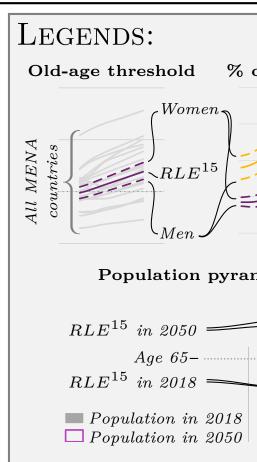# Ageing in the Middle East and N
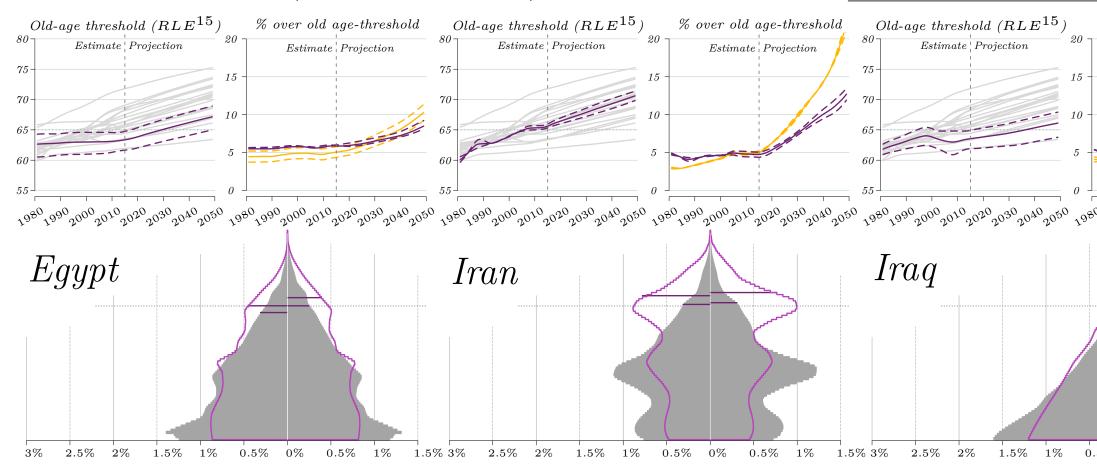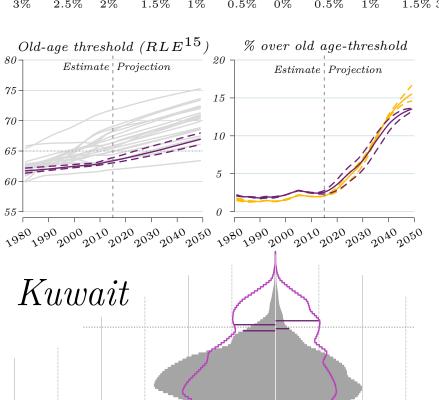
Measuring Population Ageing Using Prospective I

This factsheet explores the ageing of the populations of Middle Eastern and North African countries using *prospective age* instead of chronological age (Sanderson and Scherbov, 2008). Using prospective age is akin to adjusting for inflation when comparing prices. It acknowledges the fact that a particular chronological age—e.g. the age of 65—means something very different in populations with low life expectancy than it does in a population with high life expectancy.

Instead of defining old age as being over 65, we define it as being over an *old-age threshold*: the age where the remaining life expectancy is 15 years (RLE^{15}). The changes in the old-age threshold, and in the proportion of the population over that age, are plotted for each country separately and described in more detail next to the maps below[†].

Population pyramids outline current and future (2050) age structures in each country (UN, 2017), and the horizontal lines allow you to compare the prospective old-age thresholds (in purple) with the more common definition of old age as 65 years old (dashed horizontal line).

LEGENDS:

Old-age threshold   **% o**

All MENA countries *Women* *RLE^15* *Men*

Population pyra

RLE^{15} *in 2050*
Age 65–
RLE^{15} *in 2018*
Population in 2018
Population in 2050

Old-age threshold (RLE^{15})   *% over old age-threshold*

Estimate *Projection*

Egypt

Old-age threshold (RLE^{15})   *% over old age-threshold*

Estimate *Projection*

Iran

Old-age threshold (RLE^{15})

Estimate *Projection*

Iraq

Old-age threshold (RLE^{15})   *% over old age-threshold*

Estimate *Projection*

Kuwait

Old-age threshold—the age at which remain

The old-age thresholds have been calculated from abridged life tables (Založnik, 2018). The map on the right shows the current old-age thresholds in each country. Yellow indicates the RLE^{15} is about 65, orange/red means it's lower and green means it's higher. In the latter countries using 65 as a definition of old age might paint a too pessimistic picture of how old their societies are compared to the countries in the red, where the proper

74
72
70
68
66
65
63

Morocco
Algeria