



SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Arab countries have made measurable progress in expanding women’s and girls’ access to health services and education. Women continue to break new ground in many areas of life. Discriminatory laws and legal practices, discriminatory social and cultural norms, and structural barriers to gender equality remain entrenched, however. Women’s economic participation is particularly behind, especially among young women. As a result, women often face constraints on their independence and full human rights, including to play an active role in decision-making, at home and in the public sphere. Women’s full political and economic participation will be critical to achieving SDG 5 and all other SDGs by 2030.

Key facts

CEDAW ratification

Except for Somalia and the Sudan, all Arab States have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Comoros, Djibouti, the State of Palestine and Yemen have ratified CEDAW with no reservations on core articles. Since 2008, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Oman have withdrawn some reservations made upon ratification or accession. Although Tunisia withdrew all reservations in 2014, it maintained a general declaration not to take any regulatory or legislative decision that violates chapter 1 of the Constitution.¹



Despite legal protections against child marriage, judges in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia can grant exceptions that allow children to be married. Ten Arab countries legally allow underage girls to marry with their parents’ consent.

153
years

Collectively, Arab countries rank last overall globally in the World Economic Forum’s Gender Gap Report. It will take Arab and neighbouring countries an estimated 153 years to close the economic gender gap, compared to 165 years in North America, 136 years in sub-Saharan Africa and 61 years in Western Europe.²

25%

Women’s economic participation in the Arab region is the lowest in the world at 25 per cent in 2015, compared to a world average of around 50 per cent;³ 38 per cent of women workers in the region are in vulnerable employment.⁴

39.3% unemployed

Youth unemployment is high in the region, and highest among young women at 39.3 per cent on average in 2017.⁵

Mobility & autonomy

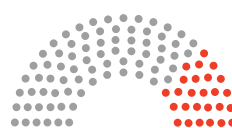
Some Arab countries retain laws that limit the mobility and autonomy of women, requiring them to secure male permission to apply for a passport, travel outside the country, work outside the home or marry.



Women’s share among agricultural holders in the region is less than 7 per cent.⁶ Yet women are widely engaged in agricultural activities and disproportionately so in some countries, comprising around 60 per cent of such workers in Morocco and the Sudan and 54 per cent in Mauritania, for example.⁷

Domestic violence 37%

An estimated 37 per cent of ever-partnered women in some countries of the region have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at some point in their lives.⁸ Estimates suggest that risks increase significantly in times of crisis and conflict areas.⁹



The proportion of women in parliaments is on the rise, reaching 19.4 per cent in 2018; however, the average remains relatively low in the Arab region compared to other regions.¹⁴



The majority of Arab countries distinguish between crimes and so-called “honour crimes”. For the latter, reduced sentences or mitigation measures are applied in cases where women are murdered by husbands or male family members for perceived social transgressions.¹⁰



The percentage of women in the judiciary in Arab countries is climbing but varies significantly from country to country and remains below figures for other regions. As of 2018, female judges in Lebanon held 49.3 per cent of judicial positions. In Iraq, the figure was only 7 per cent. Women judges in all Arab countries are underrepresented in high judicial offices, higher courts and judicial decision-making bodies.¹⁵



Almost all young girls in Arab countries attend school, and in some countries, more women than men are enrolled in universities.¹¹



The gender gap in Internet users was 17.3 per cent in 2017, 50 per cent greater than the global gender gap.¹⁶

STEM

In Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, 70 per cent of university students in the sciences are women. They make up only 12 per cent of the workforce in science and research-related jobs, however. In Morocco, 70 per cent of students enrolled in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) courses are women, but few achieve leadership positions in their fields after graduation.¹²

FGM

In some Arab countries, female genital mutilation (FGM) persists. An estimated 98 per cent of girls and women between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone FGM in Somalia, and 87 per cent in Egypt. The practice also occurs in Djibouti, Iraq, Mauritania, the Sudan and Yemen.¹⁷

8.3% of managerial positions

The region has the lowest average globally for women in managerial positions, at 8.3 per cent in 2015, based

on the latest available country data. This compares to a global average of 27.6 per cent.¹³

Measuring SDG 5 in the Arab region according to the global SDG indicator framework

Data are available for 4 out of 14 indicators,¹⁸ covering 3 out of 9 targets under SDG 5.

Measuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the Arab region is not limited to SDG 5 targets and indicators. Of the 232 individual indicators in the global SDG indicator framework as a whole, 53 are gender specific.¹⁹

A number of targets call for disaggregation by sex. Target 17.18, for example, refers to disaggregated data, including sex-disaggregated data, as critical in the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Indicator 1.4.2 measures the proportion of the total adult population with secure tenure rights to land. Other indicators that directly address gender equality include indicator 3.7.1 on the proportion of women of

reproductive age with access to modern methods of family planning.

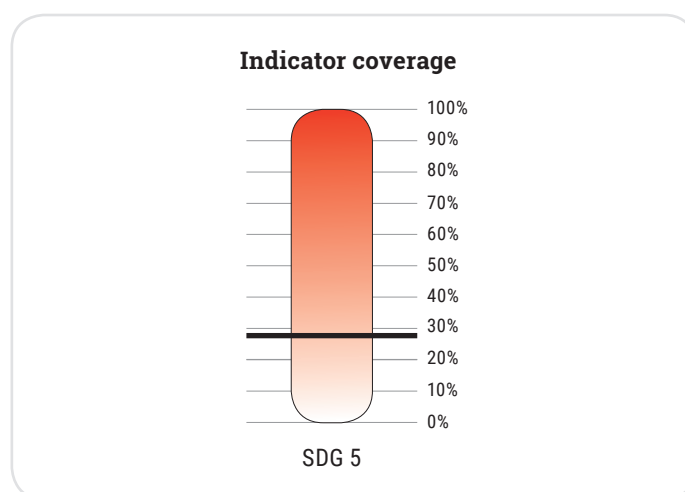
In addition to the region's longstanding difficulties in producing quality, regular and disaggregated data, measuring SDG 5 encounters further challenges.

Discrimination manifests in direct and indirect ways. Some forms, like laws, are easy to identify, and others, such as stereotypes and biased social norms, are intangible. Systematic inequalities in outcome, which often result from the intersection of different forms and levels of discrimination, are difficult to measure. They require methodological innovation and commitment from statisticians and policymakers.

National averages often conceal large inequalities among different social groups, including different groups of women and girls. Averages therefore hide inequalities related to wealth, ethnicity or geographical location.

Key indicators for SDG 5 where data are lacking or weak include indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 on eliminating violence against women and girls. In collecting data, more work is needed on ethical guidelines to safeguard the dignity of respondents who provide information, and to ensure the safety of both respondents and interviewers, particularly in relation to gender-based violence.

For indicator 5.4.1, on time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, time-use surveys are invaluable in making



this issue visible in statistics, and consequently in planning and budgeting. Very little progress has been made on this front in Arab countries, however.

Measuring the political participation of women has largely focused on the representation of women in parliaments. But this measure does not reflect the efficacy of representation or the participation of women in political life outside parliaments.

Data on sexual and reproductive health are constrained to married women, given cultural and social norms. This leaves out a significant population of never-married and non-married women along with adolescent girls.

The main barriers to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls in the Arab region

Globally and regionally, the lives of women and girls are fundamentally unequal to the lives of men and boys. In the Arab region, although the situation differs across countries, social and economic classes, and social groups, women and girls continue to face a diversity of barriers and limitations. These encompass restricted mobility, legal discrimination in personal status matters such as divorce and custody, an economic gender gap, an overwhelming burden of care and domestic work, limited participation in political life and decision-making, and vulnerability to violence, among many others. Discriminatory laws, legal practices, and cultural and social norms reinforce each other to varying degrees. In addition, conflict and crises, whether humanitarian or economic, strengthen existing discrimination as women and girls are particularly vulnerable to and bear a heavy burden in crisis situations.

Women in the Arab region have always made profound contributions to their societies, and they continue to break barriers. There are more Arab women in universities than there are Arab men. Their numbers are increasing in managerial positions, parliaments and the judiciary.

And they routinely forge ahead in multiple fields including education, business, health care, technology and the arts. Women also account for the majority of agricultural workers in many countries. Yet despite their productive roles and assertive voices, they remain significantly underrepresented in both the labour force and all levels of decision-making. Removing barriers to their full social, economic and political participation is fundamental to guaranteeing their human rights and achieving all 17 SDGs.

By and large, **feminist movements** have yet to create a grass-roots, cross-sectional popular movement at national or regional levels in Arab countries. Progress is hampered by shrinking civic space and limitations on the work of civil society generally. The situation amplifies differences and inequalities between urban and rural women, and middle-class and poorer women, and further marginalizes unemployed women, female refugees, migrant workers and in some cases women from minority groups.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING SDG 5 IN THE ARAB REGION

Discriminatory laws and legal practices



- Weak adherence to universal human rights instruments: Almost all Arab countries (18) have made reservations to some articles of CEDAW, particularly Article 2 (discrimination in legislation) and Article 16 (marriage and family relations).²⁰ As a consequence, penal codes maintain legislation that discriminates against women. Somalia and the Sudan have yet to ratify CEDAW, while Tunisia has lifted all reservations.²¹ Weak political commitment to universal rights enables gender-based discrimination across different areas of personal and public life, and allows States and societies wide divergence from international standards in the interpretation and enforcement of legal instruments.

In addition, the absence of legislation to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sex undercuts women's participation in the workforce, and representation in political parties and governance institutions at all levels.

- Weak protection under civil law: A majority of Arab countries do not criminalize domestic violence; over 80 per cent do not criminalize marital rape.²² Where laws against gender-based violence exist, they are weakly enforced. So-called "honour crimes" legitimize violence against women and even murder by male relatives for social or sexual transgressions.

The majority of Arab countries place women outside the jurisdiction of civil law and subject to personal status laws bound by religious and doctrinal jurisdiction rather than civil or secular legislation. Sharia courts as well as religious courts for non-Muslims represent different religious denominations in countries and are often organized by their respective religious authorities. These courts enjoy significant autonomy from the state's own judicial bodies.²³ Religious norms (both Muslim and Christian) structure "family laws" relating to marriage, divorce, custody, mobility and inheritance, often to the detriment of women.

- Lack of a rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights: Despite reaffirming strong compliance with the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, and the recommendations from periodic regional reviews of both frameworks, Arab countries still face challenges in granting access to sexual and reproductive health care for all, without discrimination based on sex, nationality, displacement status or marital status. Services related to maternal health, family planning, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS are not fully integrated within primary health care. Accessibility and quality vary across countries, among social classes and from urban to rural areas.

Legal frameworks do not reflect a rights-based approach that promotes well-informed individual choices, and they often stipulate exemptions from the legal age to marry, forcing young girls into marriage, early pregnancy and sometimes forced abortion. Cultural barriers significantly prevent women and couples from deciding freely and responsibly on their sexual and reproductive health, including family planning.

Discriminatory social norms and behaviours



In the Arab region, as in all others, a variety of social norms and behaviours undervalue the role of women and their contributions to society, or place limits on the scope of their contributions. This constrains women's rights, agency and ability to make choices, and impedes their participation in society and the economy. Chief among these norms and behaviours are:

- Social systems of male guardianship in some Arab countries require women to defer to males in the family on life choices and/or engagement in public life.
- Socially tolerated harassment in the public sphere and gender-based violence in the private sphere are both glaring violations of the human rights of women and girls. Gender-based violence is not only prevalent due to social and cultural norms but also remains largely underreported, impeding legal attempts (where they exist) to protect women.
- Segregation of occupations by gender occurs according to what is perceived as "appropriate" or socially acceptable.
- The burden of unpaid domestic care work falls heavily on women and girls, including working women and girls enrolled in school who perform the overwhelming share of household chores. This constrains their time and ability to pursue schooling, employment, career-building and participation in public life.

Structural barriers to women's economic participation and limited access to economic resources



Women's economic participation in the region is the lowest globally. Economic dependence curtails women's abilities to make choices and control different aspects of their lives.

In addition to the limitations imposed by discriminatory social norms, the labour market penalizes women by default as economies are geared towards non-productive and service industries; women often end up with lower paying jobs and few prospects for advancement. The absence of legislation to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sex and to stop harassment in the workplace are further barriers, as is the lack of affordable and safe public transport.

With the exception of Tunisia, national laws constrict equal access to land and water for women, which jeopardizes their resilience, livelihoods and economic empowerment, particularly in rural areas. In many countries, women are unable to open bank accounts for themselves or their children. Restrictions on obtaining credit hamper their economic independence as well as their contributions to the economy. Discrimination in inheritance is common, and home ownership remains predominantly male, placing divorced and single women at an extra disadvantage.

Conflict, crises and occupation



Protracted humanitarian crises, instability and displacement in a number of Arab countries have been devastating for women and girls, including through spillover effects on countries hosting millions of refugees. Among other consequences, women and girls have suffered heightened vulnerability to:

- Rape and sexual violence
- Early marriage
- Restrictions on mobility and access to education and health services, including safe delivery and contraception

Palestinian women living under occupation also face amplified hardships. Since the beginning of the occupation, over 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested and detained by Israeli military and security forces. Many have been imprisoned for infractions such as posting occupation-related practices on social media. They have often been subjected to sexual harassment, verbal abuse and physical assault. In addition, the mass arrests of Palestinian men increase women's social and economic hardship as they become the sole providers for their families.²⁴

With the notable exception of the State of Palestine, in Arab States where personal status matters are adjudicated in religious courts, **female judges** are excluded.

Across the region, women remain starkly underrepresented in high judicial offices, higher courts and in judicial decision-making bodies. This is also the case in countries where female judges are present in significant numbers, challenging the notion that women's presence will naturally expand at the top as more women enter the judiciary.

Source: ESCWA, 2018.

In Saudi Arabia, recent legislative reform states that all citizens are equal in the right to work and protects from discrimination against women in employment, recruitment and job advertising. It also prohibits any discrimination in wages between men and women for equal work.^(a) Despite similar reforms in some Arab countries, implementation remains the main challenge.

In addition, discriminatory legislation and practice continue to limit the participation of women in particular sectors in the Arab countries. For example, in Libya, the Labour Relations Law of 2010 states that women shall not be employed in types of work that are "unfamiliar to their nature", which are to be defined in executive rules. No rules made under this provision have been identified, however. In Egypt, ministerial decisions prohibit women from working in mining or construction. In Algeria, Article 29 of the 1990 Labour Code prohibits employing women for night work, unless a special exception has been granted.^(b)

Source: (a) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2018; (b) ESCWA and others, 2018.

2017 landmark parliamentary decisions in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia scrapped discriminatory **rape laws** that exempted a rapist from punishment if he married his victim.

Source: UN Women, 2017.

Early marriage for Syrian girls is a concern in 69 per cent of **refugee and IDP communities**.

By 2018, 83 per cent of Yemeni IDPs were women and children, and an estimated 3 million women and girls were at risk of gender-based violence.

Sources: OCHA, 2018; 2019; Care International, 2018.

At risk of being left behind

More data on gender inequality and sex-disaggregated data are needed to capture the status of vulnerable women and girls in the region, and to design policies and programmes to meet their needs. But several broad patterns linked to the risk of being left behind are already evident.

Across different issues, geographical and urban/rural divides have emerged as factors determining the degree of inequality for women and girls. **Women from poorer rural areas** are more likely to drop out of school, be married early, give birth at an early age, engage in informal employment, suffer complications during childbirth and experience violence.

In addition, the following categories of women and girls are most at risk of being left behind:

Survivors of gender-based violence: Challenges in determining the prevalence of violence lead to underestimating the level of services needed to reach and assist affected women and girls.

Women and girls with disabilities: Among persons with disabilities, girls and women in rural areas have the lowest rates of literacy, educational attainment and school attendance.

Women in the informal economy: Women working in agriculture and in other informal employment are at a higher risk of exploitation and harassment, lack social

security and health insurance, and do not enjoy pension benefits.

Migrant women workers: Coming mostly from South Asia and Africa, women migrants work mainly as domestic workers or in industry or agriculture. They are at a high risk of abuse and exploitation. Legislative loopholes and a lack of protection mechanisms often mean that perpetrators escape prosecution.²⁵

Refugee women and girls: They are sometimes a hidden population within migrants, with very little data to assess and address their needs and potential. Restricted mobility, early marriage, increased risk of violence and sexual violence, as well as regression in terms of health and education are known to be widespread for women in communities of refugees and IDPs.

In recent conflicts in the region, **minority ethnic and religious women** have been targeted by extremists for rape and sexual assault. Some of these women belong to groups that are also nomadic, making it especially challenging to identify and address their needs. The effects of this gender-based violence, some of it genocidal, will reverberate for a long time to come, impacting entire communities and generations. Special attention needs to be paid to women's psychological and physical well-being in the aftermath of conflict, and their reintegration into their communities and society at large.

What the region can do to accelerate progress on SDG 5

1. Strengthen the political commitment to gender equality, and introduce and strengthen legislation to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls:

- Ensure full adherence to human rights instruments, and promote the human rights of women and girls across public and private spheres and sectors.
- Ensure adequate resources and mechanisms for implementation and enforcement of human rights instruments.
- Increase the presence of women in the judiciary at all levels and in courts overseeing personal status matters such as custody and divorce.
- Build the capacity of women in representative and legislative roles, and take affirmative action to increase their presence in decision-making.

2. Eliminate all discrimination in women's economic participation, and strengthen women's economic independence and access to resources:

- Repeal discriminatory laws against women in the workplace, and end occupational segregation.
- Promote, through legislation, gender-sensitive workplaces in the public and private spheres, including through provisions for maternity care and equal participation in pension funds.
- Support the provision of affordable day-care across cities and communities.
- Eliminate discrimination against women in access to economic resources including land and water, and facilitate women's access to financial services.

3. Target social and behavioural change:

- Increase advocacy and awareness-raising through targeted and context-tailored efforts to achieve progress in all aspects of SDG 5, including innovative solutions and bottom-up approaches to engaging men and boys for gender equality.
- Enable civil society and grass-roots-level engagement on women’s rights, including in rural and remote areas, in part through partnerships and dialogue with multiple stakeholders.
- Set standards for public discourse to eliminate discriminatory language and stereotypes in public and media discourses, and across educational curricula.

4. Operationalize the region’s commitments to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform of Action:

- Ensure full access to quality sexual and reproductive health services for all.

- Mainstream a rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health in policymaking and resource allocation, and within the health sector.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, including FGM, and strengthen advocacy campaigns for sexual and reproductive health.

5. Improve data and statistics to reflect the lived realities of women and girls:

- Data and statistics are critical inputs for evidence-based policies and solutions, across all targets of SDG 5. This includes violence against women and the burden of unpaid care work. Ensure that data are disaggregated by sex as well as age, location, ethnicity, religion, disability, migratory status and other markers across all of the SDGs.

6. Strengthen institutional capacity:

- Ensure there are adequate human and financial resources for national women’s machineries in all countries, including conflict-affected countries, so these institutions can fulfil their mandates and push for legislative and other forms of change.

SDG 5 targets and indicators in the Arab region

| Target | Indicator | Data |
|---|--|--|
| <p>5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p> | <p>5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex</p> | <p>Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.</p> |
| <p>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> | <p>5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</p> | <p>Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.</p> |

5.2.2

Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

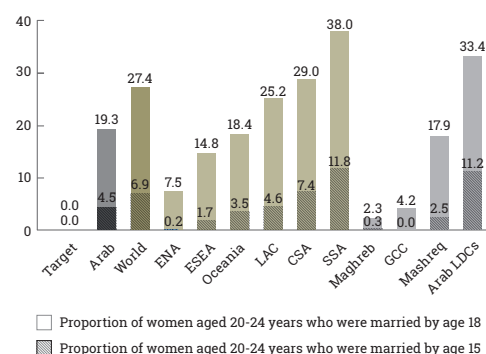
5.3

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.3.1

Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Figure 1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (percentage)



Legend:
 □ Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married by age 18
 ■ Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married by age 15

Note: We visualize these two subindicators using a stacked bar chart. Since they measure different intensities of child marriage, they are worth evaluating separately. The latter (marriage by age 18) includes the former (marriage by age 15) (more details in the annex). All means are population weighted for women aged 20 to 24 using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Lebanon (2009), Iraq (2011), Comoros, Jordan, Qatar and Tunisia (2012), Algeria and Yemen (2013), Egypt, State of Palestine and Sudan (2014) and Mauritania (2015).

5.3.2

Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

5.4

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.4.1

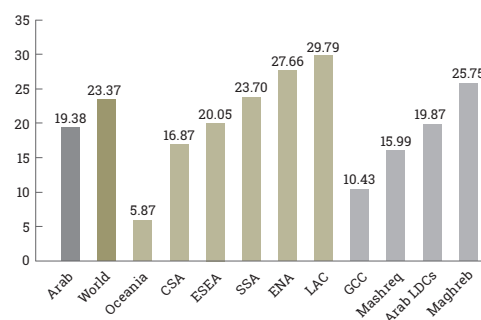
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

5.5
Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.5.1
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments

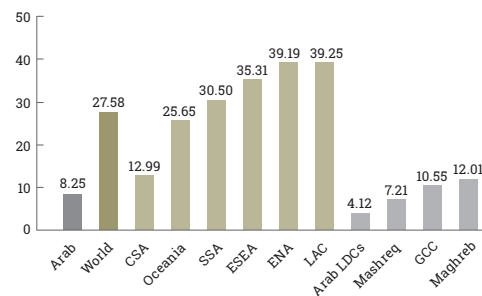
Figure 2 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (percentage of total number of seats)



Note: All aggregates are weighted means using 2015 values for the total number of parliamentary seats (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for all Arab countries except the State of Palestine in 2017.

5.5.2
Proportion of women in managerial positions

Figure 3 Proportion of women in managerial positions (percentage)



Note: All aggregates are weighted means using the total number of managers in 2015 (United Nations Statistics Division, 2019; ILO, 2018a). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Syrian Arab Republic (2010), Tunisia (2012), Algeria and Yemen (2014), Saudi Arabia and State of Palestine (2015), Egypt, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (2016).

5.6
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the programme of action of the international conference on population and development and the Beijing platform for action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.6.1
Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

5.6.2
Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

5.a
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.a.1
(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

5.a.2

Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

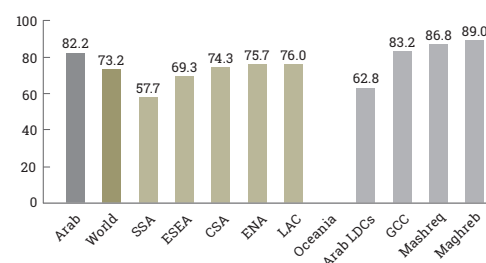
5.b

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.b.1

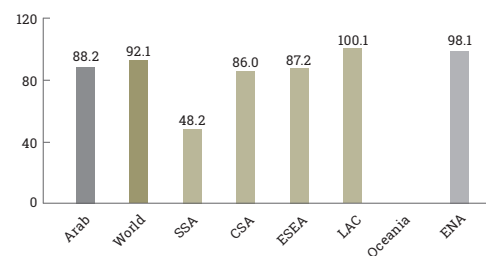
Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

Figure 4 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone (percentage)



Note: All means are total population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019). The calculated Arab regional aggregate includes the data values for the following Arab countries and years: Oman (2013), State of Palestine (2014), Qatar (2015), Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates (2016).

Figure 5 Gender inequality in the proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone: female-to-male ratio



Note: All means of these ratios are weighted by the same weighting variable used for their corresponding series. In other words, for indicator 5.b.1, all means are total population weighted using the latest (2015) population estimates (United Nations Population Division, 2017; United Nations Statistics Division, 2019).

5.c

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

5.c.1

Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Adopted criteria to obtain a regional average are not met for this indicator.

Note: Central and Southern Asia (CSA); Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (ESEA); Europe and Northern America (ENA); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); Arab Least Developed Countries (Arab LDCs); Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand); Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

All figures are based on the Global SDG Indicators Database (United Nations Statistics Division, 2018).

ENDNOTES

1. ESCWA, 2015; United Nations, 2019.
2. World Economic Forum, 2018; Zahidi, 2019.
3. ILO, 2018b; World Economic Forum, 2017.
4. Regional values calculated by UN Women based on the latest available country information from UN Women, 2015. According to the ILO, vulnerable employment includes “own-account work” and “contributing family labour”.
5. See the key facts in SDG 8.
6. Based on data from FAO, 2019b. Countries covered: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.
7. FAO, 2019a.
8. WHO, 2013; UN Women, 2018. This key fact covers four Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, State of Palestine) as well as Iran.
9. In Yemen, studies indicate that between 2016 and 2017, rates of exposure to gender-based violence increased by 36 per cent (UNFPA, 2019).
10. ESCWA and others, 2018.
11. UNDP, 2019, data are for 2013.
12. Islam, 2017.
13. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 3.
14. Calculated by ESCWA, see figure 2.
15. ESCWA, 2018.
16. ITU, 2017.
17. Dockery, 2018. For further information, see WHO, 2018.
18. According to the methodology used in this report.
19. UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2019.
20. ESCWA, 2015 and 2017.
21. Ibid.
22. ESCWA and others, 2018.
23. ESCWA, 2018.
24. ESCWA, 2019.
25. ESCWA and IOM, 2017.

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