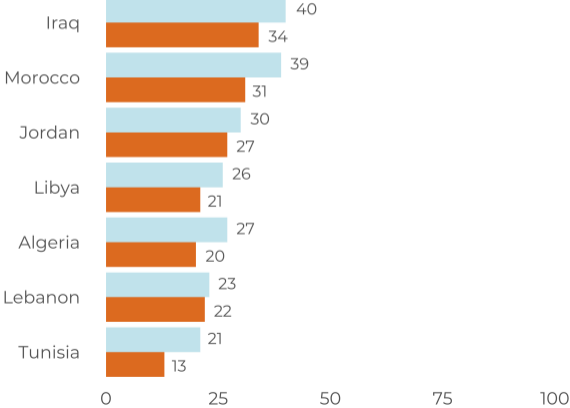


COVID's Toll on Mental Health

What are the two biggest challenges you faced due to the spread of the coronavirus?

% of men and women who say adverse effects their mental health

Female Male



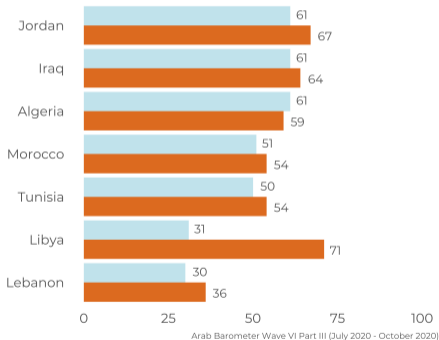
Women and the Pandemic at Home

Gender Issues at Home

"Taking care of the home and children is a woman's primary responsibility."

% saying strongly agree or agree

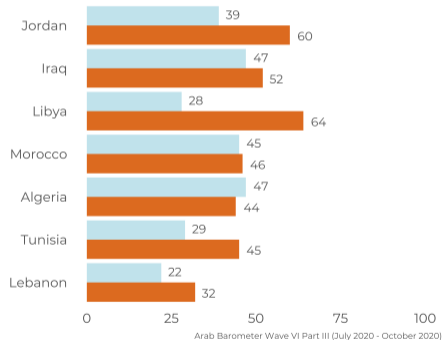
Female Male



"A man should have final say in all decisions concerning the family."

% saying strongly agree or agree

Female Male

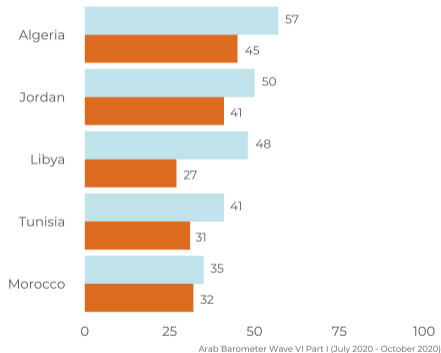


Family Unity

Family unity during COVID-19 pandemic

% saying increased

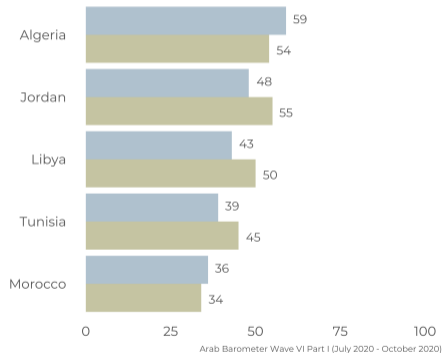
Female Male



Family unity during COVID-19 pandemic

% of women saying increased

Cannot cover expenses Can cover expenses

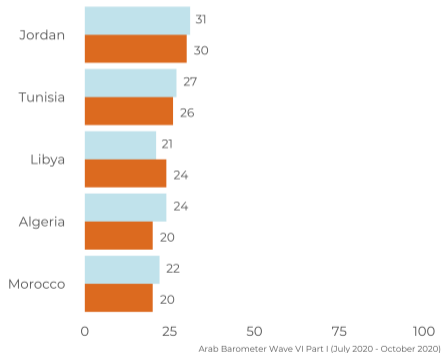


Verbal Arguments

Verbal arguments between family members

% saying increased

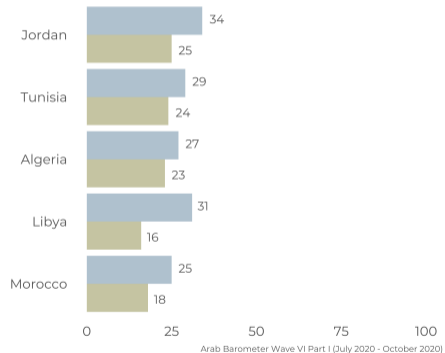
Female Male



Verbal arguments between family members

% of women saying increased

Cannot cover expenses Can cover expenses

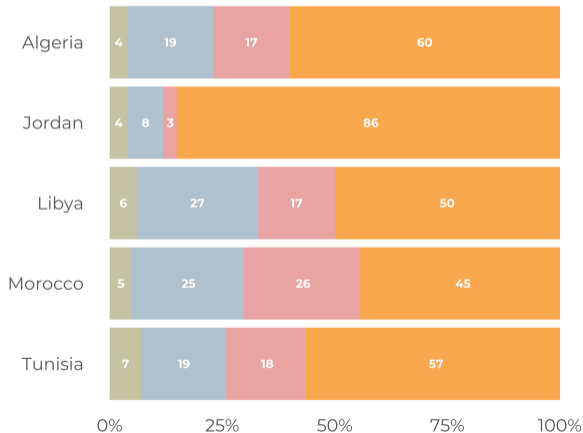


Physical Arguments at Home

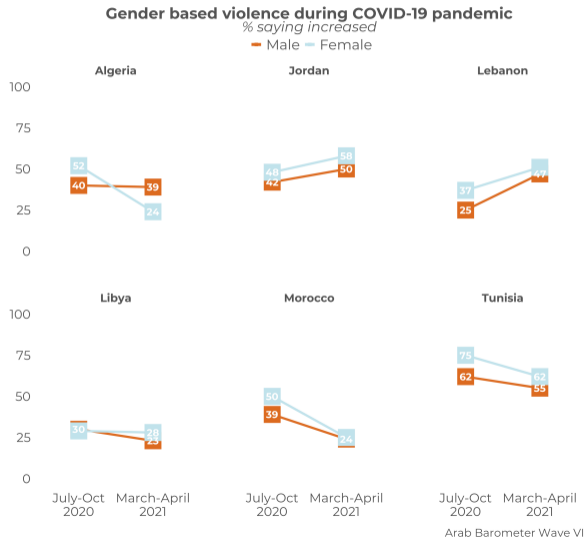
Physical arguments between family members

% saying increased

Increased Decreased
Stayed the same Don't know/Refuse



Community Levels of Gender Based Violence

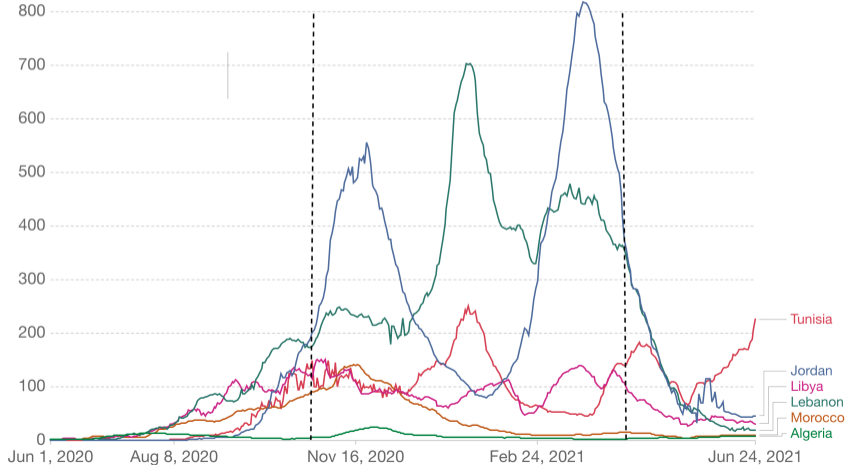


7-Day Average COVID-19 Trends

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World
in Data

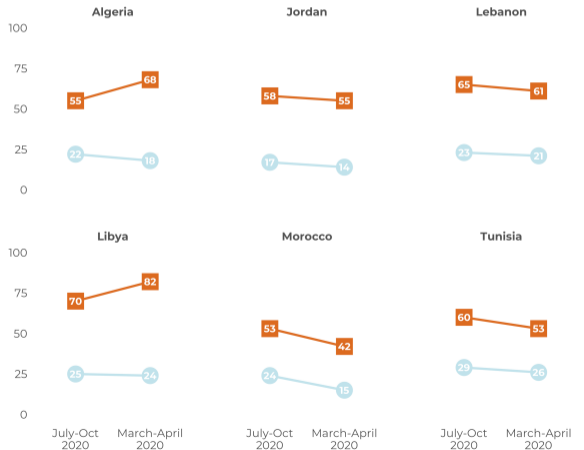


Women and the Pandemic at Work

Levels of Employment

% of people who say they are 'Employed' or 'Self-Employed' by gender

Male Female

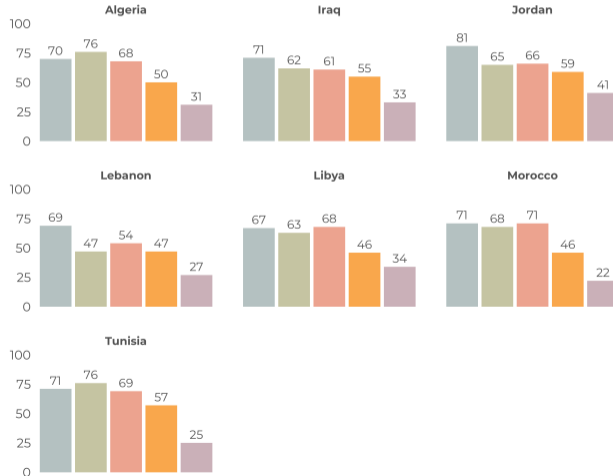


Barriers to Employment

To what extent do you think the following poses a barrier to entry for women in the workplace

% saying to a great or medium extent

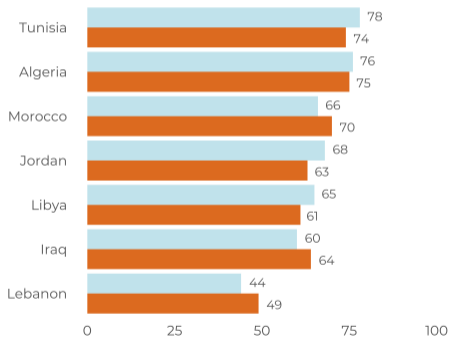
Lack of transportation Lack of childcare options Mixed workspaces
Low wages Men given priority



Lack of means of transportation posing a barrier to women's entry into the workforce

% saying to a great or a medium extent

Female Male

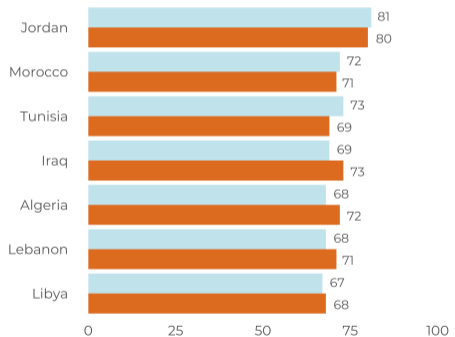


Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July 2020 - October 2020)

Lack of childcare options posing a barrier to women's entry into the workforce

% saying to a great or a medium extent

Female Male



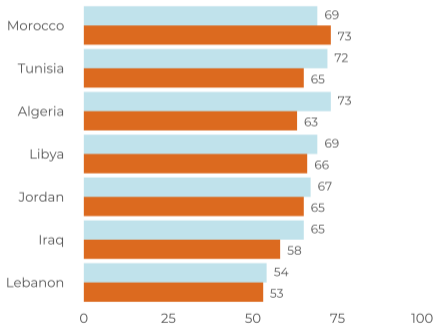
Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July 2020 - October 2020)

Wages and Opportunity

Low wages posing a barrier to women's entry into the workforce

% saying to a great or a medium extent

Female Male

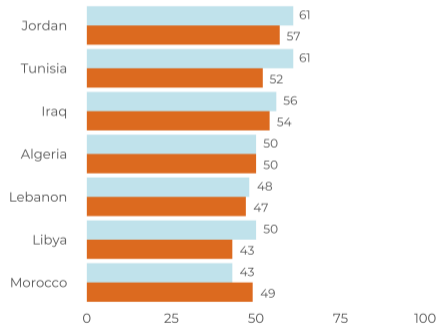


Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July 2020 - October 2020)

Men being given priority for employment posing a barrier to women's entry into the workforce

% saying to a great or a medium extent

Female Male



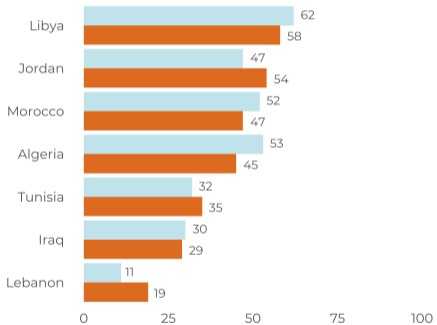
Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July 2020 - October 2020)

Mixed Gender Workplaces

“Men and women should be separated (should not mixed) in the workplace.”

% saying completely or somewhat agree

Female Male

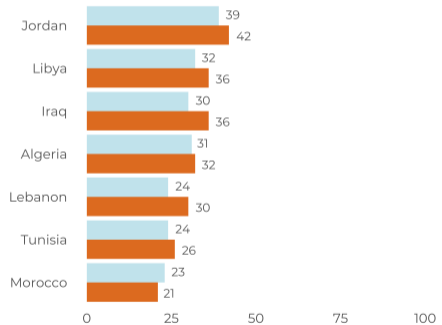


Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July 2020 - October 2020)

Working alongside men posing a barrier to women's entry into the workforce

% saying to a great or a medium extent

Female Male



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July 2020 - October 2020)

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