



**Ministry of Planning
Central Statistical Organization-CSO**

**Iraq Woman Integrated Social and
Health Survey (I-WISH)**

Summary Report

March 2012

Survey Team

Higher National Committee

- Dr. Mehdi Al-alak, head of CSO
- Sham Abdul-hamid, CSO
- Dr. Daaa Kadhum, CSO
- Dr. Haider Al-attar, MOLSA
- Dr. Hanan Hashem, MoH
- Dr. Rajiha Sadwq, MoH
- Dr. Khaled Hantoush, IAA
- Dr. Batoul Ghaleb, Baghdad university
- Juan Ameen, MoWA

Technical Committee

- Dr. Daaa Kadhum, Prpject director
- Iman Abdul-razzaq
- Zainab Hussien
- In'am Al-Mahdi
- Iman Kadhum

Administrative Committee

- Zubaideh hadi
- Nida' Hussein
- Haider Riyad

Financial Committee

- Abdul-razzaq Thamer
- Iman Abdul-rida
- Hasanein Mohammed
- Alya' Qasem

International Experts

- Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA
- Haider Rasheed, UNFPA
- Dr. Ahmed Abdulmonem, PAPFAM
- Mona Al-Sayyed, PAPFAM

Report writing team

- Zainan Hussien
- Khaldoun Fadel
- Awatef Thaher
- Azhar Abbas
- Suhad Sadeq
- Ammar Jafar
- Anas Maysar

List of Abbreviations

AIDS:	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC:	Ante natal care
CSO:	Central Statistical Organization
D.K	Don't know
FP:	Family planning
GBV:	Gender based violence
Gov.	Governorate
HH:	Household
IUD:	Intrauterine device
I-WISH:	Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health
KRSO:	Kurdistan region statistical office
MICS	Multiple indicator cluster survey
PAPFAM:	Pan Arab Population and Family Health Project
PNC:	Post natal care
RH:	Reproductive health
SDTs:	Sexually transmitted diseases
TV:	Television
UNFPA:	United Nations Population Fund
UNESCWA:	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
WHO:	World Health Organization

Acknowledgment

Iraq Woman Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH) is an outstanding research and data collection initiative which has not been made possible without the support and cooperation of many women and men.

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Dr. Mehdi Al-alak
Deputy Minister of Planning
Head of CSO
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Preface

Proceedings on the universal declaration of human rights (1948), Beijing conference on women (1995), and on the basis on the action plan of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD1994), the ministry of planning-Central Statistical Organization (CSO) in coordination with Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO) initiated the implementation of Iraqi Woman integrated social and health survey (I-WISH). This survey was conducted in close cooperation and financial and technical support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Pan Arab Population and Family Health Project (PAPFAM). I-WISH initiative was launched to provide statistical indicators on woman's situation on the basis of life cycle approach (adolescence, reproductive, after productive and elderly stages).

I-WISH complements the rich data bank in which CSO built in the past few years about the health and social status of Iraqi households and population. I-WISH focuses in particular on woman's health and social issues including knowledge, perceptions, behaviors as well as social, political and economic participation and empowerment.

The main objective of I-WISH is to provide a precise, comprehensive and disaggregated data set about Iraqi woman. I-WISH digs deeper beyond the classical research on the reproductive role. The survey shed

lights on all life stages and studied all relevant health and social dimensions (e.g. education, health, reproductive health, empowerment, violence against women, elderly needs, adolescence aspirations, man's perception regarding women issues, etc).

We are very pleased to introduce this preliminary report about I-WISH findings. We believe that these findings represent an important tool for researchers, policy makers and relevant development intervening bodies in the government and civil society. We hope that the findings of the report and the upcoming detailed tabulation and in-depth research analysis will allow for relevant evidence-based intervention to improve their health status and services; and empower women and protect them from violence; particularly gender-based violence.

We call upon all researchers, universities and research community to invest in the analysis of the findings of this survey to provide the required scientific analysis needed to shape out Iraq's development agenda in the field of women empowerment and participation.

Prof. Ali Yousef Al-Shukri

Minister of Planning

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1- Introduction

This survey is the first survey that addresses women issues on the basis of life cycle approach (adolescence, reproductive, after reproductive and elderly stages) from empowerment, health, reproductive health, violence against women and other relevant social and health dimensions to establish a comprehensive database on Iraqi woman issues across life cycle. The innovation in I-WISH is the comprehensive approach beyond reproductive role of women, and the involvement of new modules on female adolescent and a module on man knowledge, perception and behavior in regard to women issues.

2-Objectives

The main objective of I-WISH survey is to provide a comprehensive statistical information on gender issues, and provide data on selected topics related to woman's health and social status using a life cycle approach starting from adolescence and ending by elderly stages. It is hoped that the outcome of this survey is utilized to shape out Iraq's development agenda in regard to women issues particularly woman participation and gender based violence (GBV) and improve services provided to women in all life stages.

3-Survey Sample

I-WISH is based on a multi-stage cluster random sample design composed of 10,620 households. The sample was selected from the 2009 population census listig sampling frame. The sample was distributed in all Iraq governorates, all districts and selected blocks in each district, Mahallas and villages. The sample is in fact a sub sample of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS-IV). Sampled household were distributed across selected clusters; each cluster contained six households; and 15 clusters in each district. This give 90 selected households in each district, totaling a 10,620 households in the 118 districts.

4-Methodology

I-WISH survey is a modified version of PAPFAM household survey. It covered all Iraq 18 governorates including 3 governorates in Kurdistan region. A plan of action was prepared to implement the survey according to a well-defined timeframe as follows:

1. All technical and administrative committees were formed to undertake the preliminary survey preparations including the consultation with national and international stakeholders.

2. Selection of field staff and distributing them into fieldwork teams each composed of three enumerators. Total fieldwork staff was 399 in addition to 18 local supervisors, 21 field editors, 21 central supervisors nominated by technical departments (15 from CSO and 6 from KRSO).
3. A series of technical meetings and workshops in Amman, Erbil and Baghdad to consult about the themes, priorities and indicators. These meetings were made in support from UNFPA Irrq office and with participation from PAPFAM as well as regional advisors and experts from WHO, UNDP, UNESCWA, and other regional institutions.
4. A coordination process was made between I-WISH and MICS survey to utilize the two initiatives and minimize burden on the respondents.
5. Training of trainers in Erbil for 49 trainers, then in the governorates for data collection using the final questionnaires and the field work manuals endorsed by the technical committee. Total fieldworkers attended the training in the governorates was 426 enumerators.
6. A pilot survey to examine the questionnaire and other survey tools was conducted and on the basis of the validation analysis of its results the questionnaire and other was made final.

7. Training course on the data entry program in support from PAPFAM and UNFPA was conducted in Cairo; where the data entry program was developed and validation check were prepared using CSpro.

5-Survey Questionnaire

I-WISH survey is based on a life cycle approach; henceforth it contained a number of modules; and consequently a number of subsamples were selected to fill different modules. In particular, the survey has six different modules questionnaires as follows:

1. **Household questionnaire:** This questionnaire covered the general information about the households in addition to household roaster, in addition to collecting the basic information to identify and select other household members who are eligible to fill other survey modules questionnaires.
2. **Adolescent girl 10-14 years:** This questionnaire was designed to collect information about knowledge perception and behavior of adolescent girls and in particular the reproductive health, gender equality, child protection, and exposure to domestic violence.
3. **Reproductive health for ever married women 15-49 years:** This is the classical PAPFAM health survey

questionnaire which focuses on reproductive health, mortality, reproductive morbidity, sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, childbearing, ante natal care, health care at birth and post natal care. This questionnaire included also modules on women empowerment, violence against women, and woman participation.

4. **Elderly women 55 years and above:** This questionnaire covered general welfare, health status, social status, morbidity, as well as future concerns of elderly people. This module is a new way of linking after reproductive stage on the development agenda related to women empowerment and participation.
5. **Questionnaire of man 18 years and above:** This is also a new innovation of I-WISH where men as influential and partner stakeholders in women development and empowerment, the technical committee decided to add a new module that explores the knowledge, perception and behavior of men in regard to women issues and social and health status.
6. **Questionnaire of never married women 15-54 years, and women 50-54 regardless of marital status:** This is complementary module to complete the data set on all women of different marital and reproductive health status. This module focused on empowerment and violence against women.

6-Survey implementation

Data collection took place in July 2011. It was followed by training on data processing late July (25-28/7/2011). Data processing was conducted during August and September along with the data cleaning and validation as well as quality assurance measures. The preparation of the clean data file was made available afterwards and then we started the tabulation and report writing on the basis of already designed template for the dummy tables.

7-Summary indicators

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
1) Characteristics of the sample			
Total households successfully completed the interview	10523	7638	2885
Total individuals in the selected households	64636	55092	9543
Average HH size	6.1	6.3	5.2
% female headed HHs	10.7	9.8	14.9
% of population <15 years			
- Males	41.7	42.3	38.0
- Females	41.1	42.0	35.9
- Total	41.4	42.2	36.9
% of population 65+			
- Males	2.9	2.8	3.4
- Females	3.3	3.1	4.0
- Total	3.1	3.0	3.7

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
% of married persons amongst population 15+			
- Males	61.2	62.1	56.6
- Females	62.4	63.6	55.7
- Total	61.8	62.8	56.1
Mean age at first marriage			
- Males	26.2	25.8	28.7
- Females	22.4	21.7	25.9
2) Characteristics of ever married women 15-49 years			
# of women completed RH questionnaire	10097	7976	2121
% of completing RH questionnaire	97.4	98.8	92.7
Distribution of responding women by marital status			
- Married/separated	94.3	94.2	94.9
- Widowed	3.7	3.7	3.8
- Divorced	2.0	2.2	1.2
Average difference age in	4.9	5.1	4.2

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
years between wife and husband			
3) Fertility			
Average number of live births for ever married women 45-59 years	5.3	5.2	5.7
% of ever married women 15-19 years who started their reproductive life	14.3	15.8	5.9
4) Family planning and birth prevalence for ever married women 15-49 years			
% of married women who use family planning methods			
- Any method	39.8	37.6	53.2
- Modern method	28.3	28.4	27.5
% of women who prefer to have another child amongst married women	37.5	38.1	33.9
% of pregnant women who wanted the pregnancy at the this time among all pregnant women	73.9	75.3	63.1

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
Average number of preferred children	4.1	4.2	3.6
Average number of children the woman would like her daughter to have	3.6	3.6	3.1
5) Ante natal care (during the past five years preceded the survey for ever married women 15-49 years)			
% of pregnant women who received ANC from skilled personnel	89.6	89.5	89.9
% of women who received ANC from trained medical personnel during the first three months of pregnancy	62.0	62.8	56.3
Average number of visits	5.2	5.2	4.9
% of women suffered from complications during pregnancy	34.0	33.5	37.2
% of women who visited a doctor amongst those suffered from complications during	92.4	92.7	90.5

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
pregnancy			
% of women who delivered at health facility	78.5	78.5	78.8
% of births (last birth) delivered with medical assistance ¹	90.4	91.1	85.6
% of women who suffered during the last birth from complications at birth	30.5	30.3	31.6
% of women who received PNC for the last birth	37.9	36.6	46.5
% of women who suffered from complications after birth (for the last birth)	18.6	18.1	22.0
% of women who visited doctor amongst those suffered from complications after birth (for the last birth)	70.0	69.8	70.6

¹ Regardless of place of delivery

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
% of natural birth	75.1	76.3	67.6
% of cesarean section	22.6	22.0	26.4
6) Reproductive morbidity			
% of women who suffered from symptoms indicating prolapsed	18.3	17.6	23.2
% of women who visited the doctor amongst those suffered from symptoms indicating prolapsed	68.9	70.5	61.0
% of women who suffered from urinary incontinence	10.5	10.1	12.9
% of women who visited a doctor amongst those suffered from urinary incontinence	51.5	53.1	43.1
% of women suffered from burning while urinating	22.1	21.5	25.9
% of women who suffered from symptoms indicating inflammation of the cervix	15.1	13.4	26.1

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
% of women who suffered from symptoms indicating inflammation of the cervix or burning while urinating	69.2	70.3	12.5
% of ever married women 15-49 who go to health care when needed:			
– Public health facility	43.1	44.3	35.9
– Private clinic	52.6	52.1	56.0
– Any health facility	95.8	96.4	91.9
7) STDs (for ever married women 15-49 years)			
% of women who knew about AIDS from the TV	91.5	92.0	88.5
% of women know different methods from transmitting AIDS among those heard and know about it			
- sexual intercourse	95.9	96.5	92.9
-transfusion	49.4	52.6	30.9
% of Women methods to avoid AIDS amongst those who knows AIDS			
– safe sexual	90.3	90.5	88.9

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
intercourse			
– use of condom	7.0	6.2	12.0
8) Child protection			
% of women who got married before the age of 15 years	4.9	5.0	4.5
% of women who got married before the age of 18 years	21.7	22.1	19.2
9) Woman empowerment and participation			
% of women 15-54 who reported the right of woman to:			
– Participate as voter in the elections	84.8	82.9	95.1
– Participate as candidate in the elections	67.7	63.0	92.8
% of women who reported elections as men business amongst those refused women participation in elections	41.5	41.6	37.0

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
% of women 15-54 who participated in 2010 elections	67.4	65.5	78.0
% of women 15-54 who has any type of community participation (clubhouse, center, social forum, union, etc)	3.5	2.7	7.9
% of women who did not reached the wanted educational level	69.4	70.8	62.1
% of women 15-54 years who reported to work for wage	10.9	10.6	12.3
% of women 15-54 years who do not work due to lack of educational qualification	13.4	13.5	12.8
% of women 15-54 years who do not work but available if a suitable work is offered	30.3	28.4	40.8

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
% of women 15-54 years who reported that men and women are not equal in rights and duties	38.6	42.3	18.4
% of women 15-54 years who reported that men and women are not equal or partially equal in rights and duties	70.1	75.7	40.1
% of women 15-54 years who reported that men and women are not equal or partially equal due to:			
– Laws unfair to women	19.2	20.0	10.6
– Wrong interpretation of religion	13.1	13.2	12.2
% of women who reported gender inequality in favor to men in:			
– Political participation	67.0	71.5	42.7
– Access to property	59.4	59.5	59.2
– Decision making inside the household	55.1	56.5	47.5
– Wage in the private sector	49.2	50.6	41.8
– Wage in the public sector	32.4	31.2	38.9

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
% of women 15-54 years by the priority intervention to empower women			
Gov/Parliament: support female headed HH	37.9	37.7	38.7
Parties: awareness campaigns to empower women	44.9	47.2	33.0
Civil society: training	30.6	31.2	27.5
% of women 15-54 years by the priority intervention to empower women political participation			
Gov/parliament: increase women participation in the leadership positions	31.2	30.2	36.7
Parties: support laws in favor to women empowerment	45.0	46.7	36.1
Civil society: training	48.4	50.2	38.5
% of women 15-54 years by the priority intervention to protect women from VAW			
Gov/Parliament: deterrent	50.0	54.1	28.0

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
laws			
Parties: combat VAW	41.2	43.4	29.6
Civil society: advocacy programs	42.3	43.5	36.1
10) Violence against women- VAW			
% of women 15-54 who reported the following acts from husband against his wife as VAW			
– Beating wife if gone out without permission	47.9	45.1	63.3
– Beating wife if disobeyed his orders	44.3	41.7	58.3
– Preventing wife to visit her relatives	69.5	69.4	69.6
% of women 15-54 years who believed that women in general are expose to VAW in:			
– House	64.2	62.8	71.6
– Street	63.1	63.9	59.0
– Public areas	55.4	55.9	52.7
% of women 15-54 years who reported the following as a reason for VAW			
– Family upbringing	68.3	69.5	61.8

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
– Social system and values	63.7	65.7	53.0
– Laws in the country	32.4	31.9	35.2
<i>% of women 15-54 years who were exposed to violence during the past year in</i>			
– Street	19.5	21.3	9.7
– Market	18.9	20.7	9.7
– Transportation means	10.5	11.8	3.6
<i>% of women 15-54 years who think in the family as shelter if exposed to VAW</i>	89.3	92.0	74.7
<i>% of women 15-54 years who think in police departments as a shelter if VAW continued after going to the first shelter</i>	14.6	13.2	22.4
<i>% of women 15-54 years who reported police department as suitable shelter for VAW survivors</i>	36.9	34.7	48.9
<i>% of women 15-54 years who trust police as a shelter</i>	49.6	47.4	61.6

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
for VAW survivors			
% of women 15-54 years who do NOT trust police as a shelter for VAW survivors	51.4	50.9	55.1
11) Women 55 years and above			
% of women 55+ who reported that their general health status is bad or very bad	35.4	35.1	36.5
% of women 55+ who are not satisfied at all with their life	10.5	11.4	6.4
% of women 55+ who needed health care during the month preceded the survey	52.1	52.0	52.5
% of women 55+ who received health care from public health facility amongst those needed health care during the	60.5	60.7	59.8

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
month preceded the survey			
% of women 55+ who faced difficulties to get public health care amongst those received health care from public health facility during the month preceded the survey	58.6	60.9	48.0
% of women 55+ who faced difficulties to cover the cost of health status during the 12 months preceded the survey	40.3	39.4	44.2
% of women 55+ who have future concerns on the increasing cost of their health care	26.7	18.5	64.4
% of women 55+ who do not have an income	34.0	32.5	41.0
12) Men 18 years and above			
% of men 18+ who reported that the main role of woman is:			
– Childbearing and child rearing	37.0	39.7	24.1

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
– Share the man in establishing their household	60.7	58.7	70.5
% of men 18+ who described the relationship between man and women in regard of establishing a household			
– Woman follows man	31.9	35.3	15.4
– Woman supports and shares man	64.9	62.7	75.6
% of married men 18+ who do not share their wives at all in housework	42.4	45.6	25.8
% of men 18+ who described the relationship between man and woman in the society as:			
– Woman follows man	34.8	37.9	19.5
– Woman shares man	61.6	59.6	71.1
% of men 18+ who reported that husband has the right to:			
– Beating wife if gone out without permission	22.1	24.6	9.9
– Beating wife if disobeyed his orders	25.0	28.1	10.4
– Prevent his wife from work	19.2	21.1	9.9
– Prevent his wife	13.8	15.4	6.1

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
from education			
– Prevent his wife to participate in the elections	17.8	18.9	12.7
13) Never married girls (10-14) years			
% of never married girls 10-14 years who are enrolled in education	82.4	80.7	92.9
% of never married girls 10-14 years who reported to be always treated equally with their counterpart brothers in the household	49.3	47.5	60.0
% of never married girls 10-14 years who reported to be beaten or insulted during the month preceded the survey by:			
– Father	21.2	22.6	12.1
– Mother	26.6	28.1	17.5
– Brothers	29.6	31.6	17.3
– Sisters	25.4	26.6	17.6
% of never married girls 10-14 years who exercise	9.4	9.1	11.5

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
sports regularly			
% of never married girls 10-14 years who use computer	18.2	16.1	31.2
% of never married girls 10-14 years who use internet	9.0	7.9	16.1
% of never married girls 10-14 years who have a mobile	8.5	8.9	6.2
% of never married girls 10-14 years who reported to know the signs of puberty for females	54.3	54.6	52.4
% of never married girls 10-14 years whose mothers' talked to them about puberty stage during the month preceded the survey	49.9	51.8	38.0
Perception of never married girls 10-14 years on the average ideal female	20.3	20.0	22.3

Indicator	Iraq Total	Other Gov.	Kurdistan Region
marriage age			
Perception of never married girls 10-14 years regarding the ideal male marriage age	23.0	22.8	24.0
% of never married girls 10-14 years who reported that both wife and husband together decide on the number of children	62.3	61.4	68.5
Perception of never married girls 10-14 years regarding the ideal number of children	3.6	3.6	3.4

8-Main findings

8-1 Characteristics of Survey Sample

Average household size is about 6 persons; it is less in Kurdistan region (about 5). Female headed households is 11%; this is higher in Kurdistan region (14.9%) in comparison with other governorates (9.8%). Total number of successfully interviewed households is 10,523 of whom 7,638 in other governorates and 2,885 in Kurdistan region. The sample comprised a total of 64,636 individuals with sex ratio amounted to 102 males for each 100 females.

Distribution of individuals by sex and age in years			
Age	Male	Female	Total
< 15	41.7	41.1	41.4
15-64	55.4	55.6	55.5
65+	2.9	3.3	3.1
Total	100	100	100

About 62% of population 15+ are married, while 37.5% of males are never married, this percentage decreases among females to 26.4%. It is worth noting that 5% of currently married females got married before the age of 15 years, and 22% before the age of 18 years.

Distribution of individuals 15+ by sex and marital status			
Age	Male	Female	Total
Never married	37.7	26.7	32.2
Currently married/separated	61.4	62.6	62.0
Widowed	0.7	9.3	5.0
Divorced	0.2	1.4	0.8
Total	100	100	100

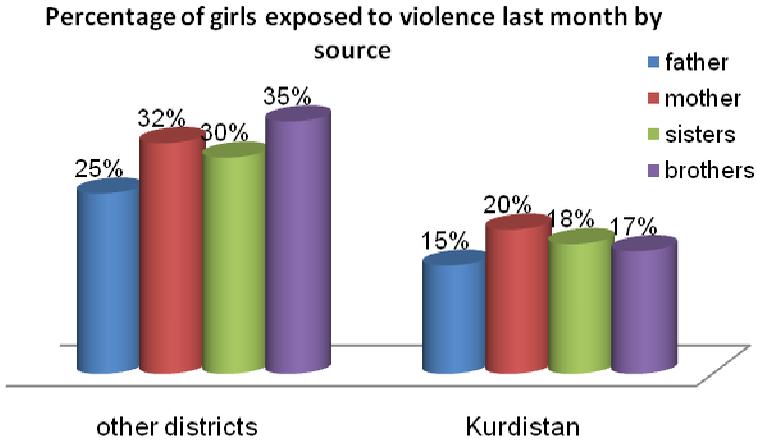
8-2 Knowledge and behavior of adolescent girls

Population projections of CSO reveal that the total number of girls 10-14 years in Iraq is estimated to 1.9 million; which comprises 6 percent of total population in Iraq. According to the survey, 65.4 percent of these girls are in urban areas, and 34.6 percent in rural areas. The survey results showed that 82.4 percent of girls 10-14 years are enrolled in schools, enrollment rate is higher in Kurdistan region (92.9%) compared with other governorates (80.7%); and it is higher in the urban areas (87.9%) compared with rural areas (70.7%). I-WISH survey results showed that 36.4 percent of the girls 10-14 years have already completed the elementary stage, while there are 42 percent are still at this schooling stage. Furthermore, 3.7 percent completed intermediate school. Interestingly, about 9.3 percent of girls 10-14 years were unable to read, of whom 4.8 percent in the urban areas against 18.8 percent in rural areas.

Survey results showed that about half (54.3 %) of girls 10-14 years know female's puberty changes, (52.4%) in Kurdistan against (54.6%) in other governorates. The main source of knowledge came from home, then from educational institutions with a major statistical differences. Only one fifth of girls reported to be aware of male's puberty changes; and the main source of this knowledge came from home then from school. School are more important as a source of knowledge about adolescent girls' knowledge on male's puberty. As for the period and girl's awareness on how to deal with it, the survey data showed that 52.8 percent of the girls have the right knowledge and the main source of this knowledge came from home. Generally speaking, home is the main source of girls' knowledge about reproductive

health, and there is lack of knowledge about male's puberty signs.

Behaviors of household members represent an important element in upbringing adolescent girl; and in preparing her for an appropriate and healthy reproductive stage of her life cycle. I-WISH data showed that, in general, the Iraqi girl does not feel equal with her counterpart brother in the household. Only 49.3 percent of girls reported to always receive equal treatment in the household with their counterparts brothers; this percentage is higher in Kurdistan (60%) compared with other governorates (47.5%). This applies to the way the mother and father deals with their children, where 30.6 percent of the girls 10-14 years reported that their mothers discriminate sometimes or always between boys and girls compared with 29.6 percent for their fathers, as for issues concerning reproductive health, more than half of the girls 10-14 years said that their mothers have already talked to them about female's puberty changes. This percentage decreases in Kurdistan region (38%) compared with other governorates (49.9%). On the other hand, Iraqi adolescent girl in general is exposed to domestic violence. More than one-fifth of them were beaten or insulted by their fathers during the month that preceded the survey, and more than one-quarter were beaten or insulted by their mothers or sisters, and less than third were victims of domestic violence by their brothers. Girls in Kurdistan region are less exposed to domestic violence compared with other governorates. It is worth noting that brothers are the main source of violence against adolescent girls, and this may be connected to the way the family differentiates between boys and girls in treatment and rights.



Almost one out of ten girls between 10-14 years old exercise sports regularly. 8.3 percent of the girls reported to know girls 10-14 years old who smoke cigarettes. On the other hand, about 51.9 percent of the girls have sometimes or regularly nightmares, and 65.6 percent suffer usually or sometimes from nyctophobia. Furthermore, 27.4 percent of girls prefer usually or sometimes to play alone and 77.8 percent said that they usually or sometimes are allowed to choose what to wear. As for access to IT only one-fifth of the girls said that they use computers and one-tenth of them have access to the internet. The percentage of using computers and having access to the internet is higher in Kurdistan than other governorates. About 8.5 percent of girls 10-14 years have mobile phones and this percentage is lower in Kurdistan (6.2%) compared (8.9%) in other governorates.

Prevalence of marriage and reproduction are not seem to witness substantial changes in the coming years if the perceptions and attitudes of adolescent girls remain at this level in regard to age of marriage and number of ideal children which will affect household size and population growth. The results showed that girls in other governorates of Iraq believe that the ideal age of marriage is almost 20 years compared with 22 years in Kurdistan region. On the other hand, girls in other governorates believe that the suitable age of marriage for men is 23 years and in Kurdistan 24 years.

The survey results showed that adolescent girls in other governorates of Iraq reported that the average ideal number of children is 3.6 compared with 3.4 in Kurdistan. Most of the girls believe that number of children should be decided by mutual agreement with the husband. On the other hand, there is a different perspective between the girls about the level of education for both men and women; girls believe that men should have higher level of education than women. Parents decide the level of education that the girl must have more than they do with their sons. As for future ambitions of adolescent girls, 19.5 percent of them want to be house wives, 9 percent of them aspire to be a public or political figure and 64.1 percent of them want to have a job in education or health services. Girls also believe that there are many challenges that prevent them from achieving their ambitions. 11.4 percent of them reported early marriage, 12.0 percent reported economic challenges, 13.2 percent said it is the current security situation and 3.8 percent believe it is the society attitude regarding women roles.

Percentage of girls between 10-14 and their perspective of the lowest accepted level of education for men and women		
Minimum level of education	Man	Woman
Not important	4.1	5.2
Elementary-primary	18.0	27.0
Diploma and higher education	47.6	41.9
Individual ambition	28.4	20.9
Family ambition	1.9	5.0
Total	100	100

Most of the girls between 10-14 said that they need more information about different aspects concerning their health, reproductive health and other life skills. In particular, 87.1 percent of the girls reported to need more knowledge in different areas concerning their health and their future.

Percentage of girls 10-14 who need for life skills knowledge			
Area	Kurdistan	Other Gov.	Iraq
Girls family rights and duties	73.8	61.7	63.4
Right Nutrition	72.2	58.5	60.4
Sport activities	72.3	49.7	52.8
Free self expression	67.2	60.1	61.0
Dealing with adults	72.3	61.4	62.9
Dealing with disabled	75.0	57.8	60.2
Dealing with males	71.8	51.1	54.0
Child abuse and combating it	67.9	52.8	54.9
Religious rights and duties	74.2	70.6	71.1

The need for more religious information was the first need, followed by knowledge on their rights and duties towards their family, dealing with adults and self expression. It is remarkable that more than half of the girls need knowledge

on how to deal with their male counterparts. This percentage increases in Kurdistan region (71.8%) compared with other governorates (51.1%). There is also an important proportion who need more knowledge about violence on children and how to combat it.

8-3 Reproductive Health

About 13.2 percent of ever married women 15-49 year were pregnant during the survey period, amongst 24.5 percent had miscarriages or abortion; 59.6 percent of these women had suffered from different multiplications of women diseases. Ever married women 15-49 years had an average of five live-births during their reproductive life.

The survey studied ante natal care. It showed that among ever married women (15-49) years who gave a live birth during the past five years; about 90 percent had received qualified ANC provided by a doctor, a qualified nurse or a qualified midwife. 19.2 percent of live births were at home because 70.6 percent of these women believed that home is better place to deliver babies, 68.1 percent of these women reported that public hospitals are better and 8.4 percent of these women voted for private hospitals. Around 75.1 percent of deliveries occurred in health institutions were natural, while 22.6 percent were cesareans.

For post natal care, I-WISH survey results reveal that among ever married women 15-49 ears who gave live birth during the past five years only 37.9 percent of them received PNC by a qualified person, and 18.6 percent suffered from some health problems during six weeks after delivery.

In RH morbidity, the survey results reveal that ever married women 15-49 who gave live-births during the past five years had suffered from some RH morbidity symptoms. 18.3 percent suffered from prolapsed, 10.5 percent suffered from urinary incontinence and 25 percent of women 15-49 suffered from other kinds of complications including allergy or itching around their genital area or from excessive vaginal discharge.

For infertility, the results revealed that around 11 percent of married women 15-49 old failed to get pregnant. 5.3 percent of these women believed that they were infertile and 23 percent of these women did not seek any kind of consultations or help due to the high costs of medical consultation, while 26 percent were disparate and believe that medical consultation or help will not cure their infertility.

In general, about 59.2 percent of ever married women 15-49 years reported to have a good health, only 7.4 percent of reported not to have a good health. When comparing their overall health situation with the previous year, about 60 percent believe that they are the same, while 17.3 percent of these women reported that their health situation had deteriorated.

On the knowledge of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), the survey showed that about 57 percent of ever married women 15-49 have the knowledge about SDTs, only about 7.4 percent of these women have had one or two of these diseases during the year prior to the survey. About 86 percent of these women had medical consultation and were

cured by doctors and around 56 percent of women 15-49 know about HIV (AIDS) and 94 percent of them believe that there is a way to avoid it.

As for family planning, about 50.6 percent of ever married women 15-49 years have already used family planning methods. Almost 51 percent of these women used pills, half of this percentage has used IUD and 21 percent used isolation methods. 71.5 percent of women reported that they used these methods for birth spacing, while 27.8 percent to stop having any more children. The main source for getting family planning methods as the survey results showed were from private clinics (44.7%), 33 percent bought it from pharmacies while 4.7 percent had it from governmental health centers.

Amongst pregnant women during the survey, 73.9 percent of women 15-49 wanted to be pregnant while 22.8 percent did not want to be pregnant, 10.3 percent of them preferred spacing while 12.6 wanted to limit (total unmet needs is 22.8%). On the other hand, around half of married women 15-49 years did not want to use any FP method because 53.4 percent wanted to have more children. Still, the decision of having more children is a mutual decision between wife and husband in 66 percent of the cases and in 20 percent is up to the husband alone. The percentage of women 15-49 years who want more children is 38 percent which is very close to women 15-49 years who did not want more children (35%). Although 40.8 percent of married women 15-49 years during the survey did not care if the coming baby is a boy or a girl, 24.9 percent wanted to have a boy while 10.7 percent wanted a girl. In rural areas, women start to use FP methods

after having the third baby and after the second or third baby in urban areas. The main reason to stop using FP methods is due to their willingness to have more children; another reason is the method which is used caused some health complications, or which relate to menstrual cycle and other issues.

8-4 Woman Empowerment and Participation

I-WISH results showed that Iraqi women 15-54 years old have low level of education; about 22 percent were unable to read and write; this percentage increases by age. More than one-third of these women have not completed more than primary school. The results reveal also that only 18 percent of Iraqi women 15-54 years old have preliminary education or higher. It is worth noting that illiteracy rate among women in Kurdistan is 32 percent which is higher than other governorates (19.6%). The percentage is also higher in rural areas (36.5%) in comparison with urban areas (15.9%). The results showed that more than two-thirds (69.4%) have not completed the educational level they aspired. 82.1 percent of these women were in rural areas. Women reported that due to many reasons amongst refusal of their families (40.8%), inability to complete their education(20.3%), early marriage (13.1%), economic reasons (11.7%), and long distance between their homes and the educational facility (6.5%). More than one-third of women 15-54 years old showed the desire to go back to educational institutions especially in Kurdistan region (37%). Some women want to go back to school to complete their education (31.0%). About one fifth like to attend training, and more than one-fifth would like to join adult literacy education programs, and less than one-fifth wanted to join religious educational programs.

In the field of access to information, I-WISH results revealed lack of access/interest in information. Less than half of women 15-54 years (47%) did not read any newspapers or magazines during the past year; this percentage is less in rural areas. Women in Kurdistan read more newspapers and magazines than women in other governorates. On the other hand, television is the main source of information for Iraqi women (91%). More than half of them do not listen to radio regularly, particularly in the rural areas; while women in Kurdistan listen to the radio more regularly than women in other governorates. Most Iraqi women (88%) do not use internet.

Most Iraqi women believe that women should participate in the elections (84.8%) as voters, and 67.7 percent reported that women should also participate as candidates. This tendency to participate in politics is higher among women in Kurdistan region compared with other governorates; and no substantial differences by type of locality. More than 60 percent of women who did not want to participate in politics referred that to politics is "men business", while 19.7 percent because elections are useless, and about one quarter reported that due to lack of community support to vote for women. The tendency to participate in politics have increased from less than a half in 2005 to more than two-thirds in 2010. It is worth noting that women community participation is very low; less than one women out of ten joined clubhouses, social clubs, unions, parties or women associations. About 30.6 percent of women reported that due to lack of time, or unavailability of nearby facilities (22.7%), 14.2 due to

disapproval of husbands/fathers, and 13.6 percent were not interested.

In economic empowerment, I-WISH focused on women employment only. The results revealed that 10.9 percent of women 15-54 were employed for wage at the survey period; this percentage increases in Kurdistan (12.3%), and in the urban areas (12.8%). Most of "not working" women (57.8%) referred that to personal reasons (e.g. not interested, family affairs, etc), while 17.1% due to lack of competency (education, skills, etc), and 12.9 percent to economic difficulties (e.g. lack of work, low wages, dismissal factors of market, etc). As for the unmet needs, the survey results indicated that 35.3 percent of not working women are willing to work if a suitable opportunity is made available, amongst 7.3 percent were available to be enrolled in labor market training programs, particularly in Kurdistan region (10.6%).

On gender equality, about 29.5 percent of women 15-45 years believe that there is gender-based inequities in the way that parents raise up their children; particularly in the rural areas (33.4%). About 46 percent of women indicated gender-based inequality referred that due to parents preference of boys, particularly in the rural areas (59.1%). About 30.7 percent believed that this inequality is due to traditions particularly in Kurdistan region (58.7%), and 16.5 percent due to desire to protect the girls particularly in the other governorates (18.3%). Generally speaking, there is gender-based inequities in favor boys. For example, 47.8 percent of women 15-54 years old believe there is a gender-

based inequities in favor to boys in the freedom to go out, 18.5 percent believed that males get higher allowance and more than 20 percent believe that male's ability to participate in decision making and freedom in choosing friends and spouses. More than one-tenth of families discriminate in favor to males in education expenses and in respecting boys' privacy. I-WISH results showed that there is no discrimination in favor for girls at any level. This has coincide with women statements when they were asked if they believed there is an equality between genders in rights and duties; 29.9 percent of these women said that they are equal, 38.6 percent said that there is a discrimination between genders.

Distribution of women 15-54years by perception regarding gender equality			
Area	Gender equality	Bias to women	Bias to men
In front of law	64.3	2.8	32.9
Political participation	32.5	0.4	67.0
Social participation	47.9	2.8	49.3
Taking decisions for family	43.4	1.5	55.1
Having jobs	52.2	1.2	46.5
Participating in life aspects	57.5	1.1	41.4
Wage in public sector	66.8	0.8	32.4
Wage in private sector	49.2	1.6	49.2
Acceptance at university	77.7	1.1	21.2
Control own belongings	46.0	1.1	52.9
Free access to IT	48.2	1.0	50.8
Access to property	39.6	1.0	59.4

In Kurdistan region 59.9 percent of these women said that they are equal with men compared with 24.9 percent in the rural areas. Furthermore, 60.4 percent of women who

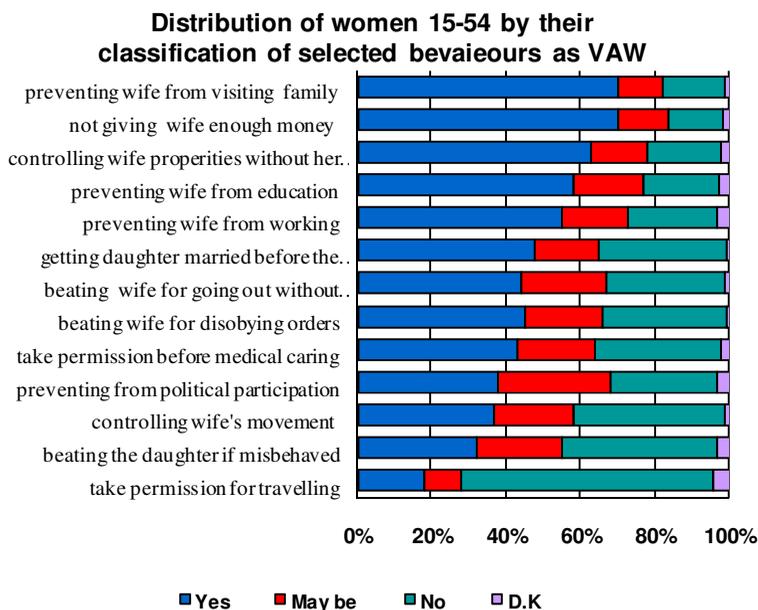
believed that there is gender-based inequities referred that to the more responsibilities of men compared with women, 47.7 percent of them reported that men have more endurance than women, while 19.2 percent of them said that regulations are not fair to women.

Concerning changing of attitudes toward women rights amongst different generations, there seems to be a positive attitude for adopting more women rights in Iraq in the new generations. The gap is increasing across generations' attitudes towards equality between men and women and women freedom to choose the number of children. But there is still no substantial difference in regard to women's household and community role; women are still seen in the traditional role as a house keepers; there is also no substantial change in regard to early marriage.

Distribution of women 15-54years by perception on the support of youth and elderly to women rights/issues		
Woman Right/issue	Youth	Elderly
Right to education	71.9	47.7
Right to work	65.7	42.4
Gender equality	49.8	30.3
Choose husbands	62.1	39.5
Woman natural place is house	43.5	49.1
Woman to decide No. of children	57.7	35.3
Support early marriages	42.4	45.1

8-5 Violence against women – VAW

The survey results indicated a gap between the international concept and Iraqi women concept on VAW. Although more than half Iraqi women agreed that not giving them enough money although it is available, preventing woman from visiting her family, preventing her from completing her education and preventing her from working is VAW, but most of them do not consider preventing woman from political participation, controlling her mobility by husband, beating daughters if misbehaved as VAW. As for the source of VAW, 73 percent of women 15-45 years old reported that the main source is the husband, followed by father (53%), then other family members (43%), co-workers (20%), and health workers (18%).



As for the place where women identified as a place exposed to VAW, the results confirmed that most of VAW incidents occur at home although they might be exposed to VAW in other places. The least incidents of VAW occurs in educational institutions and there are no differences by region. The main reason for the widely common VAW in Iraq according to women aged 15-54 years is due to the common misconceptions in cultures, misconception of families about ways of upbringing boys and girls, misconception of religion, lack of awareness amongst men and women, lack of knowledge amongst women about their rights and women giving up and accepting violence. The results also confirmed that any effort to combat violence might start from home by changing behaviors and concepts of family members about women's rights and by encouraging opposition of VAW.

The survey reveals that according to zero tolerance approach, an important percentage of Iraqi women were victims of VAW during the past year in different places and by different people. About 46 percent of girls 10-14 years were exposed to violence at least once by a family member (father, mother, brother, sister) during the month preceded the survey. Furthermore, about 36% of currently married women were exposed at least to one form of psychological/moral/emotional violence from husbands (e.g. preventing socialization, controlling movement, ignoring, not providing enough money, anger if talked to other man, etc), 23 percent to verbal violence (e.g insults, humiliation, intimidation, etc), while about 6 percent to physical violence (e.g. beating, pushing, etc). Furthermore, 9 percent were exposed to sexual violence (e.g forced sexual intercourse,

humiliating sexual behavior, etc). In addition, about 23 percent of women 15-54 years reported to be exposed to any type of violence in the street/market against 11 percent in the transportation means, while 11.3% of women (55+) were exposed to emotional violence from family members.

During the year that preceded the survey, many women experienced violence from husband. About 6.5 percent of currently married women got married in an exchange way of marriage where the brother of the wife marries the husband's sister. This percentage is little higher in rural areas and in Kurdistan compared with other governorates. Ways of violence differs in its recurrence; for example, one-third of women who experienced physiological, physical or sexual violence were exposed to that more than once in a month. Concerning the impact of violence on the victims, the survey results showed that 2.3 percent of physical violence victims had been scratched, wounded or had some broses. Less than 1 percent led to an eye, ear, deep cut injuries or led to broken bones or teeth or miscarriages.

Level of violence differs by governorate; for example, in Al-Anbar 30 percent of men refuse to let the wife go to health centers without company. In Al-Qadesiah 40 percent of men insist to know where the wife is all the time, one-quarter of men in Diyala insulted their wives at least once during the year that preceded the survey, and one-fifth of married women in Missan were victims physical violence.

One fifth of women 15-54 years reported to experience some kind of kinds of physical, verbal and sexual violence in the street, This percentage is higher in urban areas than rural

areas and is less in Kurdistan than other districts in Iraq. Transportation means is the second place of violence (10.5%) and it is higher in urban areas than rural areas. The percentage is also higher in other governorate when compared with Kurdistan region.

Women clearly noticed the effort made in KRG to combat VAW, where about four-fifths of the region have heard of KRG effort, followed by the organizations of civil society in Kurdistan. While in the other governorates; although the government is on the top of the list of entities combat VAW, only less than two thirds of women did not hear the government's efforts in this area. It was also noted the low prevalence of anti-violence interventions by the United Nations in the rest of Iraq governorates (26.2%) compared with its activity in the Kurdistan Region (61.1%) This applies on civil society organizations and international non-governmental organizations.

Percentage of women reported to hear about combating VAW					
Entity	Iraq	Kurdi -stan	Other gov.	Urban	Rural
Government	39.2	80.4	31.5	39.7	38.0
United Nations	31.6	61.1	26.1	34.9	23.1
Civil society	30.8	64.0	24.7	33.9	22.8
International NGOs	23.8	56.8	17.6	26.7	16.0

For VAW survivors, family is considered as the first shelter for VAW survivals. Some women go to friends especially in Kurdistan and if VAW continues women go back again to families or police or to religious leader. In Kurdistan women go to police more than any other areas of Iraq. More than

one-third of women 36.9 percent believe that VAW survivors should go to police and this percentage is higher in Kurdistan (48.9%) compared with other governorates (34.7%). In urban areas 38.7 percent of women think that VAW victims should go to the police while in rural areas only 32.4 percent of women agreed. It is remarkable that women trust the police as an authority to go to in case of VAW; it is higher in Kurdistan (61.6%) compared with other governorates (47.4%).

8-6 Elderly women 55 years and above

Population projections according to CSO reveal that the total number of women 55 years and above in Iraq is estimated to about one million women; which comprise around 6.8 percent of total women in Iraq, and about 53 percent of total elderly population aged 55 years and above. The results of I-WISH survey also showed that 43.3 percent of these women are widowed, 3.3 percent are unmarried and 23.1 percent are heads of households. The results also showed that elderly women live in households with an average of 6.5 members, amongst 13.4 percent live in households with average household size totaled to less than 3 persons. About 76.2 percent of these women live in urban areas and 23.8 percent live in rural areas. The results of the survey reveal also that 72.4 percent of elderly women are illiterate and only 5.4 percent of them have a diploma degree or higher.

Elderly women in Iraq are gone through fold pressure; on one hand the need to be more dependent due to their increasing needs for health and social care; but on the other hand they are requested to take care of other members especially disabled, sick and weak family members. About

35 percent of these women reported that their physical conditions are either bad or very bad, and there are no differences in women's situation in Kurdistan and other governorates of Iraq. About 11 percent of these women reported that they are unhappy with their life in general of whom 6.4 percent in Kurdistan and 11.4 percent in other governorates. Furthermore, 12.9 percent take care of disabled, sick or weak members of the household, amongst 46.5 percent needed help in this task but couldn't find it.

As for the need for help in daily activities, the results of the survey showed that 31.1 percent of these women needed help in eating, drinking, wearing clothes, moving around and using the bathroom in the year that preceded the survey. The main source of this help came from family members (88.8%), while 0.5 percent received help from government health care workers. Family forms the main safety net for elderly women in Iraq; about 83.6 percent of women 55+ reported that family members such as sons, daughters, grandsons and others provided them with help regularly when needed. Furthermore, about 66.9 percent provided financial and material assistance, versus about 71.2 percent provided health care, and 68.4 percent provided company when needed.

In regard to health care, about 52.1 percent of women 55+ needed health care during the month preceding the survey. About 60.5 percent of these women got it from government health facilities, of whom 30 percent reported that quality of service was good, while 18.7 percent reported that quality of the service was bad. About 58.6 percent faced hard time trying to get government health care. This difficulty of

finding government health care increases in other governorates (60.9%) compared with Kurdistan region (48.0%). Those who faced difficulties reported different reasons for that; due to inability to reach to the service (40.6%), or due to lack of enough money to get help (47.7%), and 8.8 percent could not find anyone to take them to the health facility. There is a general believe that health care is improving in Iraq although there are differences by environment and region.

About 40.3 percent of women 55+ faced difficulties to cover the cost of health care. It is worth noting that this percentage is higher in Kurdistan region (44.2%) compared with other Iraqi governorates (39.4%). Only 14.3 percent of women 55+ who suffer from health situation that requires medical treatment or medication that government or NGOs cover all/part of the required cost.

On future concerns of elderly women; 64.5 percent were concerned about the future for different reasons. About 40.6 percent reported to be concerned due to the likelihood of leaving her usual residence due to health reasons. Around 53.5 percent were worried not to have enough money for long term health care, 49.3 percent were concerned to have to become a burden on her family, 53 percent were concerned of the increasing cost of health care and not having enough money to cover it, and 29.9 percent were afraid to go to elderly house.

As for violence against elderly, the results of the survey showed that 11.3 percent of women 55 years and above in Iraq have experience some kind of verbal violence by family

members during the year preceded the survey. About 12.2 percent were not allowed to move freely, 12.9 percent have been told that they cause burden on the family, and 17.1 percent were left alone. Women who had income were less exposed to violence, 8.4 percent of them were exposed to verbal violence and 11.2 percent were not allowed to move freely, 11.7 percent were told they are a burden on the family, and 16.9 percent were left alone.

8-7 Men 18 years and above

I-WISH results reveal that about half of currently married men 18+ (47%) were aware of women reproductive issues (family planning, relationship between natural breast feeding and getting pregnant, period and its physical and physiological consequences, puerperium and other women health issues) before marriage. This percentage varies by place of residence; it is higher in the urban (51.7) in comparison to rural areas (44.7%). It is also positively correlated with the level of education; about one quarter of illiterate men (26.5) had knowledge on woman's reproduction before marriage in comparison with almost all (95.9%) men with higher education degree. The results have also showed that this knowledge has come from different sources; "friends" formed the primary source (67.8%) of men knowledge on woman's reproductive health. The second source was "books and magazines" at (42.8%), and the third was TV and radio programs at (40.6%). As for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), there was a consensus among Iraqi men that it is a bad ritual with differences on its roots causes.

About (42.9%) of currently married men reported not to assist their wives in house chores at all, against (6.1%) regularly assist their wives these chores. The percentage of men refuse to participate in these chores is lower in the urban areas (36.4%) compared to rural areas (57.8%). The results showed negative correlation between the refusal to participate in house chores and the level of education; this rejection is more popular amongst less educated men. The survey addressed also the type of issues where husbands discuss regularly with their wives as a measure of men's perception on the role and capability of his wife.

The results have showed that (59.8%) of men discuss household economy on regular basis with their wives, whereas (56.8%) discuss family issues (family values, number of children, etc), against (23.1%) discuss issues of reproduction health and sexual behavior.

Percentage of married men 18 years and above by issues regularly discussed with their wives			
Issue	Urban	Rural	Total
Household economy	62.4	54.2	60.1
Family affairs	59.8	51.7	57.5
Reproductive and sexual health	26.8	13.7	23.2
Political issues	12.2	5.1	10.2
Religious issues	48.0	52.8	49.3
Public and philosophical issues	11.7	4.4	9.7

Only one out of ten married men (10.3%) discuss political issues such as forming of the government and parties affairs. It is noted also that (49.2%) discuss religion issues and about (9.7%) discuss general philosophical issues like social

concerns, communication, climate change and other public concerns. The survey revealed significant difference between urban and rural areas in this regard; rural men focus on the traditional role of women related to reproductive and family affairs.

The perception of man regarding division of labor inside the household between husband and wife indicates his perception on the role of woman in household affairs and decision making. I-WISH results revealed that most men believe that woman's role in the household's affairs is focused on feeding, cleaning, and service affairs, then comes her role in the follow up on children's development helping them with their education and their sexual health awareness. According to men, women almost have no role in solving problems and financial support. No significant differences were observed between rural and urban men.

I-WISH results confirmed the stereotyped role of woman as a follower for man perspective in the household and society development. Significant differences between rural and urban areas. Although men, in general, accept women participating and supporting their leading role in the family and the society affairs, they still do not accept giving her a leadership role not even in deciding women affairs in the society (3.5%).

When men asked on their perspective on woman's capability in comparison with her male counterpart in selected areas, it was confirmed that men do not consider women as capable as men in the public and political affairs, and the areas where important decisions need to be taken, while they

believe that women are more capable in the traditional role of women namely child bearing and internal household affairs.

Percentage of men by perspective on woman responsibility in selected society aspects			
Main role for woman in life	Urban	Rural	Total
Having children	34.5	44.6	37.2
Shares man in household development	63.0	54.1	60.6
Work and bread winning	1.1	0.7	1.0
Participate in development and decision making	1.4	0.6	1.1
Woman role in relation to man's role in household			
Woman follows man in household development	29.9	38.5	32.2
Woman shares/supports man in household	66.9	59.0	64.8
Man shares woman in common household	3.0	2.5	2.9
Woman role in relation to man's role in society			
Woman follows man in society development	31.8	43.9	35.0
Woman shares man in society development	64.3	53.8	61.4
Woman responsible for woman affairs in society	4.0	2.3	3.5

Survey results reveal the perception of men in regard to violence against woman. It shows that the man perspective is still having some contradicting aspects. Significant proportion of men give the right to the man to do some actions considered as violence against woman by

international standards. This includes beating wife, preventing wife from going to health center alone, controlling the type of dress code she follows. This applies also to the female child including forcing her to marriage before reaching legal minimum age.

