

## **Chapter III:**

### **Health**

This chapter presents the health situation in ESCWA member countries, covering life expectancy, child and infant deaths, and the number of professionals and health institutions in the public and private sectors. Data are provided by the national statistical offices.

Table III-1 presents life expectancy at birth and child mortality rates by sex in ESCWA countries for 1995 and 2005. Overall life expectancy in ESCWA region has improved over the past ten years. In 2005, life expectancy at birth ranged from 60 years in Iraq to 78 years in the United Arab Emirates. Child mortality has dropped in all countries of the ESCWA region between 1995 and 2005. The highest decline was in Iraq where under-five mortality dropped by 76 percentage points, followed by Egypt where mortality fell from 81 to 41 deaths per 1000 live births. Gender disparities are relatively low in almost all countries with slightly more under-five mortality occurring among males.

Table III-2 presents the number of physicians, dentists, pharmacists and nurses in ESCWA countries during the period 2000-2005. Table III-3 presents the number of hospitals, hospital beds and other health centres in ESCWA countries.

III-1

III-2

III-3