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# Gender Inequalities in the Arab Region

Hanan Nazier

Racha Ramadan

Expert Group Meeting on Multidimensional Inequality in Arab Countries  
Beirut, Lebanon, 18-19 February 2019

# Outline

I- Introduction

II- Gender inequalities in Education in Arab Region

III- Gender Inequalities in labor markets in Arab Region

IV- Gender Inequalities in Health Arab Region

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## Why gender inequalities?

- Gender inequalities in well-being dimensions as education, health, employment or pay are problematic from a well-being and equity perspectives, in addition to their negative impact on growth.
- In the Arab States, gender inequality is considered as one of the constraints that hinder growth and restrain the achievement of the development goals, as it reduces the available human capital in the society.

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## II- Gender Inequalities in Education

- SDG4: “girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education”.
- Women’s education is considered as a necessary condition to empower women, reduce fertility raise their economic participation and their bargaining power within the household.
- Women’s education has a significant positive impact on the health and education of the future generation which would allow to stop the inter-generational poverty circle.

## Does Gender Matter for opportunities?

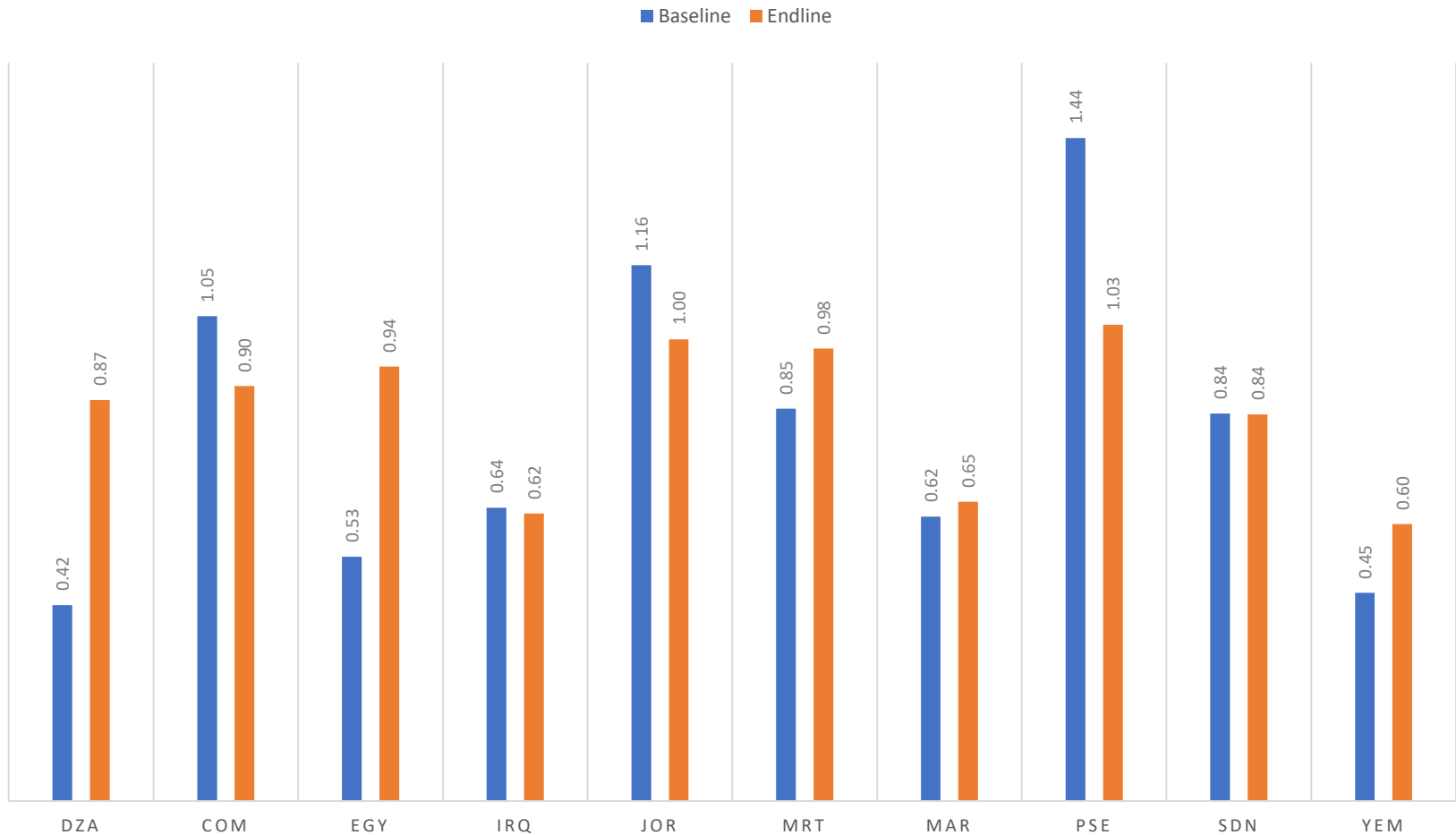
- Inequality of opportunities is considered as a determinant of inequality in educational achievement.
- According to Assaad et al (2014); in Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia, girls are more likely to go further in school while this is not the case in Iraq and Yemen.

## Education Indicators:

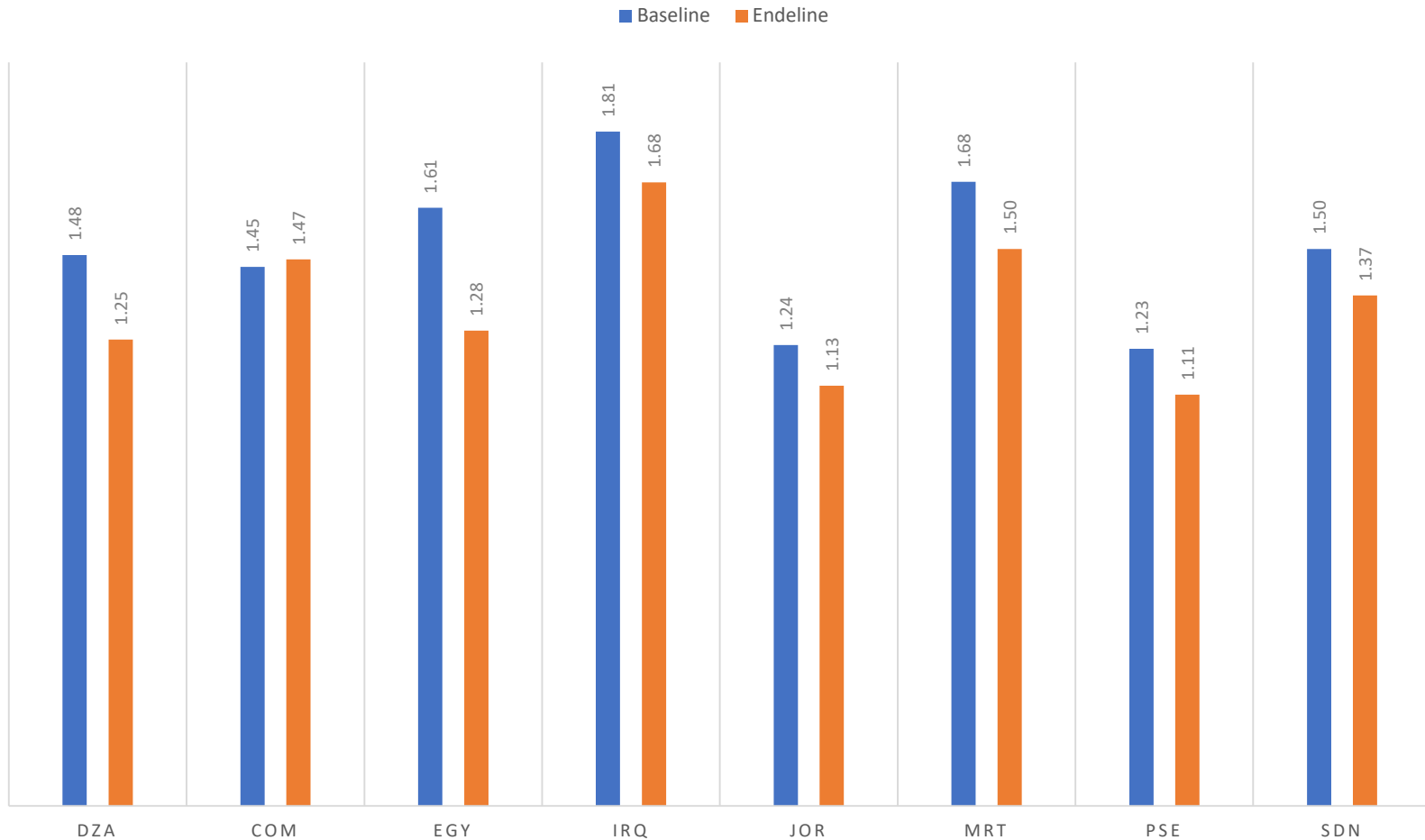
- Data sources: DHS, MICS, PAPFAM
  - percentage of children 6-15 years that have never been to school
  - average years of education (25+) in selected
  - net attendance in primary and secondary levels



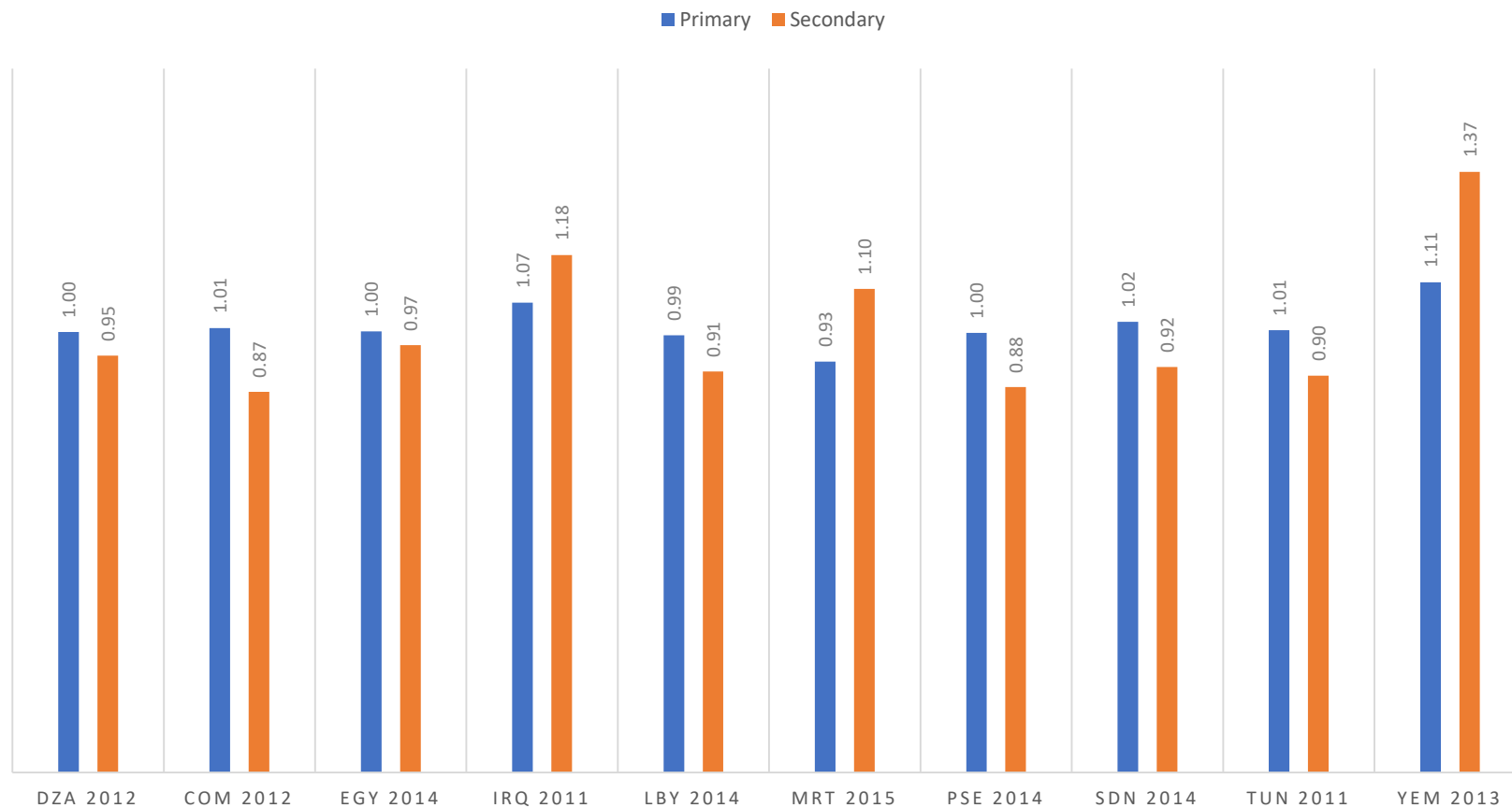
# Ratio male to female of percentage of children 6-15 years that have never been to school



# Ratio male to female of average years of education (25+) in selected Arab Countries



# Ratio male to female of the net attendance in primary and secondary levels (Endline Year)



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### III- Gender Inequalities in Labor Market

- There is common agreement that improving women's involvement in the economy is central for economic growth and sustainable development.
- Nevertheless, there are some obstacles that face women's participation in the labor market and prevent them from obtaining better jobs, leading to the existing gender differences in the labor market outcomes.

## ...in Arab Countries

- Common agreement in the literature about gender inequalities in the labor markets in Arab countries is that observed labor market outcomes differ by gender with a male favor in most economies.
- Although women in Arab economies are increasingly well prepared for work in the productive economy in terms of education attainment and higher age at marriage, still their rate of participation in the labour force is very low.
- *Accordingly, women in Arabs countries are considered to be the region's unutilized and unrecognized Human reserve.*

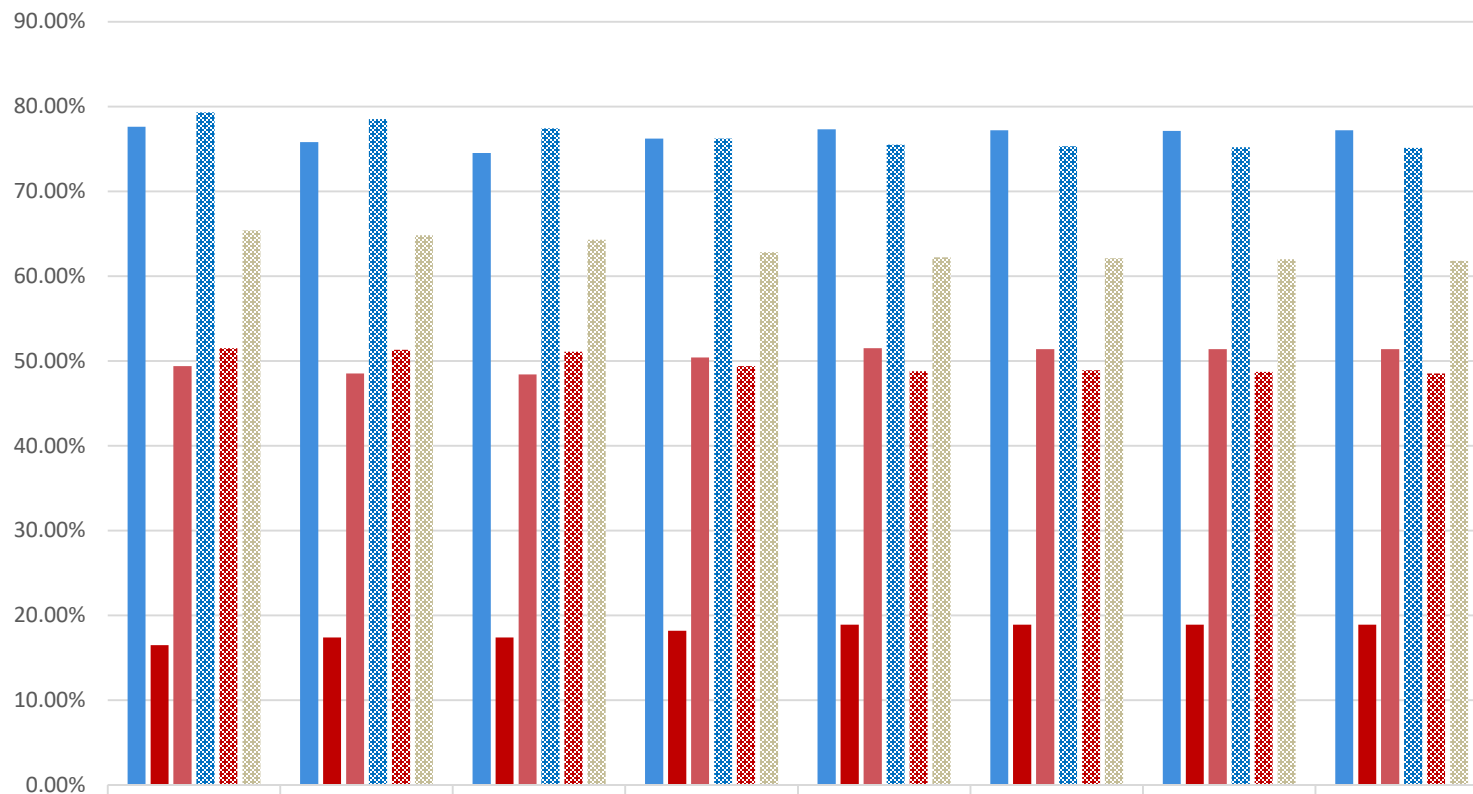
## Labor Market Indicators:

- We examine the gaps between men and women in Arab countries labor markets by looking at the performance of a selection of **ILO** statistical indicators:
  - labour force participation rate
  - unemployment rate
  - employment rate

- Statistics show that female labor market outcomes in Arab countries are among the lowest around the world, while those for male's are around the world average.
- Not only are women less likely than men to participate in the labour force, but when they do participate, they are also more likely to be unemployed.

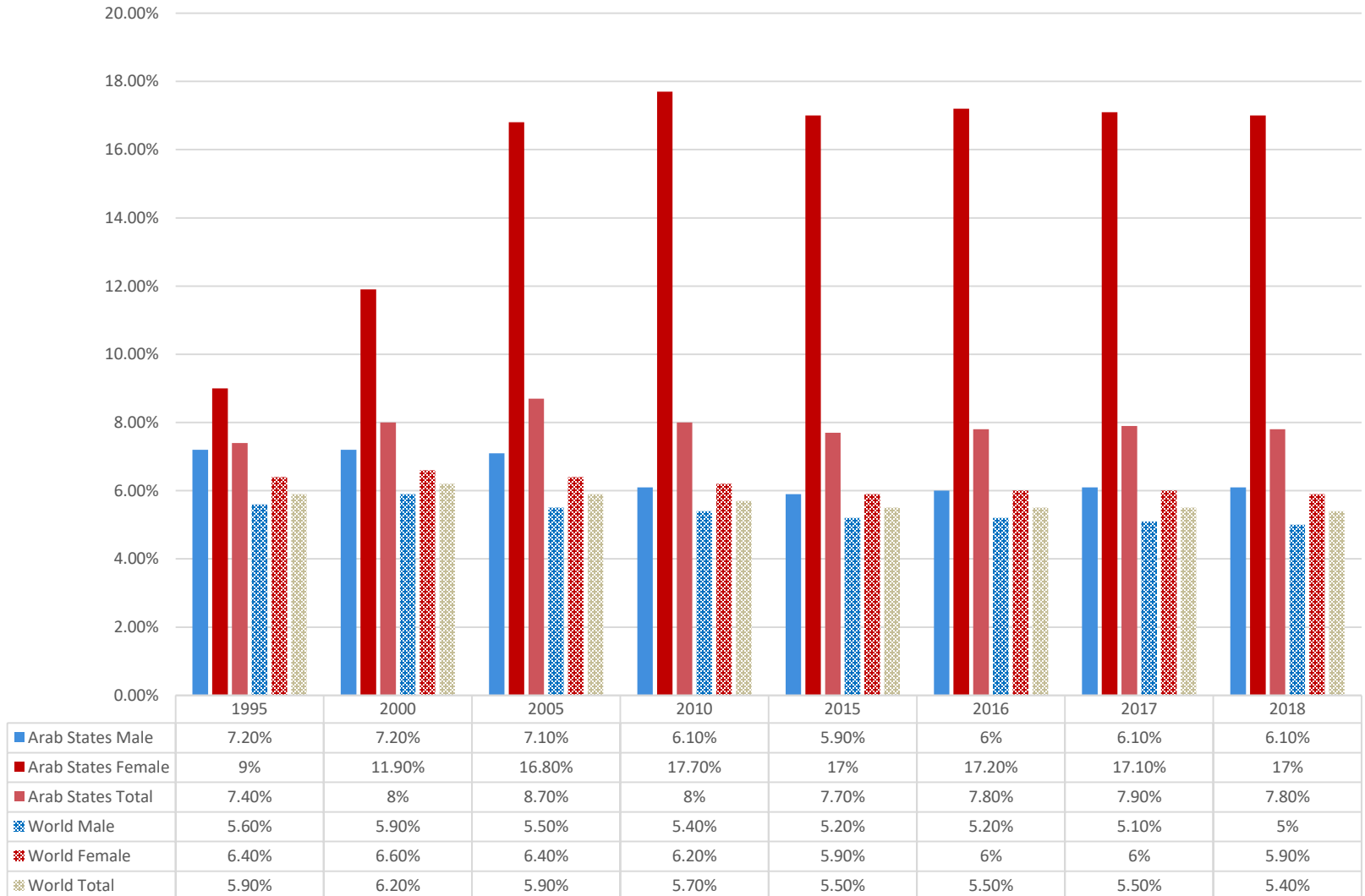


# Labour force participation Rate

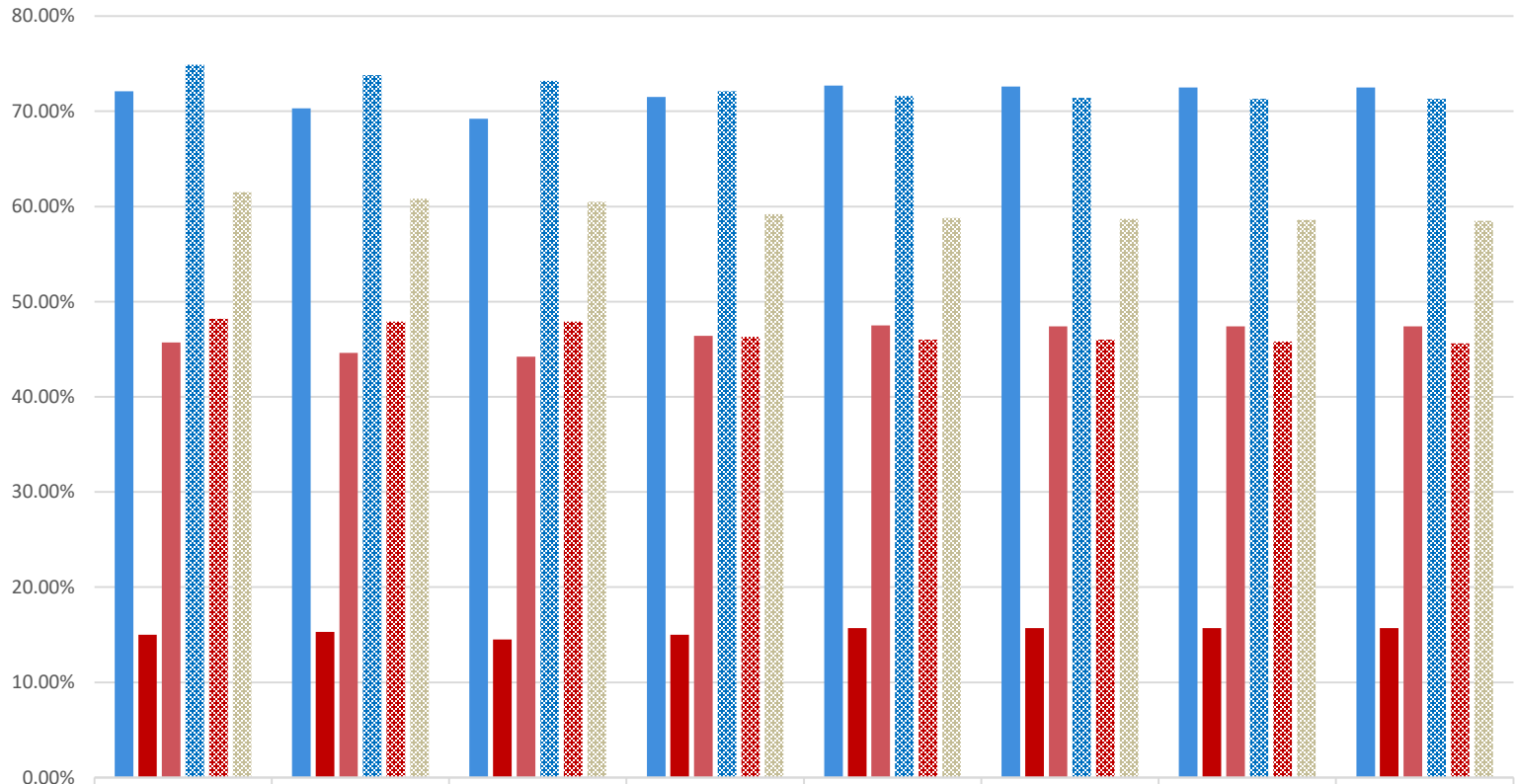


	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arab states MaLe	77.60%	75.80%	74.50%	76.20%	77.30%	77.20%	77.10%	77.20%
Arab states Female	16.50%	17.40%	17.40%	18.20%	18.90%	18.90%	18.90%	18.90%
Arab states total	49.40%	48.50%	48.40%	50.40%	51.50%	51.40%	51.40%	51.40%
World MaLe	79.30%	78.50%	77.40%	76.20%	75.50%	75.30%	75.20%	75.10%
World Female	51.50%	51.30%	51.10%	49.40%	48.80%	48.90%	48.70%	48.50%
World total	65.40%	64.80%	64.30%	62.80%	62.20%	62.10%	62%	61.80%

# Unemployment Rate



# Employment Rate



	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018
Arab States Male	72.10%	70.30%	69.20%	71.50%	72.70%	72.60%	72.50%	72.50%
Arab States Female	15%	15.30%	14.50%	15%	15.70%	15.70%	15.70%	15.70%
Arab States Total	45.70%	44.60%	44.20%	46.40%	47.50%	47.40%	47.40%	47.40%
World Male	74.90%	73.80%	73.20%	72.10%	71.60%	71.40%	71.30%	71.30%
World Female	48.20%	47.90%	47.90%	46.30%	46%	46%	45.80%	45.60%
World Total	61.50%	60.80%	60.50%	59.20%	58.80%	58.70%	58.60%	58.50%

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## IV- Gender Inequalities in Health

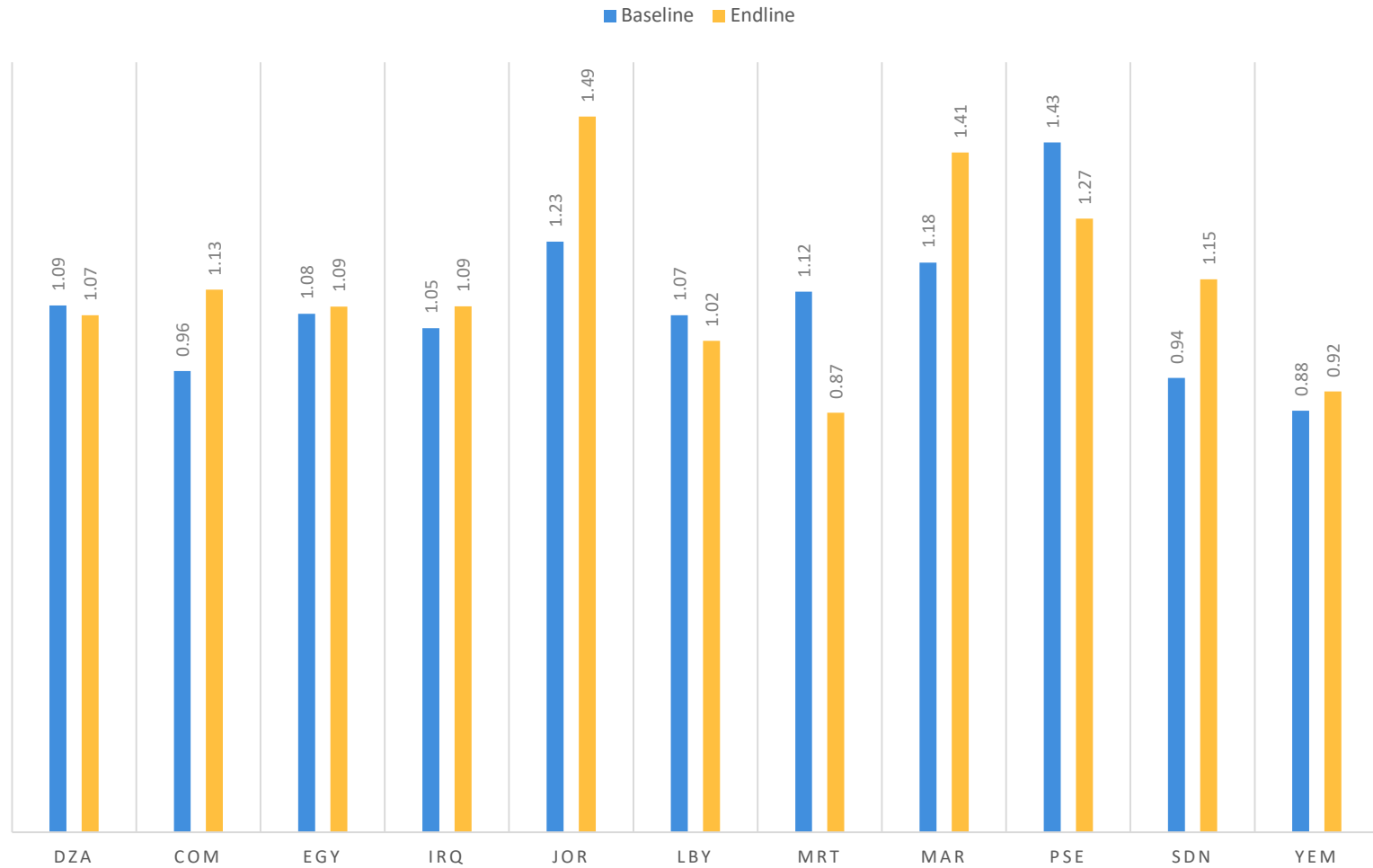
- Gender inequality in health and access to health services do not affect only women's health but has negative effect on the future generations as well.
- Educated women with equal access to resources and economic opportunities, freedom of mobility and bargaining power are less likely to have malnourished children (Shroff et al, 2011; Sinha et al, 2017).

- Disparities in malnutrition between boys and girls maybe explained by two types of factors; cultural factors and biological factors.
- In Arab States:
  - In Egypt, females are not more likely to be stunted, wasted or underweight than males (Ersado and Arab, 2014).
  - In Tunisia, girls are not more likely to be stunted, wasted or underweight (Ammara and Jemmali; 2017).
  - Women are more likely to be obese and suffers from anemia.

## Health Indicators:

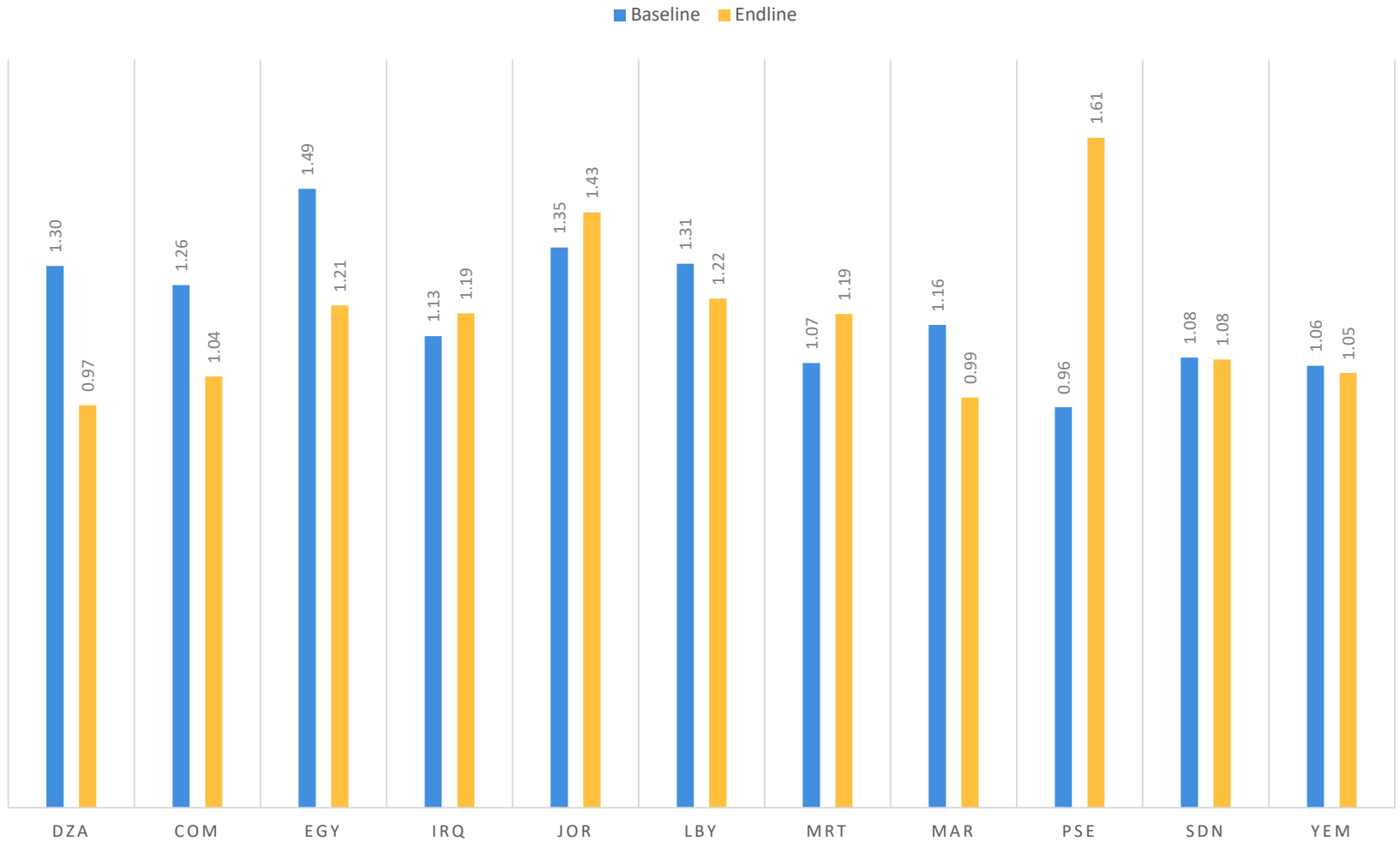
- Data sources: DHS, MICS, PAPFAM
  - prevalence of children suffering from underweight
  - prevalence of children suffering from overweight
  - prevalence of children suffering from wasting
  - prevalence of children suffering from stunting

# Ratio of male to female for the prevalence of children suffering from overweight

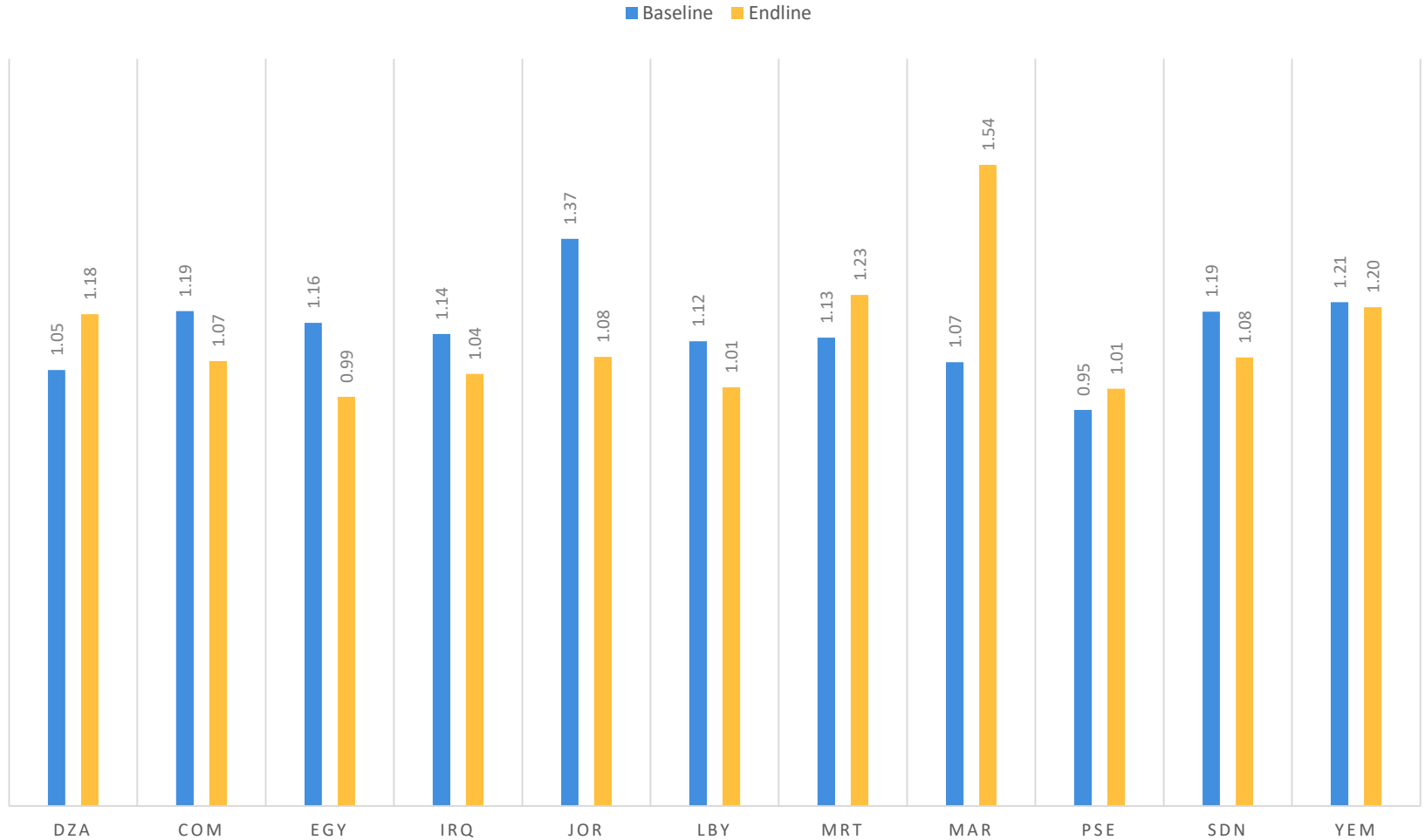




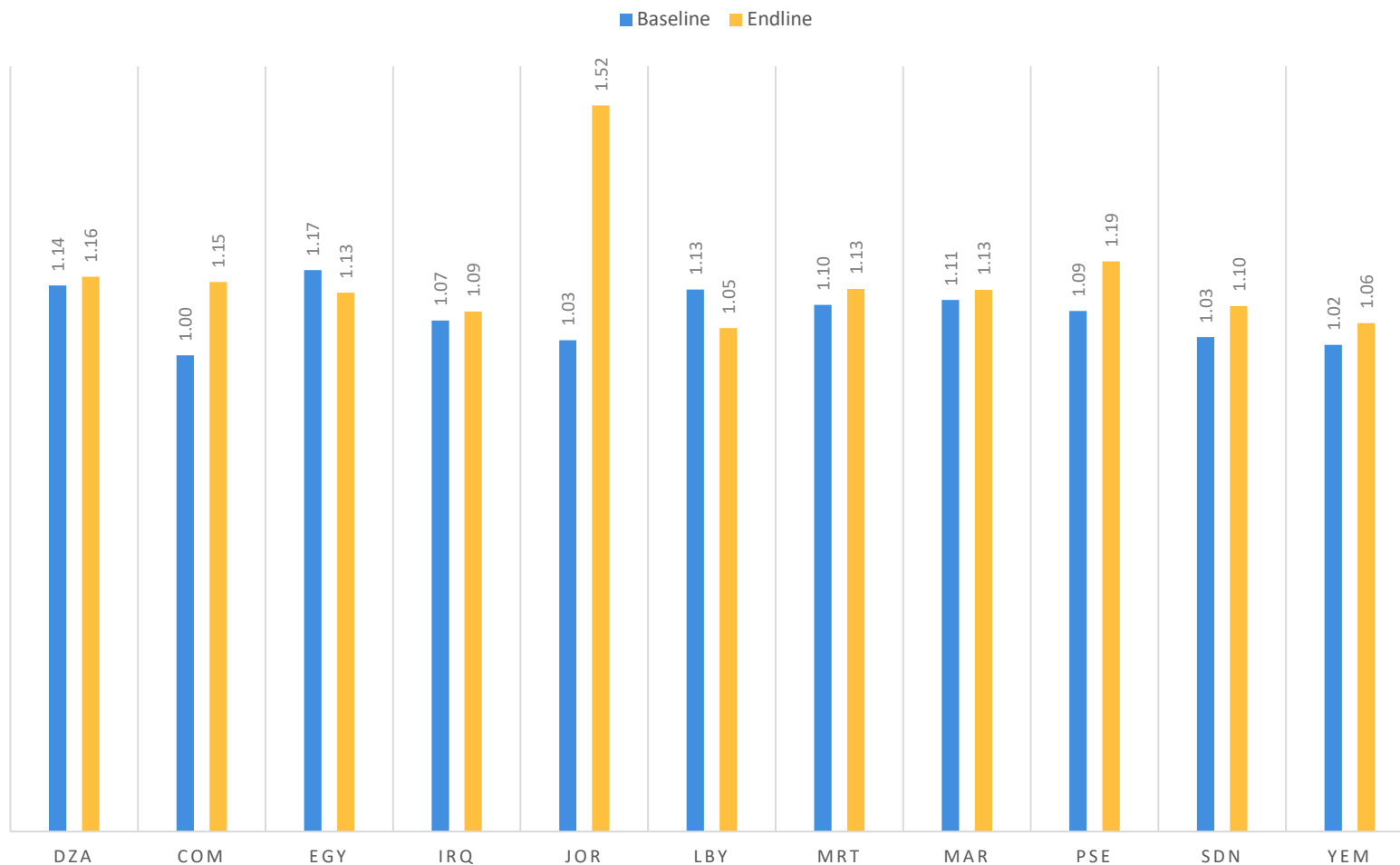
# Ratio of male to female for the prevalence of children suffering from underweight



# Ratio of male to female for the prevalence of children suffering from wasting



# Ratio of male to female for the prevalence of children suffering from stunting



## *A Take Home Message*

- Despite the progress in terms of education and health, women's prospects in the world of work are far from being equal to men's
- The performance of women in Arab countries lags extremely behind that of women in the rest of the world as well as behind males in the region.
- This gender gap is large and persistent.



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**THANK YOU!**

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