

## Fact Sheet

February 2012

# Education in Jordan

### Progress towards the six Education for All goals in Jordan, the Arab States and the World

Indicator	Jordan		Arab states	World
	1999	2010	2010	2010
Goal 1 Pre-primary gross enrolment ratio (%)	29	32	22	48
Goal 2 Primary net enrolment ratio (%)	89	91	86	91
Out of school children (million)	0.06	0.08	5	60.7
Goal 3 Lower secondary gross enrolment ratio (%)	...	94	87	82
Out of school adolescents (million)	0.06	0.1	3.7	70.6
Goal 4 Adult literacy rate* (%)	...	93	75	84
Youth literacy rate* (%)	...	99	92	90
Goal 5 Primary gender parity index	1.01	1.00	0.93	0.97
Secondary gender parity index	1.04	1.06	0.94	0.97
Goal 6 Primary pupil-teacher ratio	...	....	21	24

\* Progress is reported for the periods 1985/94 (left column) and 2005/10 (right column).

Source: UIS Database



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### While there has been progress in access to school, challenges remain.

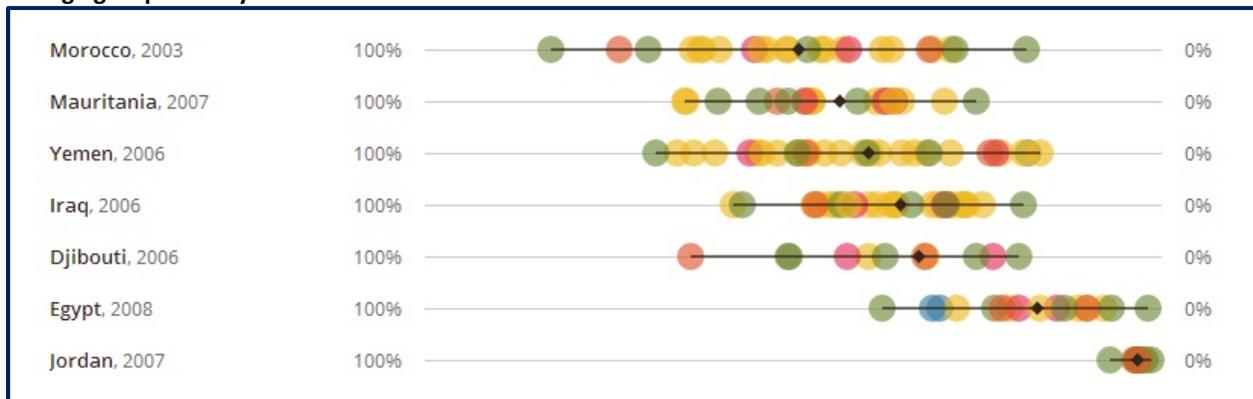
- The vast majority of children go to primary school in Jordan, with nine out of ten enrolling, however there are still eight other countries in the region with higher enrolment rates. Indeed, while Jordan's enrolment rose from 89-91% over the decade, Morocco increased its enrolment rate from 71-96% over the same period. Despite the enrolment rates improving in the country, due to population growth, the number of out-of-school children actually increased over that time by 25,000.
- Jordan has a pre-primary education ratio of 32%, the 8th highest out of 14 countries in the Arab States. This ratio rose from 29-32% over the past decade; Algeria's rate grew from 2% to 77% over the same period.

- While the Arab States is one of the only two regions in the world not to have reached gender parity at the primary level, Jordan had already reached parity in 1999 and has maintained that parity since then.
- Going to school is only half the battle. Jordan has wide learning gaps between socio-economic groups which now need to be addressed: In 2009, only 16% of girls from poorer households were at or above level 2 in mathematics, compared to 57% of girls from richer households.

## Young people need at least a secondary education to gain skills for work.

- Across the Arab states a skills deficit persists: 10.5 million young people aged 15-24 years never completed primary school and lack skills for work. Jordan is an exception to the rule; the country has one of the lowest numbers of young people without a primary school education in the region.
- Jordan does need to address its remaining out-of-school population to continue leading in this area. In 2010, there were 38,000 more out-of-school adolescents in the country than there were in 1999. Any young person without skills will struggle to find a stable job that pays them a secure wage.

### Percentage of young people in need of second chance in the Arab States: with incomplete primary education for the age group 15–24 years.



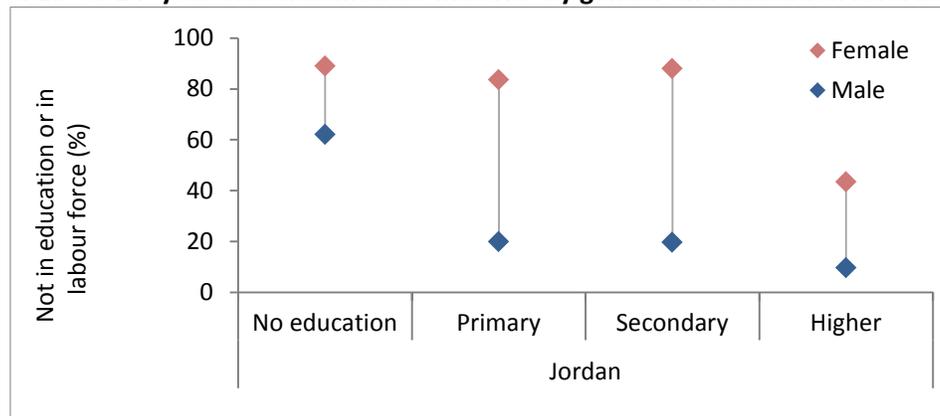
World Inequality Database on Education: [www.education-inequalities.org](http://www.education-inequalities.org)

## Gender equality is still held back by discrimination in the workplace.

Even where female education has risen in recent years, to the extent that their enrolment is higher than for males particularly in urban areas, this does not translate into opportunities for work:

- Gender gaps are often very large among those who have dropped out of the education system. In Jordan, over 80% of young women with only primary education were not actively seeking employment, compared with 20% of young men. Two-thirds of young women are available for work but of these as many as one in three are unemployed. By contrast, of the 90% of young men available for work, only 16% were unemployed in 2007.
- Many young women in Jordan are invisible in the job market. Unemployment figures hide the fact that some young people stop looking for work because they do not believe they will find any. People who are neither in education or employment nor actively seeking work are often classified as 'inactive', even though their inactivity reflects the labour market more than their own motivation. In Jordan, 37% of females were identified as inactive, compared with 10% of males. If these youth were included in unemployment rates the figures would increase by 25%.

### Percentage of 15- to 24- year olds classified as 'inactive' by gender and education level in Jordan.



Source: GMR team analysis based on UIS (2012)

### Small scale initiatives are successfully preparing youth for work.

- Questscope, an international NGO, has run a second-chance programme since 2000 in Jordan. The aim is to provide twenty-four months of accelerated learning towards grade 10 requirements, together with tutoring, so that programme graduates may re-enter the formal education system or have access to loans to start a microenterprise. More than 7,000 youths have participated and around 98% of those who sat the 10<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency test at the end of the programme passed and were able to continue with formal education.
- Initiatives such as career fairs, school visits to workplaces and partnerships with local employers have shown positive results. The INJAZ Al-Arab programme offers a framework for local partnership between schools and enterprises. In Jordan, during the 2010/11 school year, over 100,000 students benefited from various activities conducted by INJAZ volunteers in secondary schools, such as career guidance, job shadowing (or work readiness), and life skills training.

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