Lebanon Ageing Profile

Addressing Population-Ageing in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa

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Lebanon in a nutshell

- 6,000 years old – VERY old!
- Small Upper Middle-Income country in the Middle East
- Population around 4,500,000
- PLUS around 2,000,000 refugees (highest number per capita in the world)
- Around 80% urban and ¼ live in poverty
- Most recent census: 1932 under the French mandate
- Fastest ageing country in the Arab World
Many profiles....
## Population Trends, Lebanon 1970-2050

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic indicator</th>
<th>1970</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>4.60</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63.10</td>
<td>78.60</td>
<td>86.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>67.10</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>88.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population &lt;15 years</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of older people (≥65 years)</td>
<td>4.90</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From 4.9 in 1970 to 23.3 in 2050
Living arrangements – 2009

highest in the region in terms of living alone
Illiterate + can barely read and write + basic education
At age 85+: 80.5% of women and 53.7% of men
## Retirement provision in Lebanon – 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil servants</td>
<td>Government run</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military and security personnel</td>
<td>Government run</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>4.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sector employees (NSSF)*</td>
<td>End-of-service indemnity</td>
<td>480,000</td>
<td>28.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal with public retirement provision</td>
<td></td>
<td>590,000</td>
<td>34.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers, doctors and others</td>
<td>Privately run</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>3.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal with no retirement provision</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
<td>61.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total work force</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NSSF: National Social Security Fund

- **61.76%** with no retirement provision
- **78%** of older Lebanese supported financially by children
Economic Activity

% working
Men: 50.7% - Women: 4.5%
Health & health care

- 63.8% of 65+ suffer from at least one NCD
- 7.4% of 65+ have dementia (1 study done in 2013 on 506 people – higher among women and those with no formal education)
- 70% do not have health insurance
- MoPH insurer of last resort and subsidizes NCD medication
- Curative rather than preventive
- Affordability and accessibility challenges (mostly private and affiliated to religious communities or parties)
- Lack of specialised professionals in old age
- No national policies or plans on ageing and dementia
- Research focused on health of children, young adults and women
Care of older people

- Around 45 institutions specialized in older adults out of 243 institutions addressing the general population (nursing homes, day care centers, home care services, food services, dispensaries)
- Challenges:
  - no regulations (standards for nursing homes have been just adopted by MOSA)
  - poor quality of care and lack of specialized teams
  - Overcrowding
  - lack of funding
  - mostly in urban areas
  - 97% are privately run (civil society versus state provisions)
  - limited support from ministries and municipalities
- Only 1% of older adults institutionalised
- Burden of care mainly on unpaid informal family care and migrant workers
- Care affected by immigration, low fertility and women entry into the labour market
- No incentives or support from government
Recommendations

Government/civil society/academia

- Set National policies and Strategy (in progress) and legislations to serve the needs as well as acknowledge and enhance capabilities and contributions of older persons
- Introduce a person centered preventive model of care
- Provide financial incentives and training for families and care givers
- Establish advocacy groups and awareness campaigns
- Provide accurate comprehensive database and statistics segregated by age and gender
- Promote funding and research in the field
- Reinforce geriatrics and gerontology specialties
- Address the needs of older refugees

Shukran!
References


References

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