

# Embracing the Future: Addressing the Needs and Contributions of an Aging Population in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region

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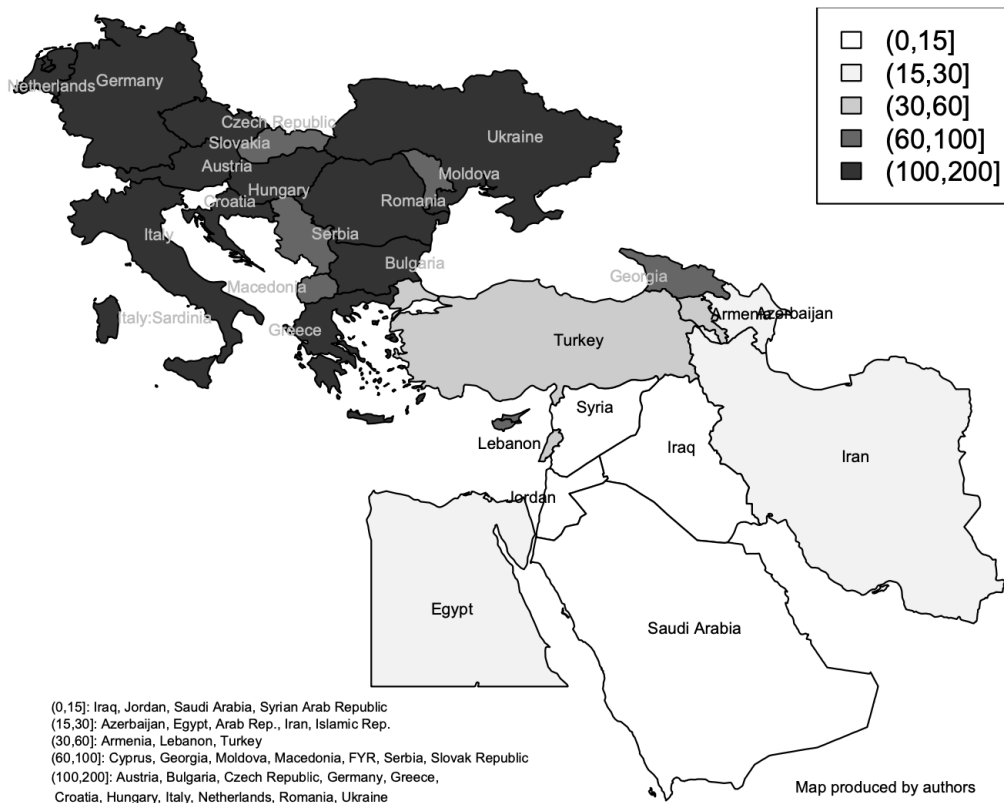
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# A common but diverse region



Wars & Conflicts

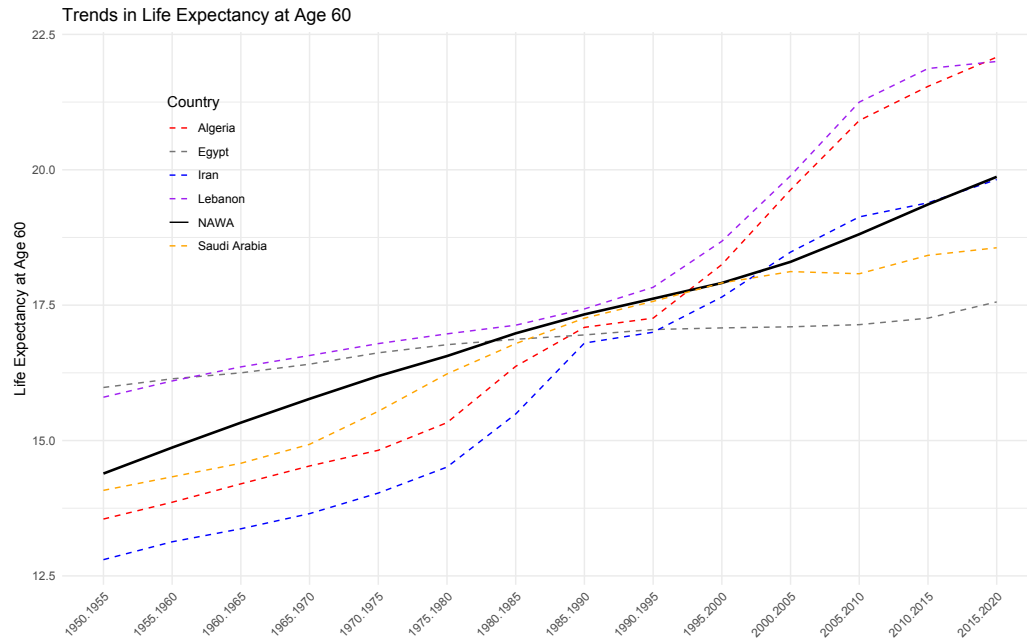
Migration & Mobility

Climate Change

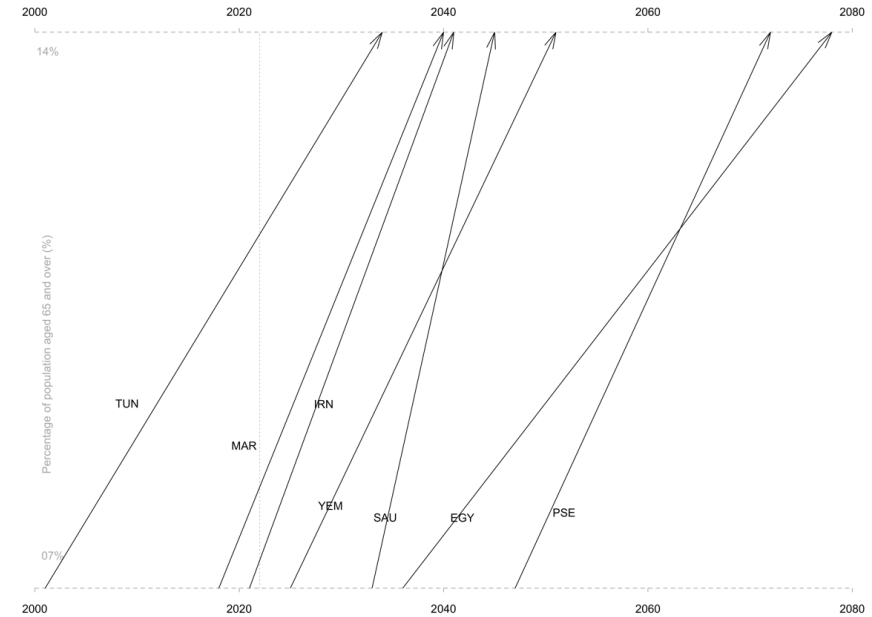
Digitalization & AI

Ismail, M., & Hussein, S. (2021). An Evidence Review of Ageing, Long-Term Care Provision and Funding Mechanisms in Turkey: Using Existing Evidence to Estimate Long-Term Care Cost. *Sustainability*, 13(11).

# A success story ... happening at speed



Source: US Census Bureau (Forthcoming, 2025). An Ageing World.

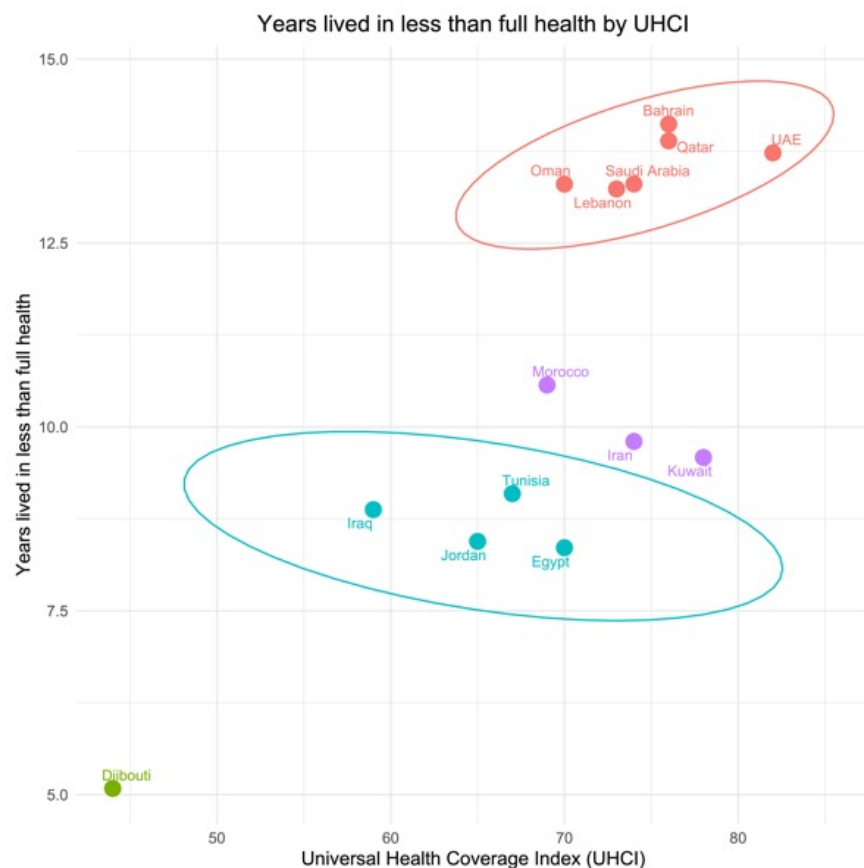


Source: Hussein, S. & Ismail, M. (2023). *Ageing Demographics in the Middle East and North Africa: Policy Opportunities and Challenges*. A report to the World Bank, Head Quarters: Washington D.C. Published by MENARAH Network.

Views on aging formulate early in life

Some countries will take 12 years to transition – compared to an average of 75 years in Europe

# But not all years gained are healthy years



Source: US Census Bureau (Forthcoming, 2025). An Ageing World.

Country	Life expectancy at birth		Healthy life expectancy at birth		Difference between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in years	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Malta	79.9	83.8	70.9	71.9	9.0	11.9
Kuwait	79.3	84.0	69.5	71.1	9.8	12.9
Tunisia	74.9	79.2	66.1	67.7	8.8	11.5
Jordan	77.0	78.8	68.1	67.2	8.9	11.6
Iran	75.7	79.1	66.0	66.5	9.7	12.6
Lebanon	74.0	79.2	65.1	67.1	8.9	12.1
Libya	74.2	77.3	64.9	65.5	9.3	11.8
Algeria	76.2	78.1	66.7	66.1	9.5	12.0
UAE	75.1	78.4	65.8	66.2	9.3	12.2
Oman	73.0	75.3	64.5	64.5	8.5	10.8
Qatar	78.0	76.6	68.1	65.1	9.9	11.5
Bahrain	75.0	77.0	66.0	65.5	9.0	11.5
Egypt	69.6	74.1	62.3	63.7	7.3	10.4
Morocco	71.7	74.3	63.7	63.7	8.0	10.6
Iraq	69.9	75.0	61.6	63.7	8.3	11.3
Saudi Arabia	73.1	76.2	63.8	64.4	9.3	11.8
Syria	71.2	74.3	62.5	63.3	8.7	11.0
Djibouti	64.1	67.8	57.2	58.9	6.9	8.9
Yemen	64.4	68.9	57.0	58.0	7.4	10.9

Source: Hussein, S. & Ismail, M. (2023). *Ageing Demographics in the Middle East and North Africa: Policy Opportunities and Challenges*. A report to the World Bank, Head Quarters: Washington D.C. Published by MENARAH Network.

# The Rights, Contributions, and Needs of Older People

Cultural

Collective societies have higher respect and values for older people

Positive aging views

Speed of Aging

The rapid and abrupt ageing process may lead to resentment toward older people [competition over resources]

Resentment & negative aging views

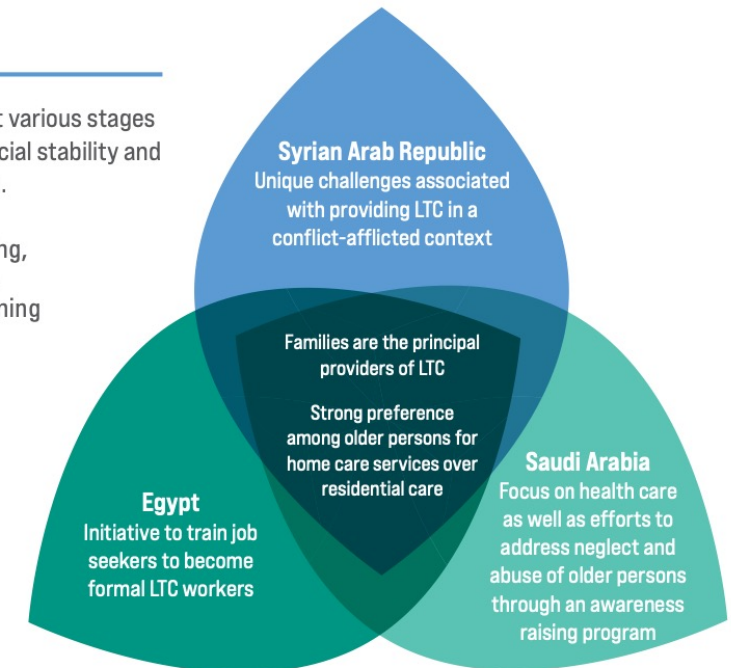
# Strategic Actions for Now and the Near Future

- **Complementary Policy Demands:**
  - Adopt a **life course approach** to policy development.
  - The youth of today are the future older generations
- **Mainstreaming Aging in Policy:**
  - Integrate aging perspectives into **all** policy developments to ensure inclusive and sustainable outcomes.
- **Consolidate Social Connections:**
  - Social connections among older generations in the region are lower than their European counterparts.
- **Developing Formal Care Systems:**
  - Develop, regulate, and formalize care and support services.
  - An economic opportunity for younger people while reducing the informal care burden and empowering older adults.

## Case studies

Three case studies represent countries at various stages of the ageing transition, economic and social stability and sub-regions, among other characteristics.

- **Syrian Arab Republic:** moderate ageing, low income, and relatively low health care expenditure per capita, transitioning from a prolonged conflict.
- **Egypt:** low-middle income populous country in the North Africa region.
- **Saudi Arabia:** high-income Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country.



League of Arab States Aging Strategy  
Country level strategies in Oman & Saudi Arabia  
New Law for Older People – discussed in Egypt

# Take Aways

- Urgency of Action
- Rethink protectives norms
- Intergenerational investment
- Balancing family and formal support
- Policy complementarity



# Thank you for Listening

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