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## **Integrating Gender into Civil Registration and Vital Statistics: The Need for a Life-Course Approach**

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# Core Findings and Arguments

1. Gender provides an important lens for understanding population dynamics and CRVS inclusiveness
2. Life-course approach is critical in studying the gender dimensions of CRVS systems
3. Censuses, surveys and qualitative research are needed to assess sex differentials in CRVS completeness

# Three Country Case Studies

1. **China**: Disentangling Sex Differentials in Delayed **Birth Registration** and Son Preference
2. **Jordan**: Social consequences of barriers to **Marriage Registration** amongst Syrian Refugees
3. **Morocco**: Sex Differentials in **Death Registration**

# China: Disentangling Sex Differentials in Delayed Birth Registration and Son Preference

	China	Global Average
Sex Ratio at Birth (Males per 100 Females)	118	105

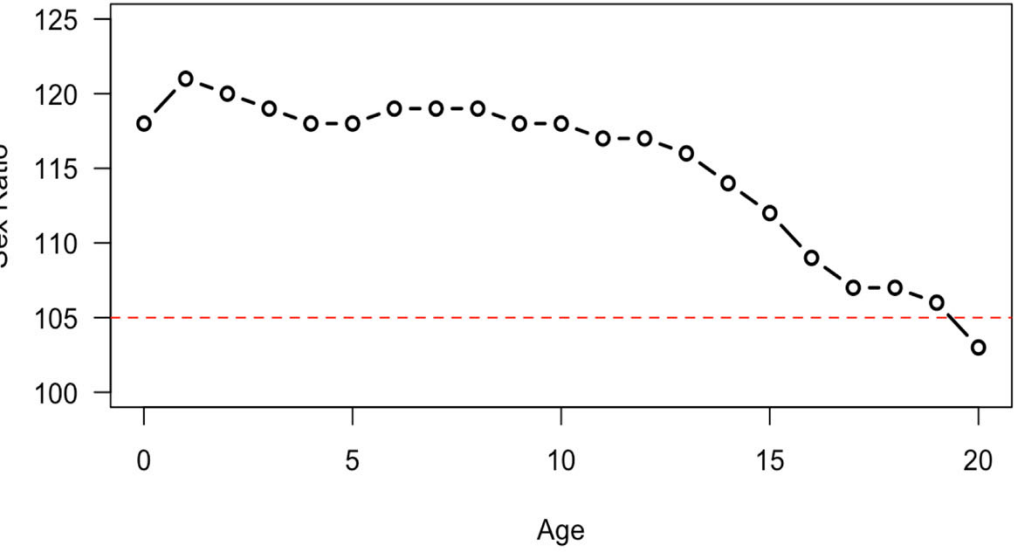
Source: Data from 2010 Round of Censuses

**13.7 million missing girls in China?**

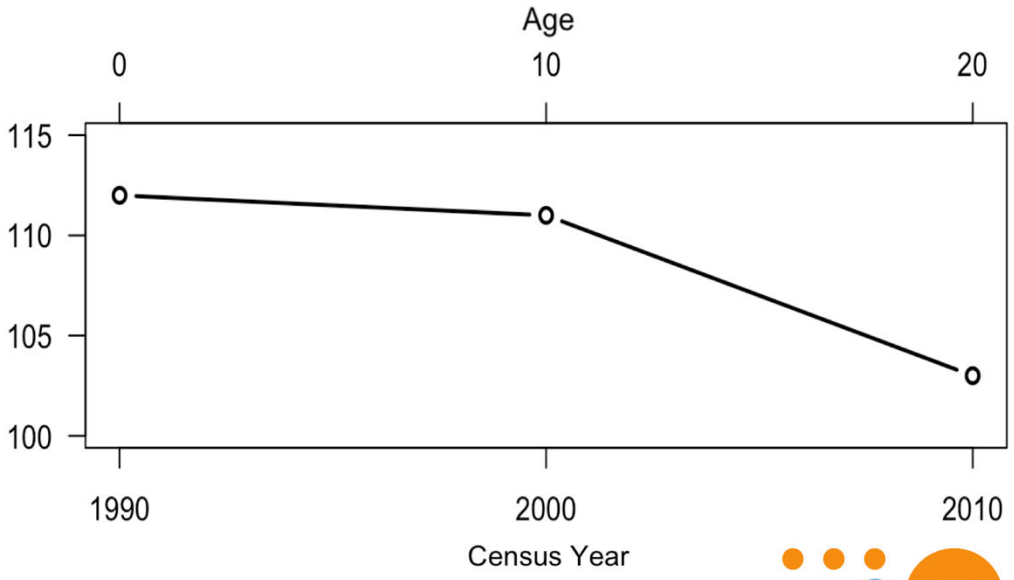
Shi & Kennedy (2016) Delayed Registration and Identifying the "Missing Girls" in China; *The China Quarterly*, 228(4), 1018-1038.

**Administrative bias of delayed birth reg'n of female births (relative to male births), rather than strict son preference**

Estimated Sex Ratio via Backward Projection of 2010 Census



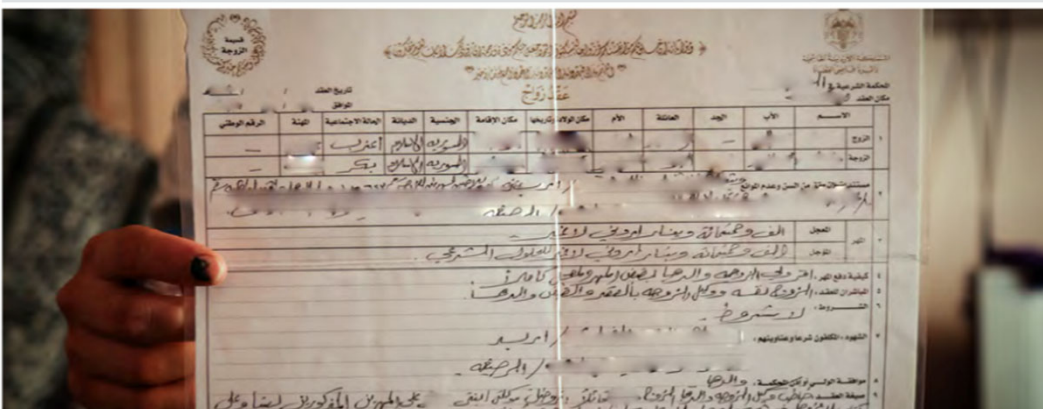
Sex Ratio by Birth Cohort, by 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census



# Jordan: Effects of Barriers to Marriage Registration for Syrian Refugees

## Documents required to receive a marriage certificate from the Jordanian Shari'a courts:

- Proof of identity for the bride and groom;
- Proof of identity for the bride's guardian and the two witnesses;
- Health certificate issued by Jordanian Ministry of Health verifying that the bride and groom are not carriers of thalassemia, a genetic disease;
- Petition for a marriage contract addressed to the court; and
- Approval letter obtained from the Jordanian Mol in Amman (a requirement that applies only when one or both members of the couple are foreigners).



A 22-year-old Syrian refugee holds his recently issued marriage certificate.

Inability to produce required documentation



Under-registration of Marriages

Clutterbuck et al. (2018) Establishing Legal Identity for Displaced Syrians; *Forced Migration Review*, (57) 59-61.

## Consequences of Marriage Under-registration

- Inability to register births of children
  - Marriage registration required to establish legal ID of father
- Protection of woman's rights, as per marriage contract
- Proof of relationships to authorities
- Uncertainty around asset/property rights
- Uncertainty around inheritance rights



# Morocco: Sex Differentials in Death Registration

Application of Indirect Estimation using Successive Censuses and Intercensal death registration data

## Morocco DR Completeness

(ages: 15-59 years old; 1994-2004)

Female: ~35%

Male: ~65%

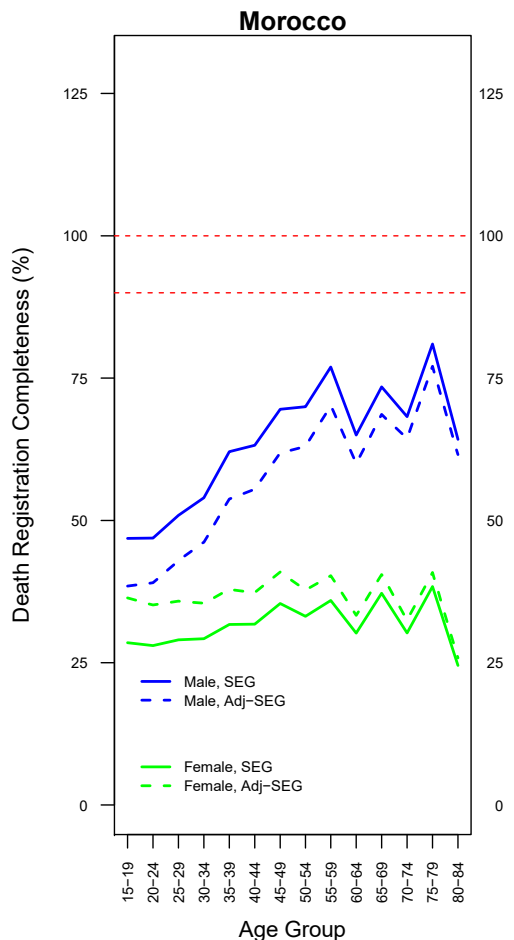
## Evaluate effects of revised 2004 Family Code

Replicate analysis using

- 2004 & 2014 Census data
- 2004-2014 death reg'n data

## Qualitative + Ethnographic Analysis to understand:

- effects of patrilineal traditions on female death registration
- Incentives/disincentives associated w/ burial permit process and financial inclusion in rural Morocco



Silva (2016) Sex Differentials in Death Registration Completeness in Morocco; *UNFPA Working Paper*.

## 2004 Revisions to Moroccan Family Code:

- Enhanced women's equality within the household via:
  1. Husbands and wives are now provided joint responsibility in family matters
  2. Women are no longer required to be obedient to their husbands in return for the exercise of their rights



# Key take-home messages

- Delayed birth registration, marriage under-registration and death under-registration are important yet **under-studied** factors that affect gender equality
  - Need to understand interdependence of under-registration of different vital events
- **Incentives and disincentives** (to register different vital events across the life-course) matter
  - Need to be understood within social, economic and cultural context
- **Demographic data quality assessment and demographic estimation are critical tools** to differentiating registration artefacts from underlying population dynamics
  - Need additional data sources: census, surveys, and ethnographic evidence

# Ongoing UNFPA Research & Technical Assistance Efforts

1. Strengthening of completeness and quality assessment of birth, marriage and death registration via the 2020 census round (via add-on census questions)
2. Advancing mixed methods research and geospatial analysis on the
  1. proximate determinants of under-registration of birth, marriage and death registration, and
  2. Socio-economic consequences of non-registration of vital events
3. Supporting vital statistics production (from incomplete/deficient civil registration data) and data usage by government, civil society and international partners

