

Syria: Country WID Profile

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Country WID Profile (Syria)

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Abbreviation

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**Abbreviation
(Syria)**

BCG	Bacille Bille de Calmette et Guerin
DPT	Diftheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
EU	European Union
EDF	European Development Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization, UN
F/P	Family Planning
GAD	Gender and Development
GDP	Gross (Values of) Domestic Product
IDA	International Development Agency
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PAPCHILD	Pan Arab Project for Child Development
PHC	Primary Health Care
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SP	Syrian Pound
SPC	State Planning Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNTA	United Nations Regular Program for Technical Assistance
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
WID	Women in Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Program
WGU	Women's General Union

1. Basic Profile

1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile						Ref.
Economic Indicators	GNP/Capita	Growth rate of real GDP		Inflation rate*	Gini coefficient*	
	US\$1120	7.4%(90-95)		16.0%	NA	1)
Public Sector(91-'95)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others	
Expenditure to sectors	2.0%	9.0%	2.0%	35.2%	51.5%	1)
Population(1996)	Total	% of urban popu.	Population growth rate(90-'95)			
	Total	14.57million	53.0%		3.2%	1)
	Women	49.8%				
Industry/GDP	Agriculture	Industry(Manufacture/Industry)		Service		
	NA	NA(NA)		NA		1)
Proportion of workers(90)	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Aid/GNP(1994)		
	Total	34%	24%	42%	5.3%	1)
	Women	NA	NA	NA		1)
Labour Indicators	Total No.	Unemployment R.	Minimum wage	Women/Total*		
	Total	4million	1.9%	NA	20.6%	2)3)
	Women	26%	4.9%	NA		3)
Decision-making	Women/Total			Women/Total(1991年)		2)
	Member of parliament	9.6%		Managers	NA	2)
	Ministries(1995)	7.2%		Technicians	NA	2)
	Deputy ministries(95)	2.0%				2)
Law for women		Year	Details			
	Inheritance Law	not yet	NA			
Ratification and signature of international law for women			Ratification	Year		
	CEDAW		Yes	NA		3)
Policy of WID	National Population Policy includes the targets related with women's education and health.					3)
Governmental organization of WID						
	National Machinery		Women's General Union			3)
			NA			3)

References

- 1) World Bank, World Development Report 1997, 1997
- 2) UNDP, Human Development Report 1997, 1997
- 3) Orient Sustainable Development (O.S.D.), Country Profile on Women in Development, Syria 1998

*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.13)

1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile					Ref.
Life expectancy(1996)	Male 64.47 Female 68.05		Population growth rate	3.2%(90-95)	2)3)
Expansion of health service	861 persons /Doctor		673 persons/Nurse and Midwife		3)
Government expenditure to health (% of GDP '90)	NA				1)
Infant mortality rate(per1,000)*			% of the vaccinated	1-year-old children	4)
Total	28(1996)		BCG(90-95)	100%	4)
Female	NA		DPT(90-95)	96%	4)
Under-5 mortality rate(per1,000)*			Polio(90-95)	96%	4)
Total	34(1996)		Measles(90-95)	96%	4)
Family planning	Contraceptive rate(90-97)	21%	Total fertility rate(1993)*	4.2	3)
Births attendance rate*	67%		Age at first marriage	Male 30, Female 20	3)
Maternal anemia rate*	NA		% of infants with low birth weight	11%(90-94)	2)
Maternal mortality rate	180 persons per 0.1million				2)
Nutrition			Oral rehydration therapy use rate	36%	4)
Iodine deficiency	households consuming iodized salt	NA	Malnutrition(90-96)	12%,infant under 5	2)4)
Community health service(90-96)					
Access to safe water	urban95 % rural 77%	Access to adequate sanitation	urban96 %rural31%		4)
HIV/AIDS	HIV infected		AIDS cases		1)
Statistics(1995)	NA		NA		

1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile					Ref.
Education system	Compulsory education(6 year), Primary education(6 year)				5)
Public expenditure on education	NA				5)
% of GNP(1995)	NA				5)
Illiteracy rate(1995)	Total 29.2%, Male14.3%, Female44.3%				3)
by region	Illiteracy rate of women in rural area is high				
Primary education(93-97)	Net enrollment ratio		% of completion		
Male	95%		NA		5)
Female	87%		NA		5)
<Educational Issues>	Expansion is needed in accordance with population growth.				
Secondary education(93)	Net enrollment ratio*		% of completion		
Male	41%		NA		3)5)
Female	37%		NA		3)5)
<Educational Issues>	Improvement of gender disparity in enrolment ratio				
Higher education(93)	Enrollment ratio		Technical Education/Higher Education		
Total	NA		agriculture	39%	3)
Female	39%		engineer	39%	3)
			medicine	38%	3)

References

- 1)UNDP,Human Development Report1997,1997
- 2)World Bank,World Development Report1997,1997
- 3)Orient Sustainable Development(O.S.D.),Country Profile on Women in Development,Syria1998
- 4)UNICEF,The State of the World's Children,1998
- 5)UNESCO,World Education Report,1993, UNICEF Publishing

*Refer to 7. Definitions (p.13)

2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender

2-1 General Situation of Women

General Situation of Women

-Total fertility rate in 1996 is 4.2. Population increase rate is 3.2%('90-'95). National population policy attempts to decrease population increase rate down to 2.5%.
-Syrian women participate in cultural, social and political activity. Female rate of minister in 1995 is 7.2%, vice-minister, 2.0%, national parliamentarian 9.6%(1996).
-Net enrollment ratio of primary education is male 95%, female 87%. Net enrollment ratio of secondary education, male 41%, female 37%, shows a gender disparity.

Syria is Socialist Republics. GNP per capita is 1,120 US\$('95). Real GDP rate is 7.4%(1990-1995) (World Bank,1997). Government expenditure (1991-1995) is defense 35.2%, health 2.0%, education 9.0%, social welfare 2.0% (World Bank,1997). The dependency ratio on foreign aid in GNP is 5.3%(1994) (World Bank,1997). Total population is 14.57 million (1996), Female accounts for 49.8%. Population increase rate(1990-1995) is 3.2%. National population growth rate is 2.5%. Total fertility rate is 4.2. Although contraceptive is regarded as illegal, national population policy is conducting various contraceptive method(O.S.D.,1998). Urban population rate is 53%(World Bank,1997).

34% of labour population are engaged in agriculture. The percentage of labour population in industry sector of total population is 24%, service sector 42%(World Bank,1997). Total labor population is 4 million, and female labour accounts for 26.0% (World Bank,1997). Syria is one of the countries which enforces the equal wage for equal job. The overall unemployment rate is 1.9%, and female unemployment rate is 4.9% (O.S.D.,1998). The government guarantees the various rights for women's active participation in politics, society, education and economic field by labour laws. The law enforces equal employment opportunity for men and women. The working mother could take 75 paid days off right after her giving birth to a child. Also she could take one month off with paid salary and get more one month unpaid off. Lactating mother could take one hour off everyday during one year after giving birth to them(O.S.D.,1998).

Syrian constitution guarantees the gender equality. In Syrian constitution, there is a article to promote participation of labour, education, and politics. In 1963, after March Revolution, more after in 1970, movements increase rapidly. National policy contributes women's education and participation in public activities (Kokusai Kyouryoku Jigyoudan,1995). Women's General Union as National Machinery monitors the activities in accordance with the Beijing Platform and submits the report on the prerequisite items for project formulation and implementation to Parliament with National Committee on Women(WEDO,1998). There are WGU branches at regional level. WID related Budget is 0.12% of total government expenditure(O.S.D.,1998) According to the polls after Beijing Conference, the consciousness of civil society has been improved(WEDO,1998).

Both male and female have the right of voting and voted. There are many women who become politician, bureaucrat, diplomat and lawyer. The opportunity of employment of police and army which have confidential information, are open to female. In rural area, women become teachers as traditional job (Kokusai Kyouryoku Jigyoudan,1995). Female ratio of minister in 1995 is 7.2%, vice minister 2.0% (UNDP,1997). Parliamentarian is 9.6% in 1996(O.S.D.,1998). The ratio of female in chamber of commerce is 3.1%, chamber of industry 2.75%, chamber of agriculture 4.15%. Female lawyer account for 14.9%(O.S.D.,1998).

Illiteracy rate in 1995, is 29.2%(male 14.3%, female 44.3%). Female illiteracy rate is high(UNESCO,1998). Net enrollment ratio of primary education is male 95%, female 87%. Net enrollment ratio of secondary education is male 41%, female 37%. Thinking and concept on women are varied from rural to urban. In the rural area, it is traditional in contrast to modern in the urban area. New thinking is easy to be accepted in urban area(O.S.D.,1998). 85% of population is Islamic, the rest of the populations Christian 13%. Ethnic composition is Arabian 85%, Armenian 5%, Kurd 8-10%, Palestine (registered refugee 0.32 million). Public language is Arabic. Kurd, Armenia and Alum are minority languages

2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

Government Policy on WID/Gender

- Government gives priority to the women's issue, and implement programs to realize the gender equality.
- In Syrian constitution, there is a article to promote participation of labour, education and politics.
- Government reforms policy on education and health, and promoting amendment of the inheritance law
- Women's General Union as National Machinery monitors the activities after the Beijing Conference with National Committee on Women.

[Constitution]

Syrian constitution guarantees the gender equality. In Syrian constitution, there is a article to promote participation of labour, education, and politics as follows(O.S.D.,1998).

Description on Gender Equality in Syrian Constitution

No.36	Working is a right and duty for every person and the government is responsible to provide jobs for everybody and give them adequate salaries according to their type of work.
No.37	Government provides free education at all levels and primary is obligatory.
No.45	Government provides women with all job opportunities which enable her to participate actively in political, social, education and economic fields and removes all the hindrances when women work
No.56	The working mother could take 75 paid days off right after her giving birth to a child and could take one month off with paid salary and more one month unpaid. Nursing women could get one hour off daily for nursing her child under one year old.

Source: O.S.D.,1998

[Female Social Participation and National Development]

In 1950, women got the right of voting. In year of 1953, a lot of women were nominated for the parliament. In 1963, after March Revolution, more after in 1970, movements increase rapidly. National policy contributes women's education and participation in public activities(Kokusai Kyouryoku Jigyoudan,1995).

Women's General Union as National Machinery monitors the activities in accordance with the Beijing Platform and submit the report on the prerequisite items for project formulation and implementation to parliament with National Committee on Women(WEDO,1998).

According to the proposal of women's organization, amendment of law is under progress. Reinforcement of health service for women's farmers and housewives, implementation of financial service for female entrepreneur, access to education and ensuring of educational advantage for the future has been conducted(WEDO,1998).

[Target of National Population Policy]

National population policy includes target of women's education and health(O.S.D.,1998).

- to decrease population increase rate from 3.3% in 1995 down to 2.5% by 2015.
- to reduce maternity mortality rate 105 per 0.1 million down to 75 by 2015.
- to decrease infant mortality rate 32 down to 20 by 2015.
- to increase contraceptive prevalence rate from 40% in 1995 up to 64% by 2015. In that case, the various contraceptive method will be utilized.
- to increase female economic activities (employment) from 16.6% to 26% by the year 2015.
- to reduce female illiteracy from 31% down to 13% by 2015.
- to extend compulsory education to 9 years for both gender

[Beijing Platform]

NGO has been engaged in literacy education, expansion of health service, advancement to professional job, participation in political activities through National Committee on Women. Polls After Beijing Conference shows that civil society will increase the consciousness towards action platform. (WEDO,1998).

[Development Related Organization and Activities]

There are major social development organizations such as General Union of Farmers, Red Crescent Society, Syrian Family Planning Society. The activity profiles are as follows(O.S.D.,1998).

Organizations	Contents
General Union of Farmers	General Union of Farmers will attempt to improve the women's socio-economic standard. The registered women account for 75% in 1993.
Red Crescent Society	Red Crescent Society are implementing Children and Mother Care Programmes.
Syrian Family Planning Society	Syrian Family Planning Society is conducting the activities as the same like International Union of Family Planning, and promoting birth planning to avoid abortion.

Source: O.S.D.,1998

2-3 National Machinery

Women's General Union, WGU

- Women's General Union(WGU) is the government organization to promote women's participation in development.
- Budget on WID shares 0.12% of government expenditure.
- Occupation of WGU member is housewives 59.8%, teachers and employees 13.4%, farmers 6%.
- WGU monitors the activities in accordance with Beijing Platform, and submit the report on prerequisite items on female related programme and implementation to the Parliament with National Committee on Women.

[Organization]

Women's activities spearheaded by WGU are deeply related with national activities on politics and society. It has 1413 branch offices at all the national level. And there are 27 communities in urban area, 87 in rural area. They support government programmes at all level. The number of WGU member is 179,501 in 1993. Occupation of WGU member is housewives 59.8%, teachers and employees 13.4%, farmers 6%(O.S.D.,1998).

Occupation of WGU Members		Educational Background of WGU Members	
Occupation	Ratio	Education	Ratio
Housewives	59.8%	Illiterate	9.3%
Teachers · Employees	13.4%	Literate	17.2%
Farmers	6%	Primary	30%
Others	20.8%	Secondary	30.4%
		University	4.19%
		Others	8.91%

Source:Work Development In the General Women Union(1985-1993)and its Future Plans,O.S.D.,1998

[Activities]

WGU has been conducting various projects such as basic mother and child care, health education, reading and writing course, technical training and making the products for women's economic activities.

3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

3-1 Education

Education

It is a task ahead to expand the education in accordance with the high rate of population increase and improve the literacy education and higher education.

【General Situation】

Education is obligatory to children more than 8 year old and textbooks are provided free. Primary education is 6 years as compulsory education, lower secondary education, 3 years, and higher secondary education, 3 years. Lower secondary education and higher secondary education is divided into two courses, that is, general course for university entrance examination and vocational course. Syrian education is regarded that educational system is fairly good. However, it is not enough due to the high population increase. It is a task ahead to expand literacy education, and improve higher education (O.S.D.,1998).

【Literacy Education】

Illiteracy rate in 1995, is 29.2%(male14.3%, female44.3%). Female illiteracy rate is high(UNESCO,1998). Education policy focuses on extension of literacy education for the illiterate. About 40 % of rural women is illiterate (O.S.D.,1998).

Education Level	Urban Men	Urban Women	Rural Men	Rural Women
Illiteracy	8.4	22.9	12.3	39.4
Literacy	25.5	22.2	31.1	26.6
Primary Education	33.3	27.5	33	22.5
Preparatory School	14	13.3	11	6.8
Secondary School	9.9	7.8	1.8	2.6
University	5.2	2.3	2.6	0.3
College	3.7	4	3.4	1.7

Source: Mohammed Kamal Al-Jajeh, 1995, O.S.D., 1998

【Elementary · Lower Secondary · Higher Secondary Education】

Net enrollment ratio of primary school is male 95%, female 87%. Net enrollment ratio of secondary education is male 41%, female 37% and it shows gender disparity (UNESCO,1998). Female ratio of university graduate is 39% (O.S.D.,1998).

Department	Male	Female	Female Ratio (Male:1.00)
Human Science	1,270	2,510	1.97
Law	1,546	1,375	0.88
Economy and Trade	877	580	0.66
Education	98	189	1.92
Agriculture	488	190	0.38
Biology	671	727	1.08
Medicine	847	316	0.37
Dentistry	549	221	0.40
Pharmacy	196	204	1.04
Veterinary	139	10	0.07
Theology	201	132	0.65
Engineering	2,462	961	0.39
Fine Arts	35	34	0.97
Total	9,379	7,449	0.79

Source: The Group of the Economic & Social Committee of West Asia Region- Edition No.17 United Nations- New York, 1997, O.S.D., 1998

Health

-Iodine deficiency rate of children is high at national level. 90% of children suffer from the deficiency. -Contraception is illegal in Syria. Expansion of family planning is not enough. Total fertility rate in 1996 is 4.2. Population increase rate is high, 3.2%('90-'95).

【Policy】

Policy of medical health is based on the medical health plan which is a part of the comprehensive social economic plan. Major objectives areas follows, 1) to achieve the target 'health for all by the year 2000' by providing the appropriate medical and health service, 2) to provide people with service of treatment, prevention and rehabilitation through the building of the PHC system. In 1995, National Population policy is issued (Kokusai Kyouryoku Jigyoudan, 1995). Staffs of Ministry of Health who undertake health and medical administration, is gender equal. The number of men and women is the same.

【General Health Situation】

Life expectancy rate at birth is 66.3 (Male 64.47, Female 68.05). The extension rate of service of health and medicine, is high in terms of income standard. Population per one doctor is 861, population per one nurse and midwife 673 (UNICEF, 1998). The access to safe water is urban 95%, rural 77%, and sanitation facility is urban 96%, rural 31% (UNDP, 1997).

【Nutrition/MCH】

Birth attendance rate is 67% (90-97). Low birth rate is 11%, Maternal mortality rate is 180 per 0.1 million. Percentage of the vaccinated for one-year-old infant ('90-'95) is high, BCG 100%, DPT 96%, Polio 96%, Measles 95% (UNICEF, 1998). Career of C-type hepatitis of infant account for 5 to 6% (Kokusai Kyouryoku Jigyoudan, 1995). Compared to the Arab countries, the nutritious situation shows average level. However, due to the shortage of iodine in the soil, disease related with iodine deficiency occur. Targets of the improvement of nutrition by the year 2000 are as follows. 1) to reduce the children under five year old of medium malnutrition down to 50% and solve the serious malnutrition, 2) low birth rate down to less than 10%. 3) to reduce female iron deficiency anemia down to two thirds of 1990, 4) to reduce iodine deficiency rate down to less than 50% and solve serious malnutrition, 5) to reduce deficiency of vitamin A, 6) to increase the ratio of lactating mother up to 100%, let mother lactate baby up until 6 month baby, and after 6 month, give supplementary food to baby, 7) to monitor the growth of child, 8) in order to meet the demand of food for infants and lactating mothers, local food will increase to be produced in local area, 9) to provide the prenatal care, paying attention to pregnant and lactating women. As a countermeasures of iodine deficiency, since 1992, programme of production and providing the iodized salt, has been implemented (Kokusai Kyouryoku Jigyoudan, 1995).

【Family Planning】

Contraception is illegal in Syria. Expansion of family planning is not enough. Total fertility rate in 1996 is 4.2. Population increase rate is high, 3.2% ('90-'95). The average percentage of people those who have received MCH service in 1994 is 16%. They are varied from region to region, 8 to 35% (O.S.D., 1998).

Reason Why the Married not Use Contraceptives

Reason	Urban	Rural	Total
Want More Child	45.0	50.4	48.2
Close of Menstruation/ Inability of Pregnancy	10.5	8.0	9.0
Opposed/Don't Want to Use	14.2	18.1	16.5
Side-Effect	8.5	6.5	7.3
Religion	4.8	3.8	4.2
Cost	0.3	0.7	0.5
Shortage of Information	1.1	1.9	1.5
Destiny	7.5	4.6	5.8
Inconvenient	3.4	3.2	3.3
Others · No Answer	4.7	2.9	3.7

Total(Number of Sampling)	100.0(744)	100.1(1029)	100.0(1773)
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Source:PAPCHILD,Country Summary Sheets, PAPCHILD,1994,O.S.D.,1998

(HIV/AIDS/STD)

Extinction of AIDS programme has been implemented by WHO since 1986. The contents are that the rate of the infectious of the target group was surveillanced, and the donation of blood was watched in more comprehensive way, media was utilized by health education and the tourist and foreign labour was controlled by rules and regulations(O.S.D.,1998).

3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

- Owing to the agriculture modernization, women's burden was lessen because of machinery introduction in agriculture work and housework.
- Ministry of Agriculture has Agriculture Guidance Units for rural women. Trainers have taken course in food production such as sheep, cow, food, and then go back to own country and teach them.
- In recent years, government has been preparing amendment of inheritance law in accordance with women's organization.

(General Situation)

The weather is dry, and the amount of rain is little. Furthermore, the condition is varied from region to region. The government has strengthened to get agriculture water by construction of hydro power station, and improvement of irrigation facility in order not to depends on the rain. However, the water problem has been not yet solved. Women engage in agriculture work in addition to housework and taking care of child. Owing to the agriculture modernization, women's burden was lessen because of machinery introduction(O.S.D.,1998).

The ratio of labour population in agriculture is 34% (World Bank,1997). The ratio of male farmers in agriculture population decreased due to the migrant to urban area(O.S.D.,1998). Few women who has engaged in forestry and fisheries. Therefore, information of these field is limited(O.S.D.,1998).

(Laws)

Labour law in 1959 prohibits rural women from work at night, except the period of time of the harvesting and picking up tobacco. The working mother could take 75 paid days off right after her giving birth to a child. Also she could take one month off with paid salary and she get more one month unpaid off. After the day off with salary, lactating mothers are allowed to have one hour per one day for giving milk to their babies(Suad Akaf,1995,O.S.D.,1998).

(Land Ownership)

Syrian law guarantees that the women could inherit agriculture farm. However, it is a rare case for women to have land. In recent years, government has been preparing amendment of inheritance law in accordance with women's organization(O.S.D.,1998).

(Project Targeted for Rural Women)

Since 1980, in order to improve the situation and status of rural women, programme targeted for women has been implementing. Women who take courses at university for guidance for rural women, are increasing. Ministry of Agriculture has 828 Agriculture Guidance Units for rural women. Trainers have taken courses in food production such as sheep, cow, food, and then go back to own country and teach them (O.S.D.,1998).

Household survey on agricultural input or his family members which the guidance will be provided has significant meaning. Based on household survey, the guidance for women will be conducted. In the guidance knowledge on how to sew clothes and some handicrafts for their children and how to take care of the house gardens are included(O.S.D.,1998). Agricultural Guidance Directorate in Ministry of Agriculture disseminate books about the Silk Worm in 1994, the Way of Poultry in 1994, the Way of Taking Care of Rabbits in 1993, Know Your Food in 1995, House Garden in 1991, Right Motherhood in 1995 (O.S.D.,1998).

[Organizations of Rural Women]

Percentage of female members of General Union of Farmers are 75% in 1993. General Union of Farmers have objectives for improvement of socio-economic quality of life for rural women. (O.S.D.,1998).

3-4 Economic Activities

Economic Activities

- Syria is one of the countries which enforces equal wage for equal job for both gender. The working women shares 26% of labour market. The overall unemployment rate is 1.9%, and female unemployment rate is 4.9%. The government guarantees the various rights for women's active participation in politics, society, education and economic field by labour laws.
- Ratio of urban population is 53% (World Bank,1997). Recently, the migrants from rural to urban are increasing. Male migrants are increasing.

[Employment Situation]

Total labor population is 4 million, and female labour accounts for 26.0% (World Bank,1997). The overall unemployment rate is 1.9%, and female unemployment rate is 4.9% (O.S.D.,1998).The percentage of labour population in industry sector of total population is 24%, service sector 42%(World Bank,1997).

Female entrepreneur in mining and industry sector shares only 0.63%. The number of female business owner is 371(O.S.D.,1998). Syria is one of the countries which enforces equal wage for equal job for both gender. Aside from public sector, male wage in mining and industry sector is higher than that of female. Employers prefer to employ men because female ought to have more paid holiday, and it is regarded that men work more than women(O.S.D.,1998). Working at night is not allowed by law. Therefore, the female employment opportunity become fewer and fewer. There is a shortage of training opportunity for women who engage in excavation of resources. It is difficult for female to find housing facility as the same like men. Therefore, the women in excavation of resources is limited (O.S.D.,1998).

[Urbanization]

Ratio of urban population is 53% (World Bank,1997). Recently, the migrants from rural to urban are increasing(O.S.D.,1998).

[Technical - Vocational Education]

The percentage of women who have primary certificate is 52.3% in the mining sector, 88.5% in industrial sector. In recent years, female students who enroll applied industries in the college supported by Ministry of Industry are increasing(O.S.D.,1998).

Female Ratio of Applied Industries in the College Supported by Ministry of Industry

Year	% of Female
1990/1991	25.77
1991/1992	18.82
1992/1993	30.52
1993/1994	37.23
1994/1995	38.23
1995/1996	40.96

Source:Abdul Latif Zarnajl,1995, O.S.D.,1998

[Support for Working Women]

The government guarantees the various rights for women's active participation in politics, society, education and economic field by labour laws. The law enforces equal employment opportunity for men and women. The working women shares 26% of labour market. The working mother could take 75 paid days off right after her giving birth to a child. Also she could take one month off with paid salary and she get more one month unpaid off(O.S.D.,1998).

4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Title	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Content
<General>				
Follow up of Woman Conference-Beijing	Ministry of Social Affairs & Work	Arab League	25-29/9/96	The Arab Meeting to develop a united Arabic programme as a result of the International Programme of the International Woman Conference -Send 2 experts to Amman-Jordan
Woman Habitation	Ministry of Social Affairs & Work	UNO	20-22/5/96	The Regional Arab Forum about the Human Development -Send an expert to Tunisia
Child Rights Convention	Ministry of Social Affairs & Work	UNICEF	11-13/9/96	Workshop of expertise exchange about the child rights and the preparation and discussion of reports -Send an expert to New Delhi
<Health>				
Reproductive Health Improvement	Ministry of Health	Population Funds	1997-2000	Considering the Reproductive Health and Family Planning Prospect
Family Planning	Syrian Family Planning Society	IPPF	1996-1998	Reproductivity Health and Family Planning Prospect Programme
<Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining and Industry>				
Raise the Economic Contribution of Women	Ministry of Social Affairs & Work	ALO	23-26/9/1996	Arab Regional Programme for Work Administration and its Role in Protecting Women and Raise her Contribution in the Economic Activity

5. WID/Gender Information Sources

5-1 List of International Organisations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

[International Agency]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar Director of Administrative Council of Syrian Red Crescent Organisation		Tel.4429663

[Governmental Organisation]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
General Women's Union		Tel.963-11-333-8584 Fax:963-11-333-8446
Ahmad Mazhar Saado International Relations Director in the Ministry of Work		Tel.7778808
Mrs. Nafir Eskandar Secretary of International Relations Office in the Woman Union		Tel.3332077
Mrs. Mary Rose Miro Library Official of the Central Bank		Tel.5429630
Dr. Rim Dahan The Dep. Manager of Reproductive Health in the Health Ministry		Tel.6131390

M.Zuhair Darweesh - Agricultural Guidance Director in Ministry of Agriculture		Tel.2235898
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[NGO]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
Samim Al-Sharif :Director Syrian Family Planning Society		Tel.2230871
Eng.Lina Abdoh: Educational Advisor of the Christian Youth		Tel.5419903
Dr.Majidah Khouri Expert of Syria Woman Health Affairs		Tel.2315392

5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender

[Socio-Gender Analysis]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Syrian Women Present and Future 1985-1995,-A Study Submitted to Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth International Women Conference 1995	Samir Abdoh	1995	Queen Alia Funds&ESCWA Amman-Jordan

[Women in General]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
National Forum of Development and Use of Human Resources in Syria	Ministry of Social Affairs and Work, International Work Organization,	1993	Ministry of Social Affairs and Work, International Work Organization

[Health]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Workshop of Syrian Arab Women Prospects	Syrian Family Planning Society	1995	Syrian Family Planning Society

[Mining and Industry]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Guide of Economical Rural Domestic Manager		1998	Ministry of Agriculture
Developing and Improving Special Information System for the Labor Market in Syria		NA	Ministry of Social Affairs and Work, International Work Organization

[Other]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
National Forum of the First Stage Results to the Labor Market Survey	Ministry of Social Affairs and Work, International Work Organization,	1997	Ministry of Social Affairs and Work, International Work Organization,
Statistics		1997	Central Statistics Bureau

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Workshop of Syrian Arab Women Prospects, Damascus
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Work, International Work Organization, 1997
Developing and Improving Special Information System for the Labor Market in Syria Damascus
- Samir Abdoh, 1995
The Syrian Women Present and Future 1985-1995, -A Study Submitted to Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth International Women Conference 1995 Queen Alia Funds & ESCWA Amman-Jordan
- Ministry of Agriculture, 1998
Guide of Economical Rural Domestic Manager, Damascus

7. Definition

<Technical Terms>

Gender

Analytical concept to clarify the social rôle of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender implying the role of men and women and their interrelationship is likely to change according to social notion and sense of values.

Informal sector

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

WID (Women in Development)

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into development processes, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

Reproductive health/rights

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to live safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom to decide whether, when and how many children to deliver.

National machinery

Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

Empowerment

To empower individuals or groups in political, economical and social sense

Affirmative action

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the difference, in the case that discriminated groups are placed in extremely unequal conditions to other groups, due to the discrimination accumulated in the past

Access and control

Access is to be able to use resources and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. Control is a right to decide how to manage resources and services or to own them.

Reproductive activity

Activity to "reproduce for the next generation" including to give a birth and raise the children, and to sustain the daily life, for instance, washing and cooking

<Indicators>

Inflation rate

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

Gini coefficient

Aggregate numerical measure of income inequality ranging from 0 to 1. 0 means perfect equality, and 1 perfect inequality. Larger than 0.4 are supposed to be high inequality.

Percentage of Women's Income

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

Total fertility rate

Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life

Under-one mortality rate

Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth

Under-five mortality rate

Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after the birth among

Maternal mortality rate

Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery because of pregnancy

Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel

The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel, or trained traditional midwives

Percentage of infants with low birth weight

The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate

The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for under-five infants having diarrhea

Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school

Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school age against the people at the school age.