



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development



International Institute  
for Nonviolent Action

## Social Peace & Cohesion



## Jordanian women In the context of conflict prevention and resolution A Pilot Household Survey - November 2019

In collaboration with the ACCD



Agència Catalana  
de Cooperació  
al Desenvolupament



**ARDD**

النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

**JORDANIAN WOMEN  
IN THE CONTEXT OF CONFLICT PREVENTION  
AND RESOLUTION**

**A Pilot Household Survey  
November 2019**

## Table of Contents

<b>About ARDD and NOVACT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A. Background</b>	<b>7</b>
a. Survey Design	9
b. Survey Methodology	11
c. Demographics of Survey Participants	12
<b>B. Survey Findings and Outcomes</b>	<b>12</b>
a. Section I: Satisfaction in life	12
b. Section II: Perceptions of Problems facing women in Jordan	15
c. Section III: Work and employment status	16
d. Section IV: Public/civic engagement	18
e. Section V: Social relationships	19
f. Section VI: Religiosity	21
g. Section VII: Financial inclusion/independence	21
h. Section VIII: Social violence/injustice	22
i. Section IX: Social media and Internet consumption	24
<b>C. Recommendations</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>D. Conclusion</b>	<b>26</b>

---

## About ARDD and NOVACT

### Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD)

Founded in 2008 in Amman-Jordan, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) is a Civil Society Organization seeking to foster transformative change towards an empowered, resilient and just society in Jordan and the Arab World. ARDD supports marginalized individuals and communities—including refugees and migrants—in acquiring and enjoying their social, political and economic rights, through legal aid, psychosocial support, media and grassroots mobilization, and research and advocacy to raise stakeholders' awareness locally, regionally and internationally about the challenges that vulnerable persons face in Jordan and the Arab Region.

**International Institute for Nonviolent Action - NOVACT** International Institute for Nonviolent Action, is an international organization which promotes social transformation processes based on human rights, justice and democracy in the Euro-Mediterranean region. For over 15 years dedicated to research, scope, and international cooperation, NOVACT has contributed to generating bridges among social movements, academics and institutions.

### About this research

"This research comes as part of the project entitled "INDICASERE. Research, Capacity building, Awareness and Resilience of the Syrian host communities," conducted by Arab Renaissance for Democracy Development ARDD, in cooperation with NOVACT, International Institute for Nonviolent Action, and funded by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)."



**Agència Catalana  
de Cooperació  
al Desenvolupament**

"The content of this report is exclusive responsibility of ARDD and does not necessarily reflects the opinion of ACCD"



## Executive Summary

Empowerment of women and equality between women and men are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all peoples. To this end, Governments, the international community and civil society, including NGO's and the private sector, all have a role to play in taking strategic action in order to address various issues relating to the status of women.

In the context of diagnosing and investigating the prevention of violent extremism and the resolution of conflicts, peace building and social cohesion, ARDD undertook methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis in three targeted areas: Zarqa, East Amman and Karak. The research was designed under the overall premise of establishing evidence-based knowledge on the status of women's perceptions of their role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts within their communities. Specifically, the research focuses on better understanding the gendered ways of experiencing and dealing with societal grievances, and the ways that these challenges play a role in the production or perpetuation of violence in these areas .

As an initial qualitative needs assessment prior to the survey, ARDD held focus group discussions in the three localities (Zarqa, East Amman and Karak). This was done to frame the formulation of research and the discussions focused on the role of women in combating violence and conflict resolution in their communities. These discussions heeded a great deal of insight into the mindsets of women in these communities, which included reflections on subjects such as economic challenges, the negative stereotyping of women, environmental factors that contribute to conflict or violence, and the interplay of power relations and dynamics on various levels.

The quantitative component of the research was centered on a survey that aimed to establish how women in Jordan are enabled to or deterred from playing a positive role in conflict resolution, home and community peace building, and social resilience/cohesion within the context of the prevention of violent extremism (PVE). This survey is the primary source for this report, and was designed to establish the vulnerabilities of Jordanian women through the quantitative measuring of internationally recognized indicators, best practices, and factors affecting quality of life. These factors are, primarily: social Relationships and social participation, mental and physical health, emotional wellbeing and inner contentment, bodily integrity, work, meaningful daily activities, feeling of self-worth, economy and resources, financial material wellbeing, independence, sense of belonging, personal safety, quality of environment, home and local community, laws and policies, culture and societal attitudes, and beliefs. It was conducted through a household survey among a pilot sample of 1228 single and married women ages 15-49 in East Amman, Zarqa and Karak.

The analysis of survey results, as presented within this report, is distributed in accordance with nine main themes or sections. These are:

- Section I: Satisfaction in life
- Section II: Perceptions of problems facing women in Jordan
- Section III: Work and employment status
- Section IV: Public/civic engagement
- Section V: Social relationships
- Section VI: Religiosity
- Section VII: Financial inclusion/independence
- Section VIII: Social violence/injustice
- Section IX: Social media and Internet consumption

While there is recognition of the detailed results from each of these sections as significant, from a macro perspective, and in terms of the conditions or instances that contribute to various forms of violence, injustice, or conflict within Jordanian society, an **overwhelming majority** of the women surveyed believed the following to be major contributors:

- Economic factors: Lack of employment opportunities; poor income; widening gap between poor and rich; nepotism
- Religious factors: Noncompliance with true teachings of religion; religious misinterpretation at schools
- Social factors: Lack of acceptance & diversity; hate speech
- Relational factors: Family dysfunctions; family disintegration; domestic violence

Ultimately, the perceptions that were shared by the women who partook in the survey shed light on the issues faced by the women in these communities, and clearly reflected various manifestations of women exclusion, harassment, male dominance and discrimination in general within household, economy and society. Some of the main findings, as indicated through the survey include:

- Surveyed women in the three designated districts, East Amman, Zarqa and Karak, rated positively the factors of safety and health, and to a slightly lesser degree, housing and quality of life. However, living standards were negatively rated.
- In stark contrast to relatively positive feelings of satisfaction towards health, safety, housing and quality of life, when asked whether women were enabled to 'realize their ambitions in life,' an overwhelmingly negative perception was shared.
- As reflected through the survey, women's civic and public engagement is low. Further, in discussions related to politics, female members of the family and community are often perceived as irrelevant.

- Women's social relationships, and by default support base, are much stronger with their female counterparts.
- In terms of interaction with religious figures, a stronger relationship is claimed with 'women preachers', but when it comes to a personal counsel as a matter of trust and confidence, these women preachers are not perceived as a main source of support.

Ultimately, the report concludes that in order to facilitate an enabling environment for women to play an instrumental role in conflict resolution, peace building, and violence prevention efforts by the State, civil society and non-governmental organizations are needed in order to build alliances and consensus and facilitate joint action towards. This includes access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making. In order to do this – and in line with the findings – the following are the key recommendations of this report:

- Enhancing the confidence between women and how they perceive themselves;
- Challenging stereotypes relating to the role of women in society;
- Highlighting the role of women in social cohesion and peace-building;
- Recognizing the role of the media in highlighting the role of women in peace-building;
- Utilizing the potential of social media as vital to spreading messages and raising awareness;
- Strengthening the role of CBOs and NGOs in facilitating various aspects of gender justice;
- Identifying economic and political empowerment as essential to reducing all forms of violence.

The results of this survey, its related activities, and the key recommendations can be used as an informative resource in relation to key advocacy messaging and strategic direction on behalf of various stakeholders, especially civil society organizations.

## A. Background

The Jordanian government has taken several steps towards enhancing and expanding the role of women in peace-building. A primary example of this is the (2018-2021) Jordanian National Action Plan (JONAP), which aims to advance the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325), and its subsequent resolutions. This National Action Plan was developed to respond to the political and security related developments and is in line with “Jordan’s commitments to promote and respect human rights, justice, equality and participation—all of which are embodied in various national frameworks, such as The National Strategy for Jordanian Women (2013-2017) and The Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights (2016-2025).”<sup>1</sup>

This research comes as part of the project entitled “INDICASERE - Research, Capacity building, Awareness and Resilience of the Syrian host communities,” conducted by Arab Renaissance for Democracy Development ARDD, in cooperation with the International Institute for Nonviolent Action (NOVACT) and funded by the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD).

The research aims at establishing evidence-based knowledge on the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Jordan, focusing on better understanding the gendered ways of experiencing and dealing with societal grievances, and their role in violence in these areas.

As an initial needs assessment prior to the survey, ARDD held focus group discussions in the three localities. This was done to frame the formulation of research and the discussions focused on the role of women in combating violence and conflict resolution in their communities.

In comparing the three discussions, it is evident that the problems varied according to the target area and the nationality of the participant, but overall, unemployment and lack of opportunities for women with suitable wages, especially in the private sector, were regarded as the most important factors causing conflict. For Syrian women in particular, the problem of not being able to open a commercial register or get a driving license was cited as significantly hampering their chances of a decent life. Bullying, education and tension between various groups were also cited as major concerns. Interestingly, a general perceived negative stereotype and oppression of women – especially in relation to employment and education – was communicated amongst the different groups.

Interestingly, environmental problems have also been cited as one of the challenges women face due to landfills near homes and lack of public sanitation. Participants also reflected on the interconnectedness of challenges by sharing that low income leads to smaller housing which leads to overcrowding and the exacerbation of family conflicts.

<sup>1</sup> Jordanian National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security 2021 – 2018: <https://www2.unwomen.org//media/field20%office20%jordan/images/publications/2018/jonap-202018%20%2021unscr201325%.pdf?la=en&vs=5624>



In terms of power relations and dynamics, the participants in the discussions shared a general perception of their strength to be limited due to their inability to directly confront many of the issues that they face. This inability was said to be majorly rooted in societal standards for women and the role of a woman which instilled a sense of fear in relation to challenging power dynamics.

When the role of women was discussed, and particularly women's leadership, the discussants highlighted the role of the woman in the upbringing of generations. Here, while the traditional role of the woman in the household was the point of reference, the women recognized the significant influence that they have on their communities through mothering. When women's political leadership was discussed, the participants in the discussion showed some reluctance to endorse women leaders. This signifies the need for more efficient networking and communication between women in positions of power and vulnerable communities.

Ultimately, the general objective of the research is to establish, based on evidence, how women can play a positive role in conflict resolution and peace-building in their immediate environment and community. This is primarily done through the survey, which focuses on particularly sensitive areas in terms of social cohesion in Jordan: these geographic areas covered by the survey are the regions of Zarqa, East Amman and Karak.

Specifically, the survey aimed to establish how women in Jordan are enabled to or deterred from playing positive role in conflict resolution, home and community peace building, and social resilience/cohesion within the context of the prevention of violent extremism (PVE). In addition to adopting various international references and benchmarks in the survey design, it is in line with the Jordanian government's PVE Unit's efforts towards the implementation of the aforementioned National Action Plan. In particular, the survey aligns with the JONAP, which aims to incorporate a gender-based approach in relation to women's participation prior to, throughout and in follow-up to conflicts, as well as in peace building, and preserving stability and sustainable security.

Therefore, the survey addresses the following questions:

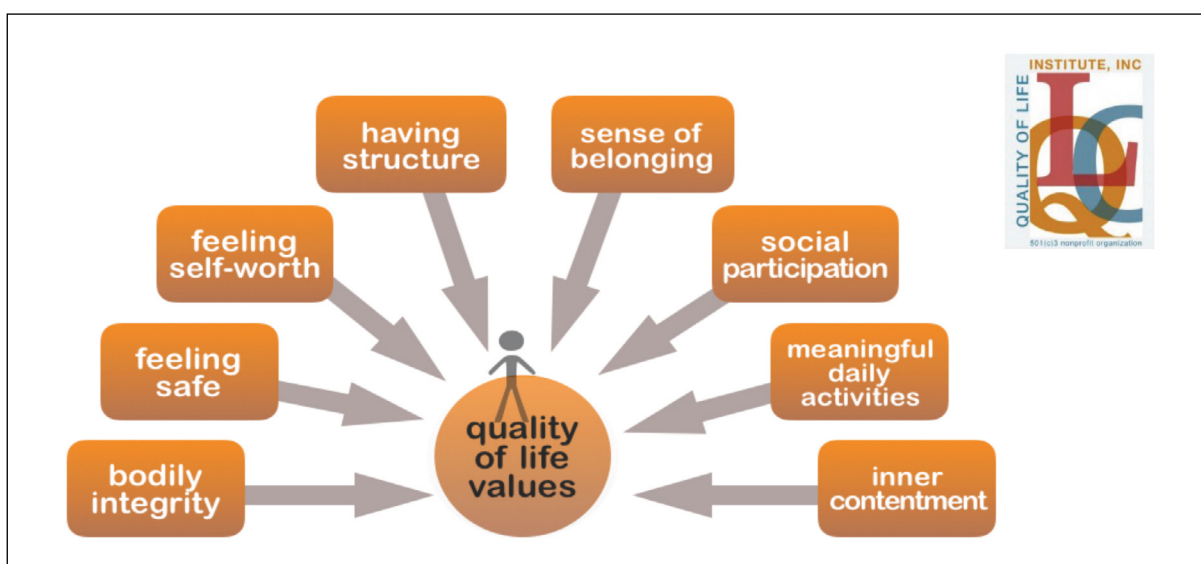
- How can women's awareness on early detection of radicalization behaviour be increased?
- How can the resilience of the woman, the family, and the community be strengthened in order to deter vulnerability to radical influences?
- How can women be prepared and supported in terms of being able to respond to potential radicalization risks of family or community members?
- How can injustices – judicial or otherwise – and discriminatory practices or policies be overcome and transformed through mobilization and alliance building?  
How can the collective memory of the family and community be preserved and rooted in human values, and diversity?

In answering these research questions, the survey aims to achieve the following:

- An enrichment of the dialogue between actors working in the field of research in PVE. Considering the recent work of several institutions, universities, UN Agencies, Jordanian Government, and CSO Actors on PVE-related projects. The survey seeks to build on the gained knowledge and expertise in the field, and to disseminate these findings among participants and relevant stakeholders.
- Establishing common grounds regarding the factors that contribute to violent extremism in Jordan and to gain a better understanding of women's roles, motivations, and attitudes in the context of VE in Jordan.
- Assessing the conditions necessary to create an enabling environment for women to play a more positive role in peace-building and conflict resolution within their immediate environments and communities.

### a. Survey design

In the survey design, we attempted to establish the vulnerabilities of Jordanian women through the quantitative measuring of internationally recognized indicators, values<sup>2</sup> (in the figure below) and best practice, and factors affecting the quality of life (detailed below). These include The Human Development Index and World happiness Report as tools for managing risks.



2 <https://qualityoflifeinstitute.org/work/quality-life-model/>

### **Top Quality of Life Indicators\_**

- Social Relationships, social participation
- Mental and physical health, emotional wellbeing and inner contentment, bodily integrity
- Work, meaningful daily activities, feeling of self-worth
- Finance, economy and resources, financial material wellbeing, and independence
- Sense of Belonging
- Personal safety, feeling safe
- Quality of environment
- Home and local community
- Laws and policies
- Culture and societal attitudes, and beliefs

### **The Happiness/Satisfaction Index\_**

- Economic livelihood
- Health provisions for her and her family
- Social support
- Freedom to make choices
- Positive affect is defined as the average of previous-day affect measures for happiness, laughter and enjoyment.
- Negative affect is defined as the average of previous-day affect measures for worry, sadness and anger

## b. Survey Methodology

FACE TO FACE household survey among a pilot sample of Jordanian single and married women ages 15-49 (Breakdown in Demographics page).

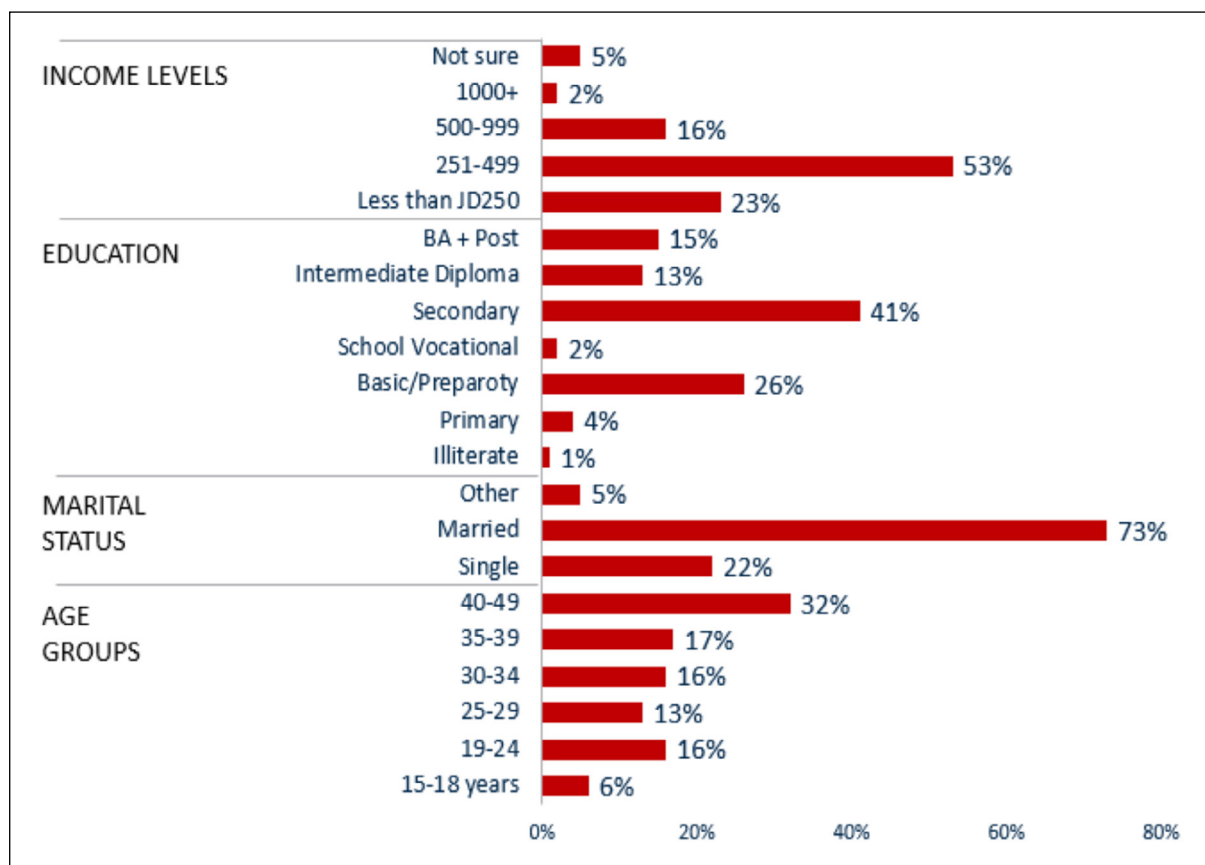
Sample of 1229 Females in East Amman, Zarqa & Karak:

Area	# of Females *	# of Women 15-49 years	Sample Size	Margin of Error
East Amman	918,700	496,098	<b>446</b>	±4.64%
Zarqa Governorate	694,700	375,138	<b>400</b>	±4.9%
Karak Governorate	163,300	88,182	<b>383</b>	±5.0%
<b>Total</b>			<b>1229</b>	

***\*The sample of the survey was based on the frame provided by the results of the General Population and Housing Census – 2015.***

- Figures in charts and graphs may not add to 100 percent due to rounding error.
- This survey was made possible by funding from the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development & The Spanish Cooperation

### c. Demographics of survey participants:



## B. Survey Findings and Outcomes

### a. Section I: Satisfaction in life

The first section of the survey is based on the aforementioned, internationally recognized indicators, values, and best practices related to gauging the status of quality of life.

#### Quality of Life Indicators:

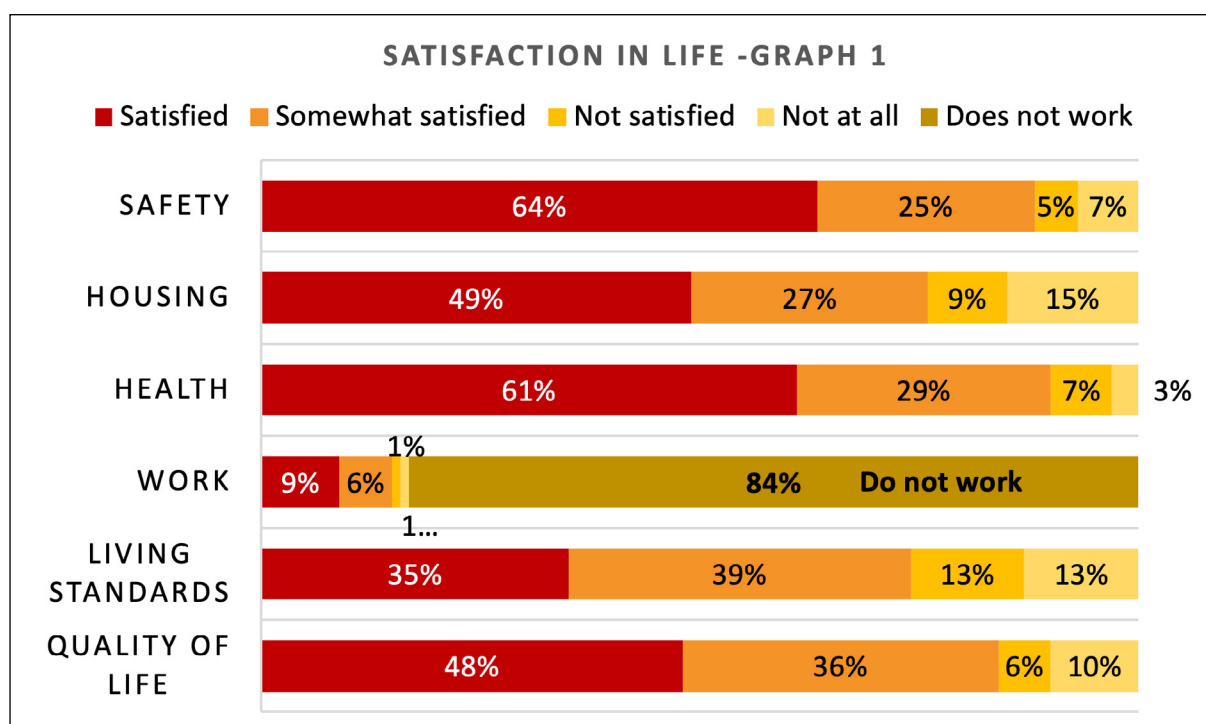
- Measuring Sense of Contentment
- Feelings Of Happiness
- Social Relationships
- Sense Of Belonging To Own Environment
- Self-Value As Member Of Society

The following information, explored through the survey, is analyzed in line with the aforementioned quality of life indicators:

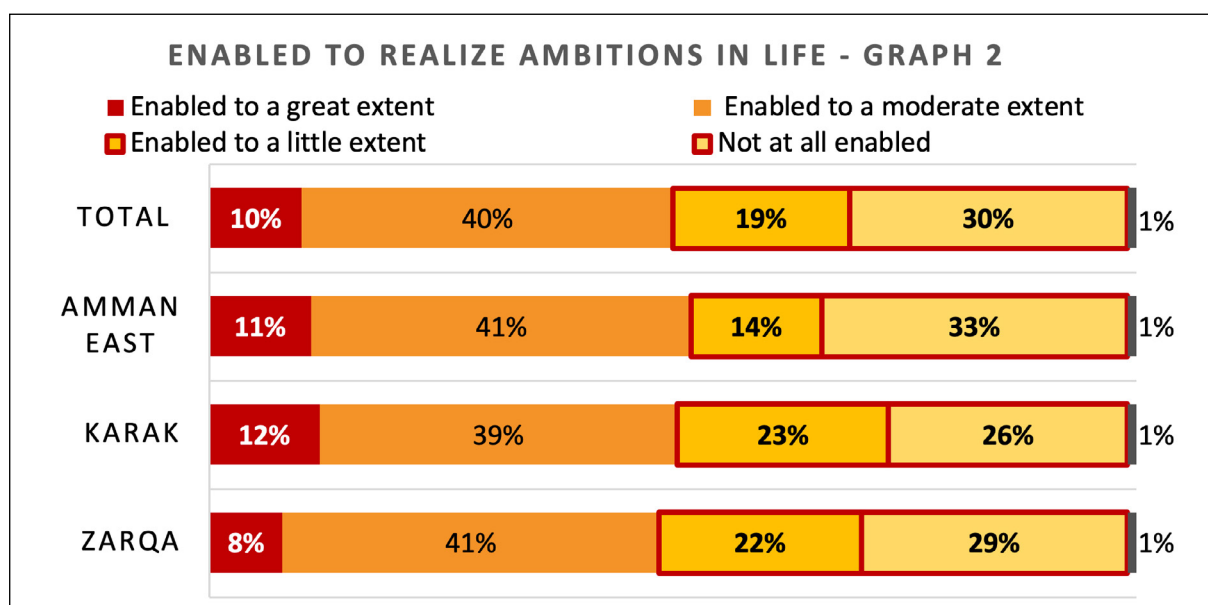


- In total, 48% of women surveyed in the three districts expressed a general **satisfaction with their lives**; 16% said they were not satisfied or not satisfied at all, a significant minority of 20% in East Amman, and a lower 16% in Zarqa and a 13% in Karak.
- In terms of their **living standards**, only one third, or 35%, of women across all three districts were satisfied versus the 26% who were not satisfied or not satisfied at all.
- When asked about their **work and employment** status, the overwhelming majority of 84%, in all three districts, said they were not employed.
- **Health** wise, 61% said they were satisfied, with a lower 57% in Zarqa, probably due to a lower quality health services.
- **Housing** on the other hand scored less satisfaction, in particular in East Amman and Zarqa, 44% and 43% respectively, and a total dissatisfaction of 28% and 27% respectively. In comparison, Karak women were more satisfied, at 63% satisfied versus 15% dissatisfied.
- When it comes to **feeling of safety**, women in Karak shared a markedly higher feeling of safety.

See Graph 1 below



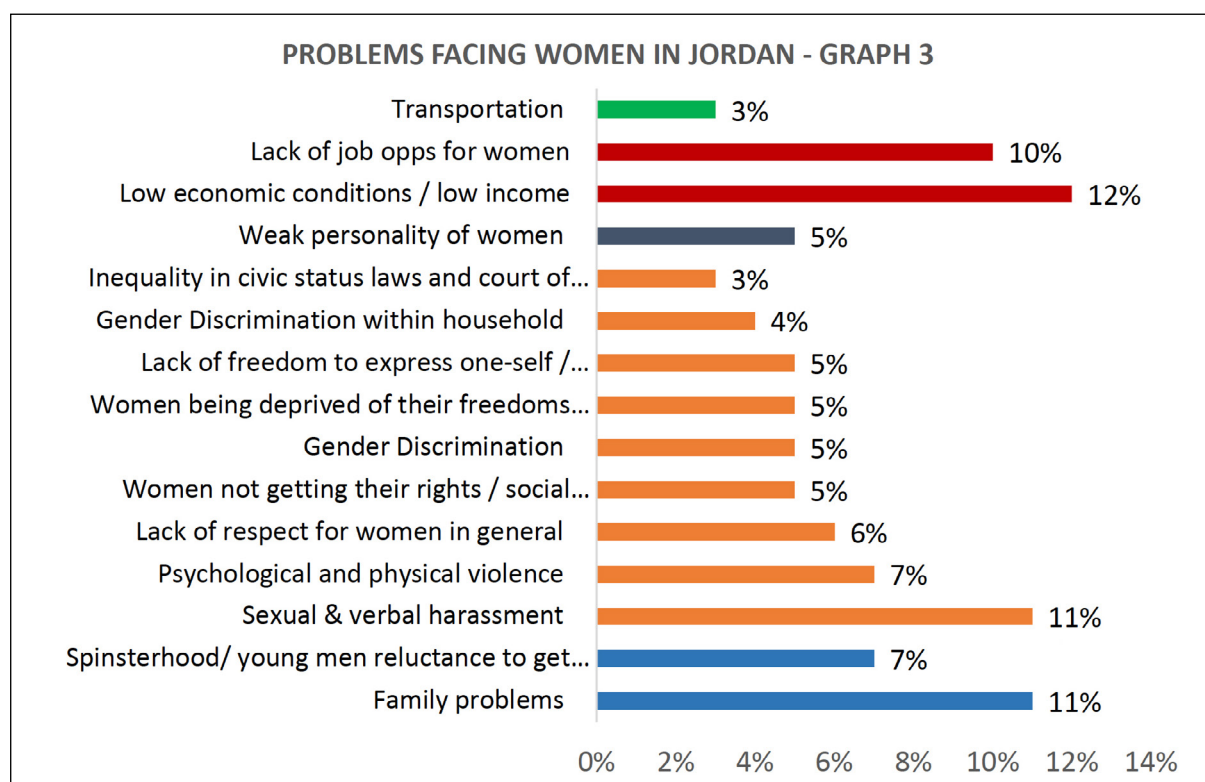
- When asked about living conditions that enable women to **realize their ambitions in life**, a dismal 10% of women in the three districts responded positively versus a 49% negative average. This result comes in stark contrast to aforementioned positive feelings of health, safety or housing for these women. Graph 2, below, shows these findings in more detail.



- Further, 62% of surveyed women reported having experienced **a spell of rage or severe anger** within the past three months due to “Problems with their husbands over poor economic conditions & unemployment”(27%), “Family disputes” (26%), and “Problems with husband over children upbringing” (20%).
- Almost three quarters of the women surveyed were married, with 94% having children.
- Only one third, or 33%, of those surveyed were reassured/optimistic about the **quality of education** provided to their children, now or in future, with a higher mark for Karak at 39%
- Only 12% of those surveyed shared optimistic outlooks about **employment opportunities** with negative expectations and lack of reassurances for 51% in East Amman, 52% in Karak and 60% in Zarqa
- Only 20% of those surveyed shared positive perceptions about quality of **vocational training** versus a negative score of 36% in all three districts.

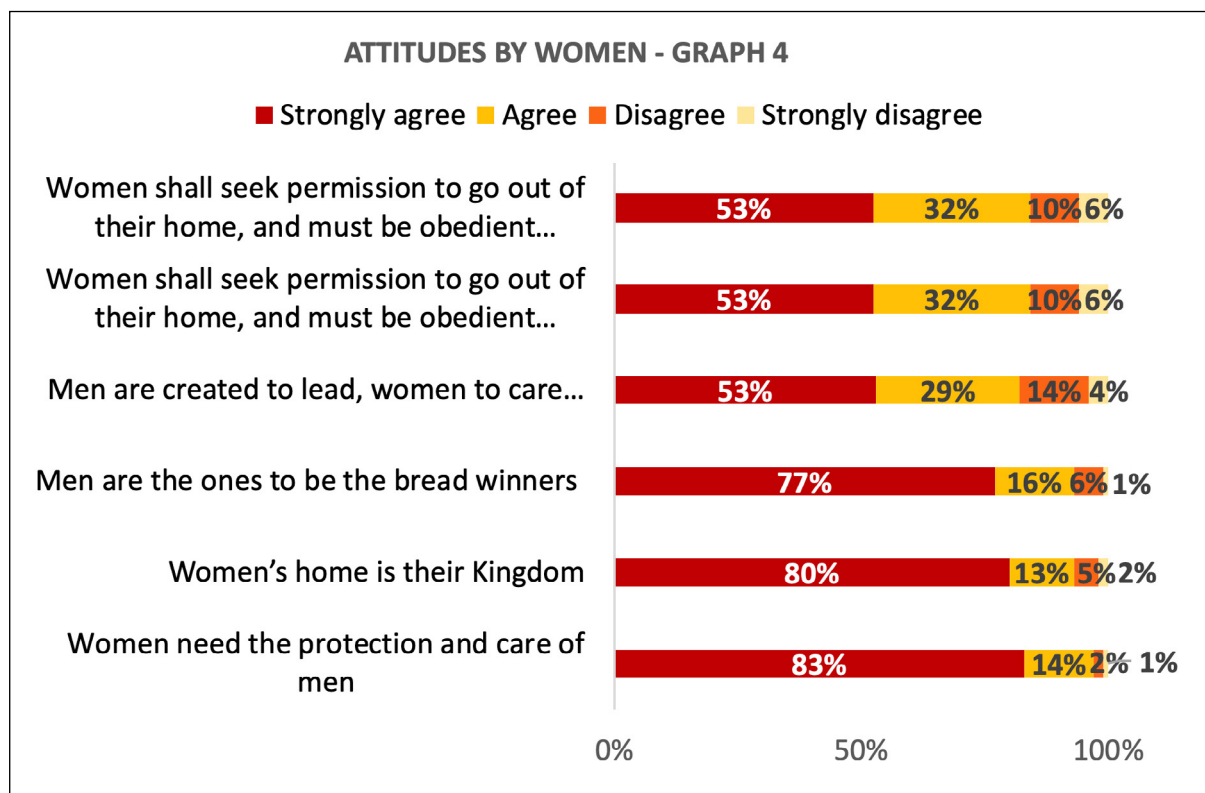
## b. Section II: Perceptions of Problems facing women in Jordan

The problems facing women in Jordan are telling and point clearly to women exclusion, harassment, male dominance and discrimination in general within the household, the economy and society at large. The following findings, as can be observed within graph 3, from the survey can be seen to reaffirm these realities:



While the women that were consulted within the survey women attributed many of the challenges that they face to societal and governance structures, they also recognized their need for capacity development, especially in terms of empowerment and conflict resolution. However, it is interesting to note that surveyed women shared sentiments that suggest that, on some level, they have internalized societal norms and strongly agree and with the dominance of men. Some of the main ideas shared by these women that support this claim are:

- Women need the protection and care of men (83%)
- Women's home is their Kingdom (80%)
- Men are the ones to be the bread winners (77%)
- Women shall seek permission to go out of their home, and must be obedient because men are more aware of their interest (53%)
- Men are created to lead, women to care... (53%)
- Men need to have the final say (36%)



Interestingly, even when it comes to economic engagement, the perceptions of surveyed women regarding “career women,” or women who are engaged within the work force, reveals it is “always at the cost of her family and home” at 36%.

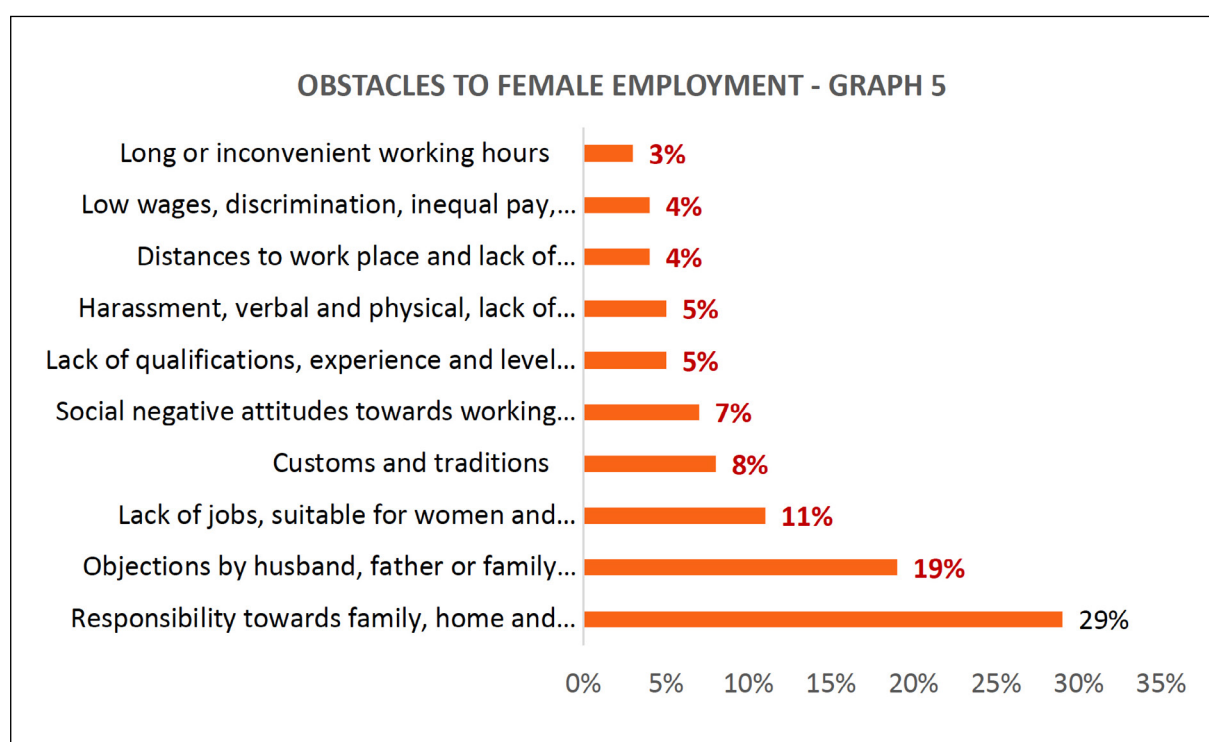
### c. Section III: Work and employment status

In terms of work and employment status, the survey showed that while there are some differences across geographic locations, many similar challenges and sentiments arose. These generally relate to high levels of unemployment, and perhaps contribute to views that maintain that reality. For example:

- Of those surveyed, only 13% currently work, with the lowest percentage in Zarqa, 8% and highest in Karak, 21%, and with East Amman at 10%. This average corresponds with Jordanian women’s economic participation according to 2018 WEF Gender Gap Index, with 48% of those working in the private sector, 30% in the public sector and 12% out of own home businesses.
- While 40% claim to have learned skills, and 28% claim to have participated in trainings or workshops, their economic participation remains relatively low.

Interestingly, when asked to mention the most important **obstacles to female employment** the survey heeded the following results:

- 29% said responsibility towards family, home and husband;
- 27% lack of jobs and/or jobs suitable for women and nature of jobs, lack of qualifications, experience and level of education; low wages, discrimination, unequal pay, private sector bad treatment; long or inconvenient working hours; or distances to work place and lack of transportation
- 19% objections by husband, father or family members;
- 15% social negative attitudes towards working women; male chauvinism and mentality and customs and traditions
- And finally, 5% harassment, verbal and physical, lack of safety among others.





In terms of geographical differences, when asked about objections to female employment by members of family, the highest were reported to be in Zarqa and East Amman, 44% and 41% respectively, and lowest, 19%, in Karak. When asked about possible motivation behind objecting the employment of female members of the family, 65% mentioned customs and traditions, and 22% shared that the available work sectors are not preferred as appropriate for women. Further research needs to be conducted to possibly explain customs and traditions.<sup>3</sup> In regards to this acceptance of trades and vocations, we asked women to name occupations or trades that members of their families owned or pursue/d including aunts and uncles. Occupations/trades mentioned were construction/stone cutting; baking and pasties; iron mongering and welding; farming; carpentry; electrical works; car mechanic, paint and body repair; tile setting/plastering; tailoring or weaving and dairy production. It is noteworthy that surveyed women reported having been turned away from many of the trades to the benefit of expatriate workers.

At the same time, almost half of surveyed women said members of the family were unemployed and looking for employment, with 61% referring to at least one member, 24% two and 12% three or more.

#### **d. Section IV: Public/civic engagement**

In terms of public and civic engagement, the survey aimed to analyze the levels and nature of engagement as well as perceptions that deterred or motivated said engagement. The following are the main findings:

- 42% claimed they voted in the latest parliamentary elections; 34% in East Amman, 37% in Zarqa but 56% in Karak.
- Interestingly, 14% voted for a woman candidate: 12% in East Amman and Zarqa and 16% in Karak, with almost half of them voting for a tribal and family relations or a candidate recommended by husband and family.
- Only 5% or less are members in civil society institutions/ NGO's/ Unions/ Civic, religious, coops or charity orgs, civic or sports club,
- Interestingly, 25% of those surveyed claimed to be members of school parents' councils.

---

<sup>3</sup> Customs and traditions need further research but could possibly mean, maybe social conservatism on the rise, religious interpretation or misinterpretation, paternalism and the degrading of the role of women in society or male chauvinism and competition to mention a few

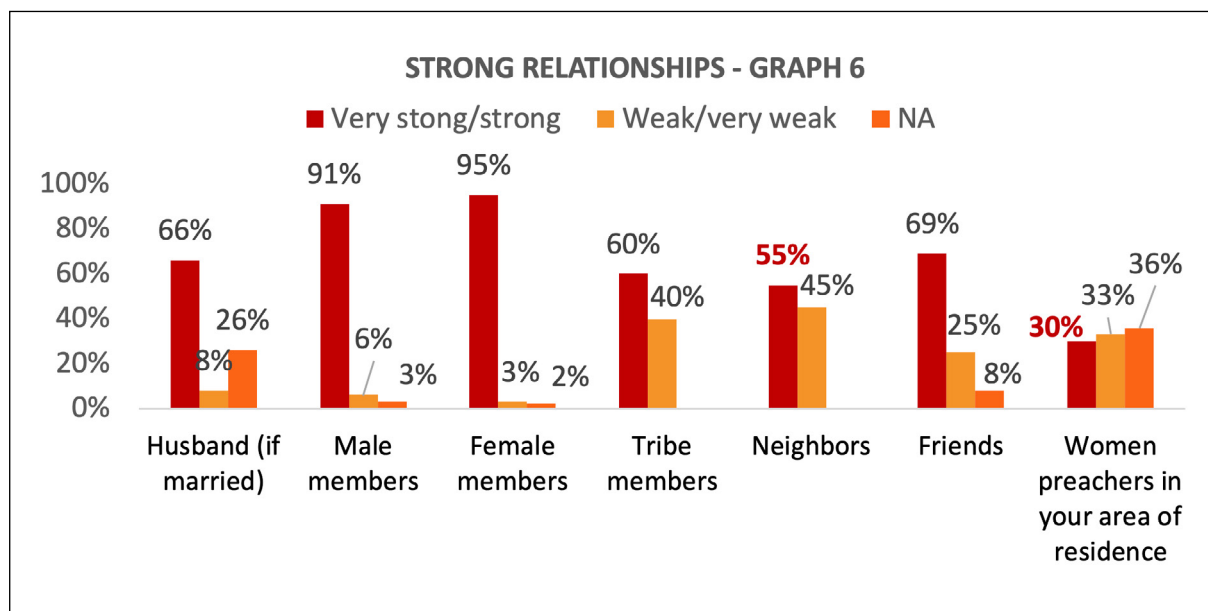
## e. Section V: Social relationships

- Surveyed women seem to have a stronger relationship with their **female members of** their families, like sister and mother, and a **less strong bond with brother or father**, as shown from the time they spend talking to them on a typical day. Married women talk to their husbands more often, naturally preoccupied with family problems and raising children.
- In matters relating to politics, the conversation seems, as we see from the table below, to have a much lower relevance than with finances or religion. Table 1.

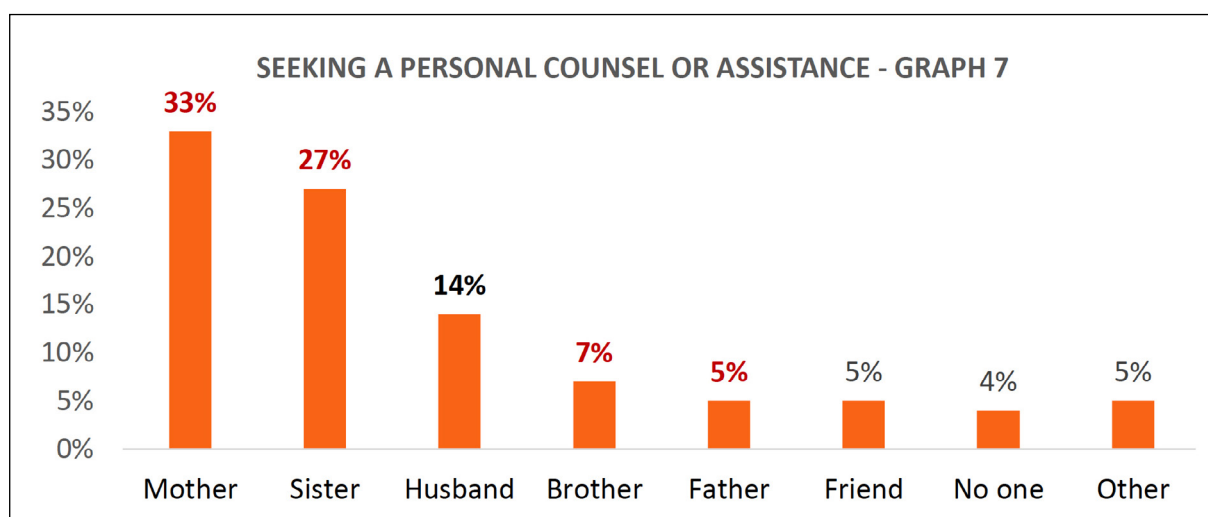
<b>Table 1 – Topics discussed with family members</b> <b>I discuss with my...</b>	<b>Father/ Husband if married</b>	<b>Mother If not married</b>	<b>Brother If not married</b>	<b>Sister If not married</b>
<b>Matters relating to family finances</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Matters relating to politics</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Matters relating to family problems and children</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Matters relating to religion</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>Matters relating to neighborhood</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>49%</b>

Interestingly, 30% of surveyed women claim to have a strong relationship with women preachers but when they seek a religious opinion/counsel women preachers are totally irrelevant with just 4% of responses taking them into consideration.

**Graph 6 (More in Section: Religiosity)**



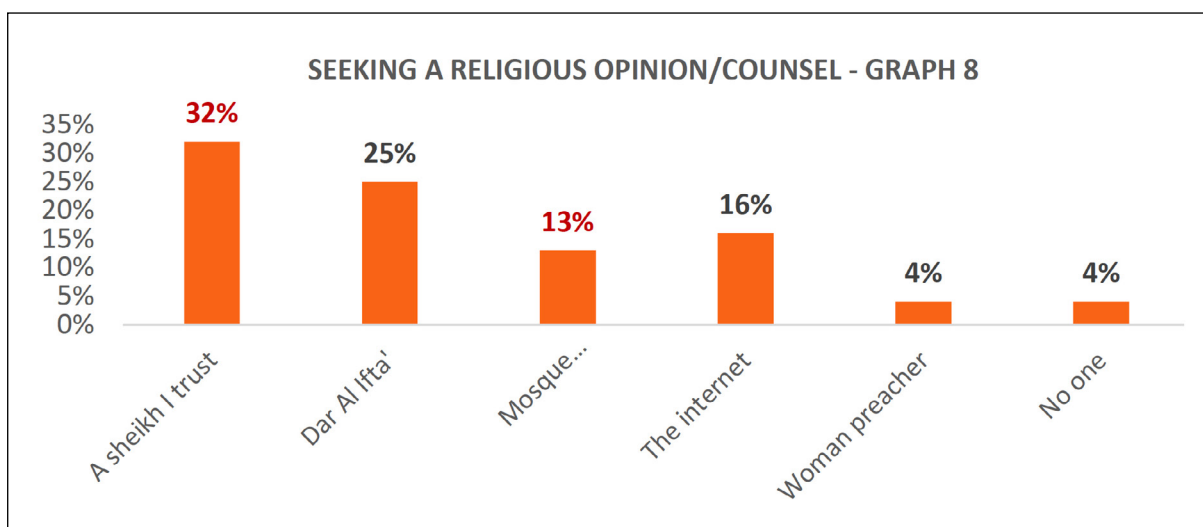
However, when they seek a personal counsel or assistance, these women go to their mother or sister, 32% and 27% respectively, with husband trailing behind at 14% and father at just 5%.



Here, it is worth mentioning that 59% of surveyed women have no circle of close friends they meet regularly with. This suggests a gap in social relationships, the reasons of which are worthy of exploration in further studies.

## f. Section VI: Religiosity

In this section, we explore the results of the survey that relate to the levels of religiosity suggested by perceptions and practices of the women surveyed. For example, when seeking a religious opinion/counsel, and as other similar surveys showed, the survey showed that the mosque imam does not play a major role, compared to the role assigned by these women to “A sheikh I trust,” followed by Dar Al ifta’ or the internet (Google primarily). The following Graph 8, offers more insight into this topic:



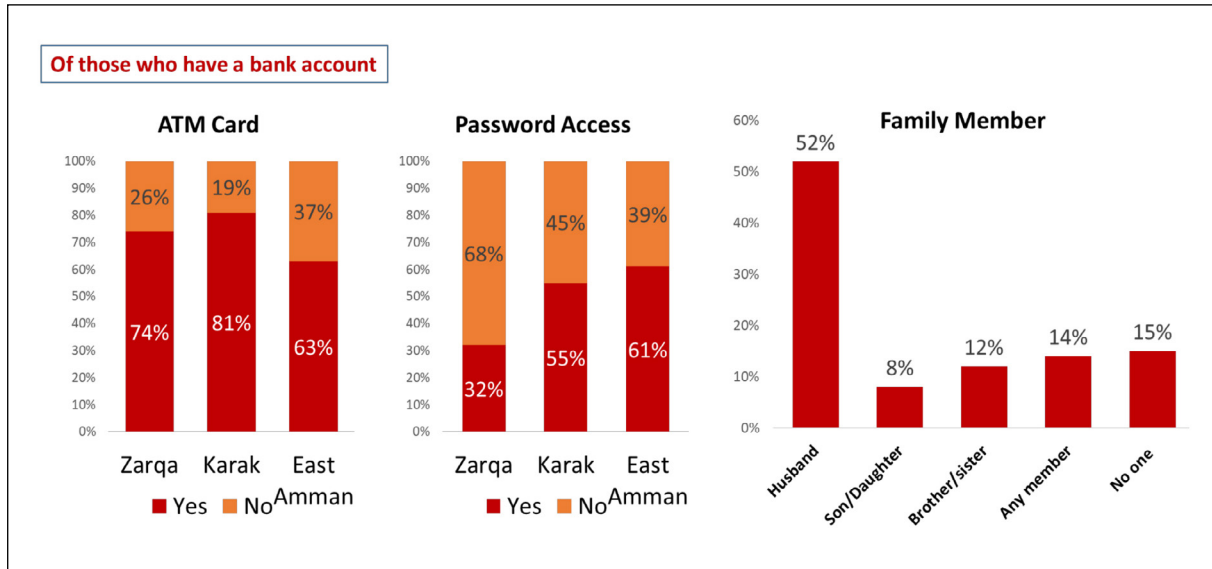
When asked about specific issues that may shed further light on levels of religiosity, an example is that 59% of those surveyed strongly agreed that women have to wear the hijab and 40% shared that they believed that men and women should be segregated at work. There was strong opposition, however, to women having to wear the Niqab, at a high 82%, and 70% also believed that Muslim men must wear a beard. Interestingly, 55% of those surveyed strongly agreed that women are entitled to assume public office.

## g. Section VII: Financial inclusion/independence

In terms of the nature of financial inclusion and/or independence among those surveyed, it is important to consider the various interrelated manifestations of inequality between men and women, and the ways that these relate to finances. In analyzing the findings of the survey, one of the factors considered is the women’s interaction with banks.

For example, the survey showed that only 15% of women have bank accounts in East Amman, the highest percentage was found in Karak at 19% and lowest in Zarqa at 10%, with 19% family access to the account in East Amman, 22% in Karak and 11% in Zarqa, mainly by husband. Of those who have a bank account, the overwhelming majority have an ATM card, with 61% highest access to password in East Amman, mainly by the husband. Graph 9 shows these findings in further detail:

## ATM OWNERSHIP & PASSWORD ACCESS – GRAPH 9



Interestingly, of the 15% of those surveyed that are wage earners, with 85% having total control thereof, and 90% report contributing to household expenses. Further, 12% report having taken a bank loan, with 45% citing the purpose as being for a family member, and 55% for own self. Of those, a total 23% report having signed a loan guarantee on her wage on behalf of a family member.

In terms of 'economic violence' towards women, 11% of those surveyed reported having personally experienced a conflict with family members on their part of the inheritance according to Sharia stipulations. In addition, those surveyed claim that a staggering 37% of their friends have experienced similar challenges.

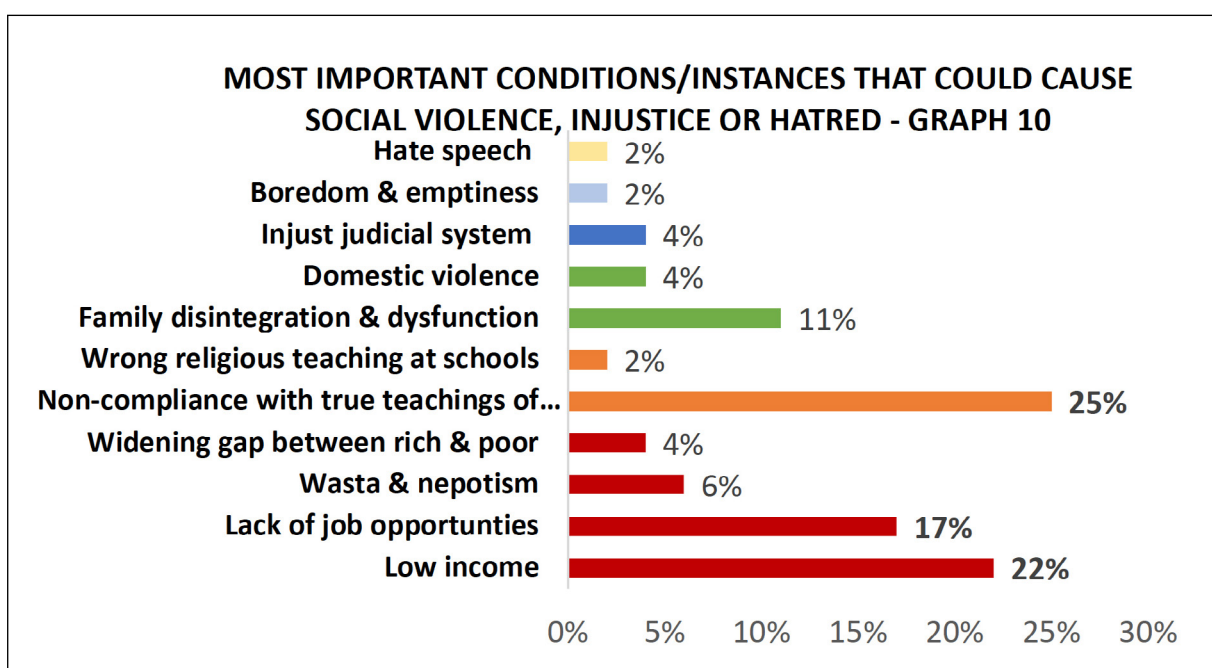
### h. Section VIII: Social violence/injustice

In terms of conflict within their communities and cities, an overwhelming majority of women believed the following conditions/instances can/could cause social violence, injustice or hatred in Jordanian society:

- Economic: Lack of employment opportunities; poor income; widening gap between poor and rich; nepotism
- Religious: Noncompliance with true teachings of religion; religious misinterpretation at schools
- Lack of acceptance & diversity; hate speech
- Family: Family dysfunctions; family disintegration; domestic violence
- Lack of free public opinion space; boredom and emptiness; unjust court system



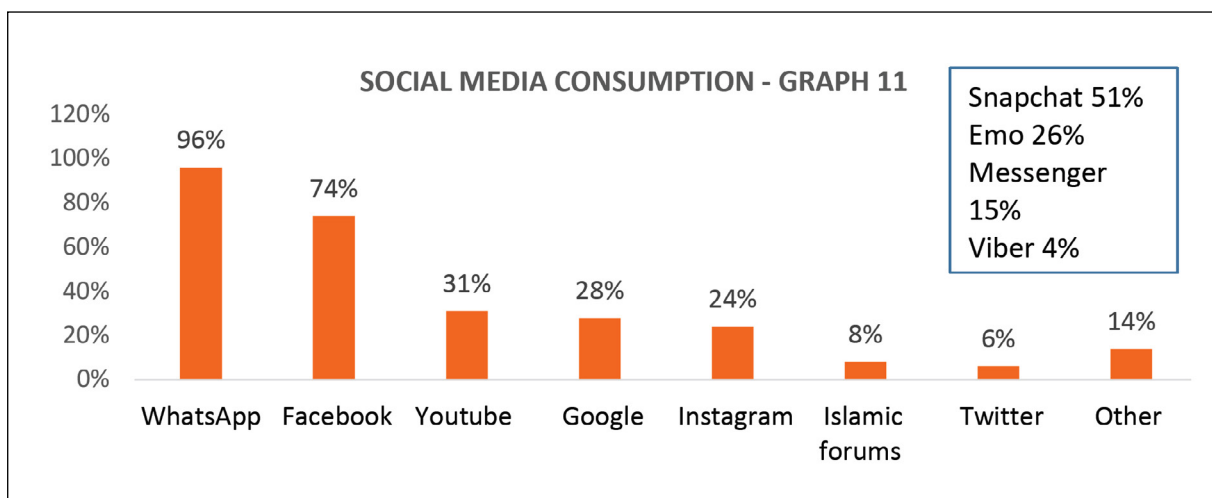
Interestingly, 21% of those surveyed believed, however, out of all the above conditions, that religious classes at home could cause social violence, injustice or hatred in our society. This can be explained with the strong relationship they have with women preachers, mentioned earlier. When asked to mention the most important of these conditions, the poor economic conditions topped the list at 49%, followed by noncompliance with true teachings of religion; religious misinterpretation at schools at 27%, and family dysfunctions such as family disintegration & domestic violence at 15%. This is elaborated on in more detail in Graph 10 below:



## i. Section IX: Social media and Internet consumption

In terms of communication and knowledge sharing through online avenues, the majority of those surveyed shared that these are primary sources of information.

Interestingly, only 27% have an internet connection at home. However, an overwhelming majority of 81% own a smart phone, with 75% using social media on daily basis. In terms of specific sources of media consumption, WhatsApp tops the list, followed by Facebook, YouTube and Google. Online Islamic forums trail behind, at 8%. This can be seen in Graph 11 below:



## C. Recommendations

As a follow-up to the survey, ARDD conducted three journalists' workshops in Amman during (29-30) September, 2019. The workshops were attended by 4 professional journalists and 23 youth journalists, influencers, and activists. The participants engaged in discussions about the importance of community participation, in particular women and youth, in building solidarity and social cohesion.

As a product of this report and of these workshops, the following are the key recommendations that should be taken into consideration when conceptualizing ways to enhance and expand the role of women in the context of conflict resolution, peace-building, and social cohesion:

- **Enhancing the confidence between women and how they perceive themselves:** investing in capacity development that is contextualized and directly linked to the needs of women in order to increase self-reliance;
- **Challenging stereotypes relating to the role of women in society:** explore ways to empower women so that they think outside of the framework they have confined themselves to as a result of society's limitations, and challenge the culture of shame.
- **Highlighting the role of women in social cohesion and peace-building:** clarify the role of women in community and social cohesion as a direct connection to the often undermined influential role they play in their families and communities. This should be done in ways that involve both men and women;
- **Recognizing the role of the media in highlighting the role of women in peace-building:** this includes holding the media accountable for the engagement of women in the accurate representation of women's issues as well as increasing focus on societal issues through a gender-sensitive lens;
- **Utilizing the potential of social media as vital to spreading messages and raising awareness:** in designing media and public engagement campaigns, this would include ensuring that a proper analysis of what the best ways to conduct outreach with women are;
- **Strengthening the role of CBOs and NGOs in facilitating various aspects of gender justice:** this can include civil society acting as a link between the beneficiaries that they are in direct contact with and the media in order to ensure accurate representation, as well as investing in coalition building amongst the organizations working on women's issues;

- **Identifying economic and political empowerment as essential to reducing all forms of violence:** for the purpose of women in conflict prevention, this can relate to addressing unjust or unequal power relations that stem from economic dependency;
- **Encouraging donor governments and agencies to follow a holistic approach to women's empowerment:** this can be done by ensuring consideration to the overall socio-economic and political context within which women's issues arise and deliberately refraining from stereotyping women as victims, but rather seeing them as partners within the change process.

## D. Conclusion

This survey was intended to focus specifically on women with the aim of establishing an understanding of whether or not they are enabled to play a role as change agents in their own immediate surroundings and society at large. Ultimately, this is defined as being enabled to achieve their own emancipation, equality and justice from patriarchies, overcome societal conservatism and attitudes, and challenge male domination and ambiguous terminology of 'customs and traditions.'

In order to create an enabling environment for women to do so, efforts by the State, civil society and non-governmental organizations are needed in order to build alliances and consensus and facilitate joint action. This includes access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making.

Ultimately, the results of this research and its related activities can be used as an informative resource in relation to key advocacy messaging and strategic direction on behalf of various stakeholders, especially civil society organizations.



**ARDD**

النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

P.O.Box: 930560

Amman11193 Jordan

Tel: +962 6 46 17 277

Fax: +962 6 46 17 278

[www.ardd-jo.org](http://www.ardd-jo.org)



ar\_renaissance



ArabRenaissance