Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

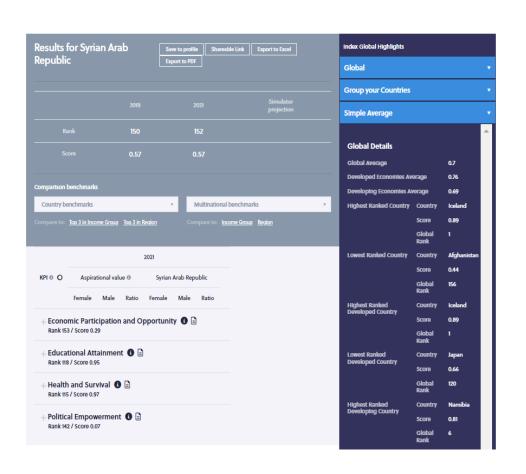
Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA



Session I: Indices Simulation Tool for Policy Makers in the Arab Region (ISPAR)

Coverage and features of the indices simulation tool for evidence-based policymaking





- Effective to synthetize information
- Everybody understands a ranking
- The story makes sense



More and more often indices are used by lobbyists and journalists, donors

IMF Working Paper

Syria's Conflict Economy

5. Syria also did not fare well on most business environment and rule of law indicators. In the 2009 Doing Business Indicators, Syria ranked 137 out of 181 countries, performing poorly on access to finance, contract enforcement, and registering property, while making progress on the time needed to start a business. According to the last Enterprise Surveys (2009), the top three obstacles to firms investing in Syria included corruption, an

inadequately educated workforce, and electricity. More than 80 percent of firms indicated at the time that they were expected to give gifts to public officials to "get things done," compared to a regional average of 37 percent. In the

Heritage Index of Economic Freedom,

Syria was ranked as "repressed" or "mostly unfree" between 2006–09; it also had the fourth-lowest ranking in the region in terms of the rule of law.



According to the Heritage Index, Syria's government institutions lacked public accountability and were plagued by corruption, while the judiciary was viewed as neither transparent nor independent.



Journal of Economics and Research Year: 2021 Vol(Issue): 2(2) pp: 1-16 https://dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/ier

ISSN: 2717-9907(Online)

DOI: 10.53280/jer.917198

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Kabul Tarihi / Accepted: 06.09.2021

Research Article

SYRIAN CONFLICT AND THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: DID THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS PREDICT THE CONFLICT?

Ahmet Yılmaz ATA¹ Mohamed ABDULKARIM²

Abstract

This paper aims at exploring whether the economic development indicators could have predicted the conflict in Syria in 2011. To evaluate the role of economic development in stabilizing the society, this paper analyses the available historical economic development indicators for the Syrian economy before the conflict in 2011. Reviewing the available official statistics about aforementioned indicators and benchmarking them against middle-income countries reveal that the annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, the government expenditure, inflation rate, unemployment rate, and human development index (HDI) were at alarming levels before 2011. This paves the way to the 2011 conflict in Syria.



Case Law Country Information

Browse by *

Resources *

Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa 2010 - Syria

Publisher	Freedom House
Publication Date	3 March 2010
Cite as	Freedom House, Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa 2010 - Syria, 3 March 2010, available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/4b99011dc.html [accessed 5 May 2023]
Disclaimer	This is not a UNHCR publication. UNHCR is not responsible for, nor does it necessarily endorse, its content. Any views expressed are solely those of the author or publisher and do not necessarily reflect those of UNHCR, the United Nations or its Member States.

POPULATION: 21.906.000 GNI PER CAPITA: US \$1,730

Country Ratings	2004	2009
NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE:	2.7	2.7
AUTONOMY, SECURITY, AND FREEDOM OF THE PERSON:	2.2	2.3
ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	2.8	2.9
POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CIVIC VOICE:	2.2	2.2
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS:	2.3	2.5

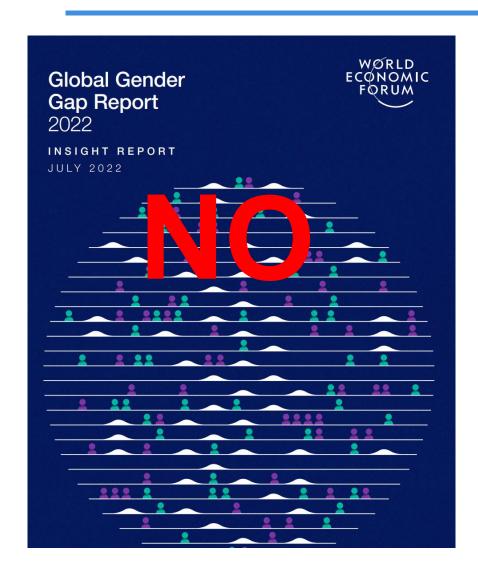
(Country ratings are based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing the lowest and 5 the highest level of freedom women have to exercise their rights)

More and more often indices are used by lobbyists and journalists, donors



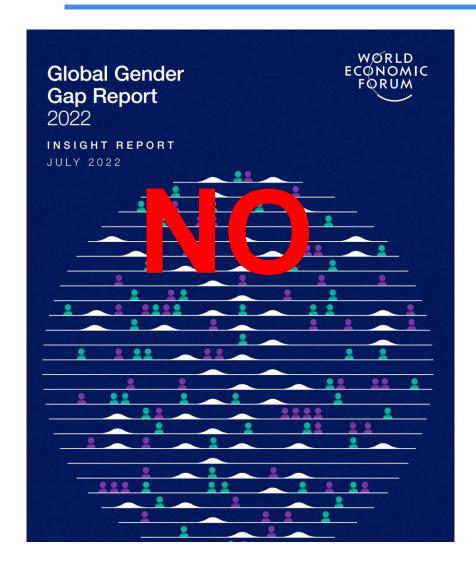
Used for policymaking

- **Monitor progresses**
- **Negotiate with donors**
- **Get loans from international agencies**



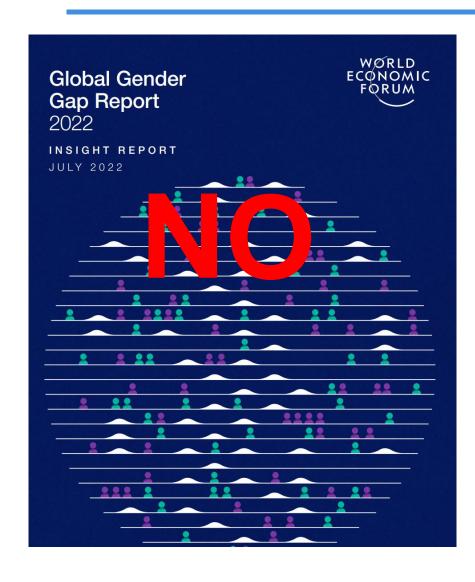
- Data used for performance assessment are not accurate or not updated, or missing
- Transparency (methodology)
 - how data are collected, how surveys are administered
 - the weight of experts' judgment
 - other discretionary decisions

First issue: The DATA



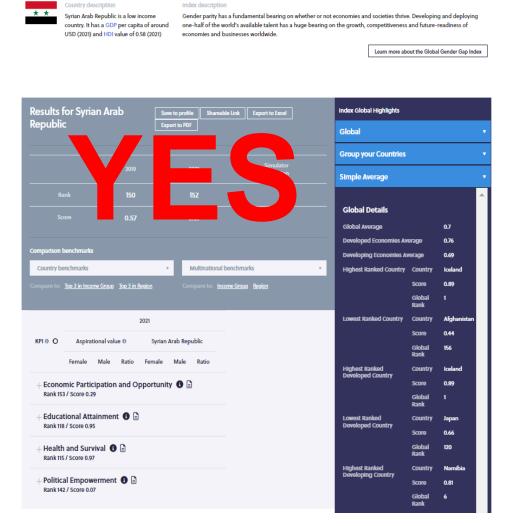
- What is the impact of changes in policies on ranking?
 - and in turn on economic and social performances or SDGs

Second issue:
no SIMULATION of change in policy is possible



- How to benefit from the experience of other countries?
- How can countries learn from past experiences?

Third issue: Policy Recommendations



Global Gender Gap Index

Syrian Arab Republic

- Monitoring and accuracy of performance assessment: the governance of data production and diffusion
 - How to build a narrative and design a comprehensive strategy: Which aspects of the problem at hands are missing
- Simulation of policy changes on achievements and the country's rank
 - Policy recommendation
 - Goals prioritization
 - How it can be used to achieve other goals such as the SDGs and the set developmental goals?

Thank you for your time!

Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA



Session II: An Introduction to Global Indices

This session introduces participants to global economic and social indices and their inclusion on the ISPAR tool.

The thematic simulators

For a comprehensive gender strategy eventually based on Ministries scope of responsibilities

ESCWA Simulators Platform

For now

- ✓ Gender Gap Index
 Al readiness Index
- ✓ Doing Business index
- ✓ Competitiveness index ITU ICT Development Index e-Government Index Global Cybersecurity Index Global Innovation Index Digital Accessibility Rights Evaluation Index
- ✓ Women peace and Security index Network Readiness Index
- ✓ Women Business and the Law Index Development Challenge Index Global knowledge Index B2C E-commerce Index E-participation Index Globalisation Index Open Data Inventory Index

Recently added

FDI restrictiveness index

 ✓ Financial Inclusiveness index Food security index Human capital index

Are engendered

Wider than
Gender Issues

22 indices
included

Send your technical request if you want us to include other indices

Indices for policymaking



Indices complement each other

Indices' coverage is generally limited and an aspect mentioned in one index can be covered in **greater detail** in a different index

Hence need to use a set of indices

Gender issues are covered by indices that are not gender focused

A same KPIs appear in more than one index

Need to understand interlinkages to get a full picture of the impact of gender policies on rankings

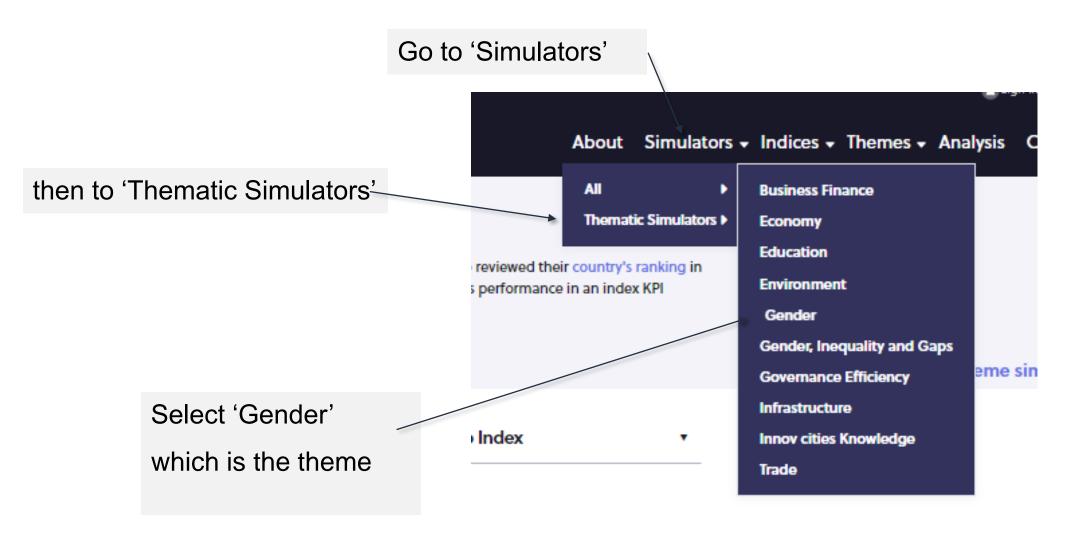
Go to

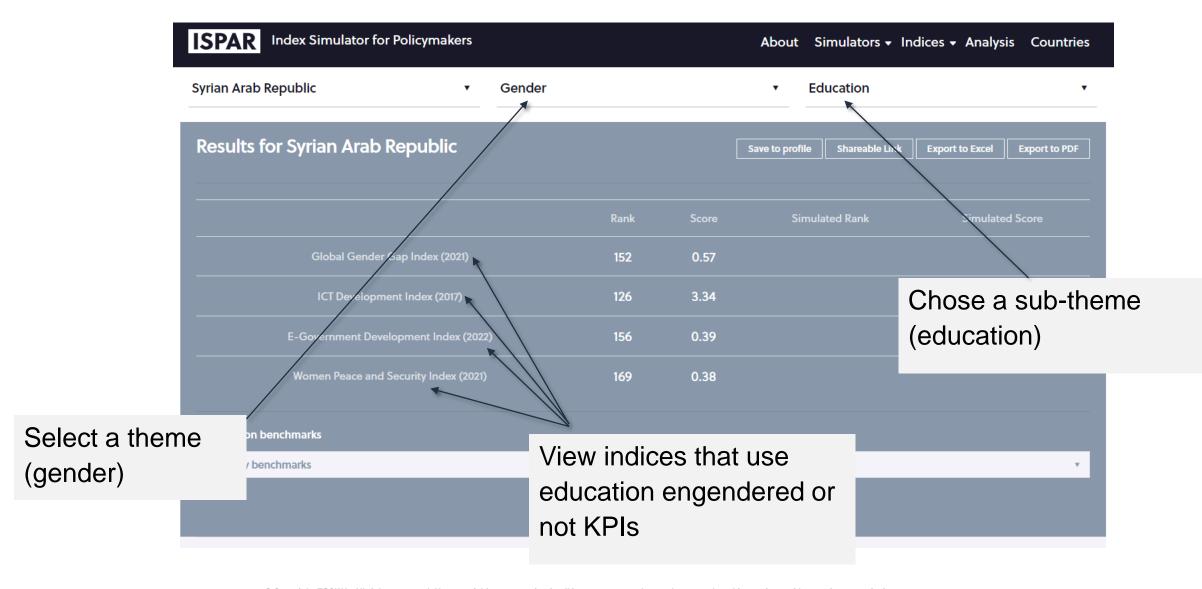
ISPAR / Simulators / Thematic Simulators / Gender

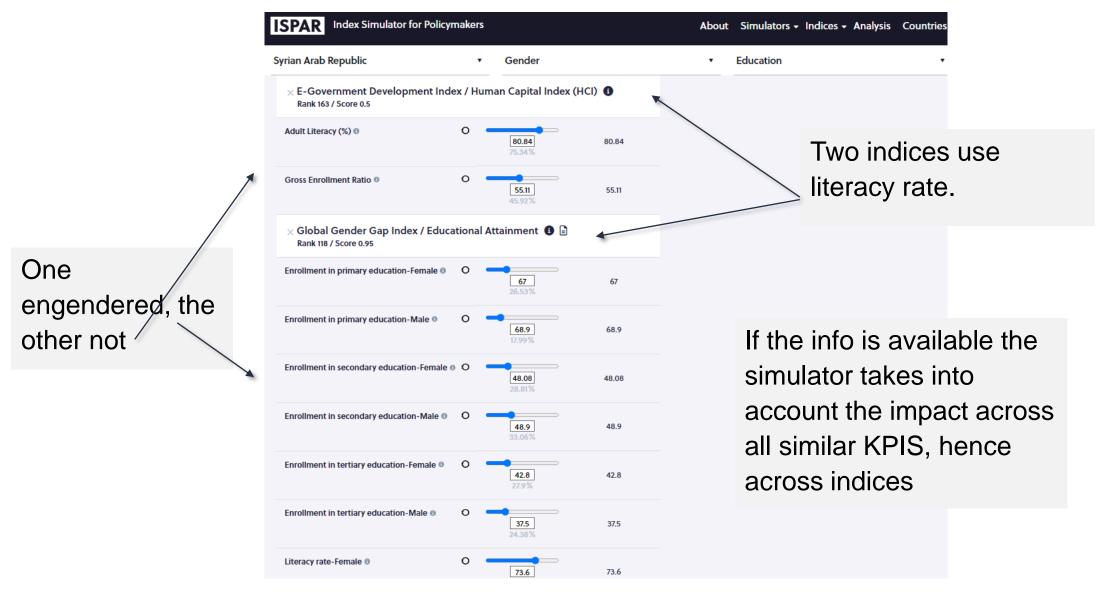
Chose a country (Syria)

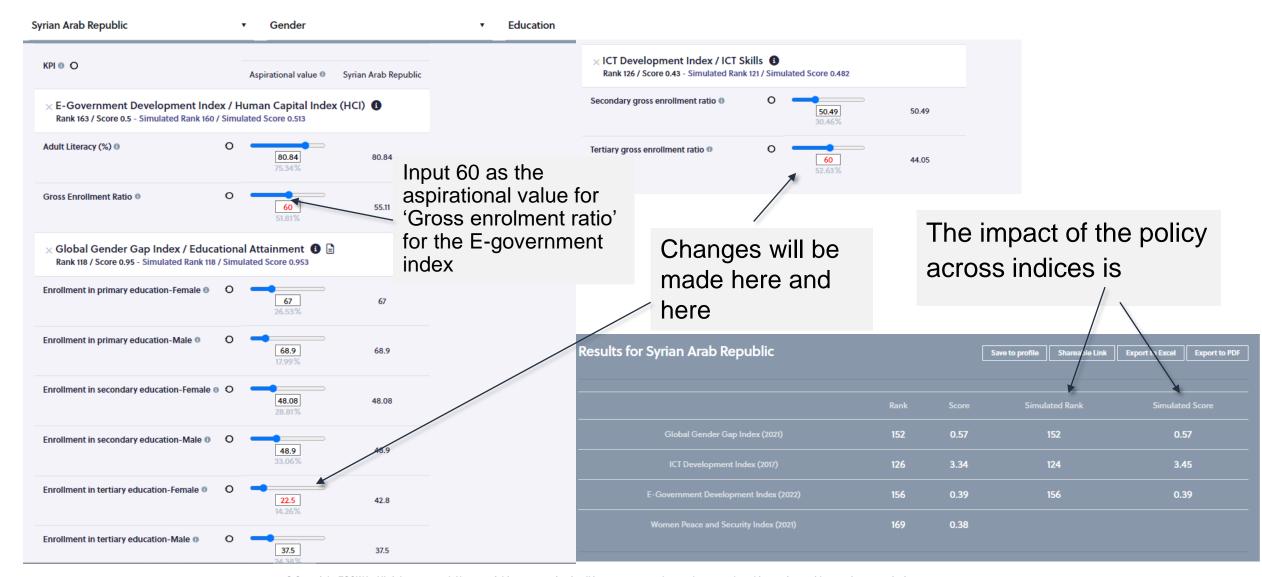
Chose a theme

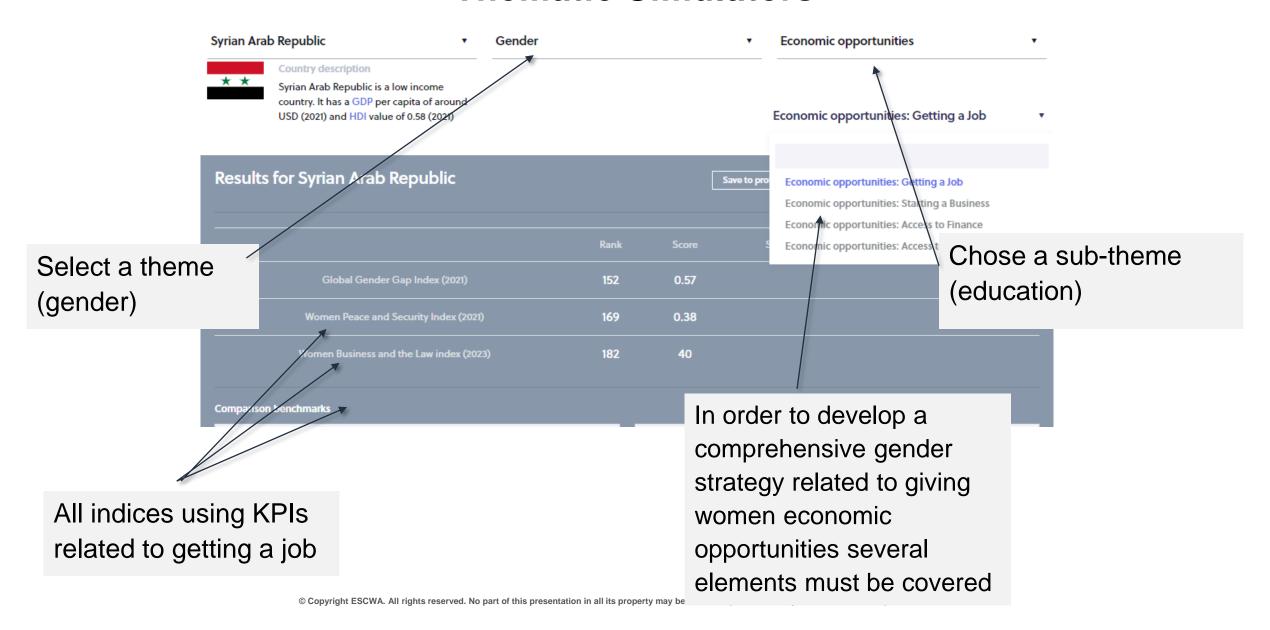
And eventually a sub-theme











Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA



Session III: Introduction to Global Gender Equality Indicators

UNDP Human Development Index/Gender Development Index

Generating a profile

Go to ISPAR / Countries / select your country (flag) / select "View the international index rankings"

Generate a profile

View performances on multiples indices in one page

Score and rank are

provided

Index Simulator for Policymakers About Simulators → Indices → Analysis Countries Technology readiness and innovation **E-Government Development Index** Year: 2022 156 0.39 Global Cybersecurity Index Ranking Year: 2020 126 22.14 E-Participation index Year: 2020 106 0.51 B2C E-Commerce Index Ranking Year: 2020 133

Brief description of the country. The same information is provided for all countries to /facilitate comparisons

Compare with other countries

Start policy simulations

And the year of publication of the index. This is very important

* *

Syrian Arab Re

Compare with other countries

Explore the index simulator

Syrian Arab Republic is a low income country. It has a GDP per capita of around USD (2021) and

HDI value of 0.58 (2021)

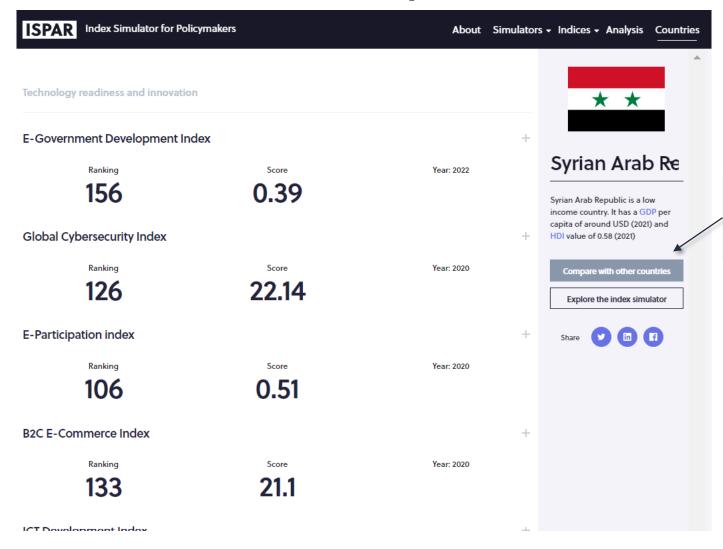
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Generating a profile

Go to ISPAR / Countries / select your country (flag) / select "View the international index rankings"

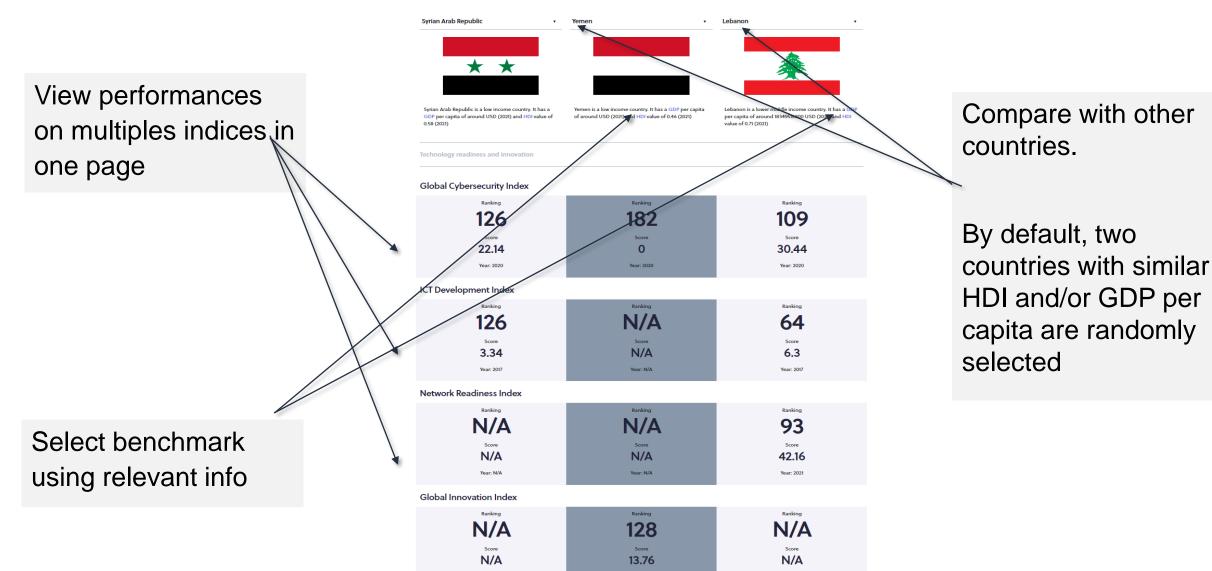
It shows the country's performances and which Indices are available for which year. For these indices, a policy impact simulator is available. Comparison with other countries is possible

Generate a profile



Compare with other countries

Generate a profile



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A first general benchmarking can be done here

Conflict countries:

Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, Indonesia, Cambodia, ...

Which best benchmark for ST, MT, LT

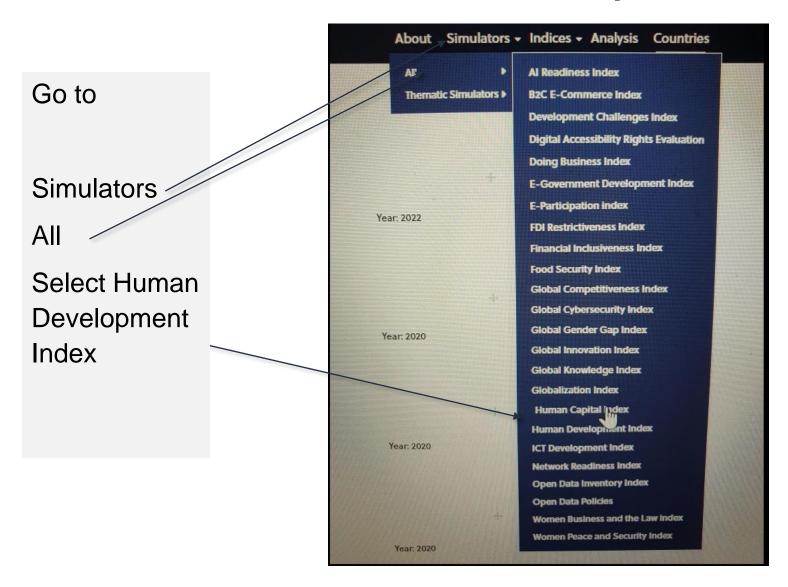
A more informative benchmarking should be done at the KPIs level and reflect the envisioned policies

First simulation: UNDP Human Development Index/Gender Development Index

Go to

ISPAR / All / Human Development Index

Here we will use a simulator that is not yet engendered, which reduces the number of KPIs and is easy to use

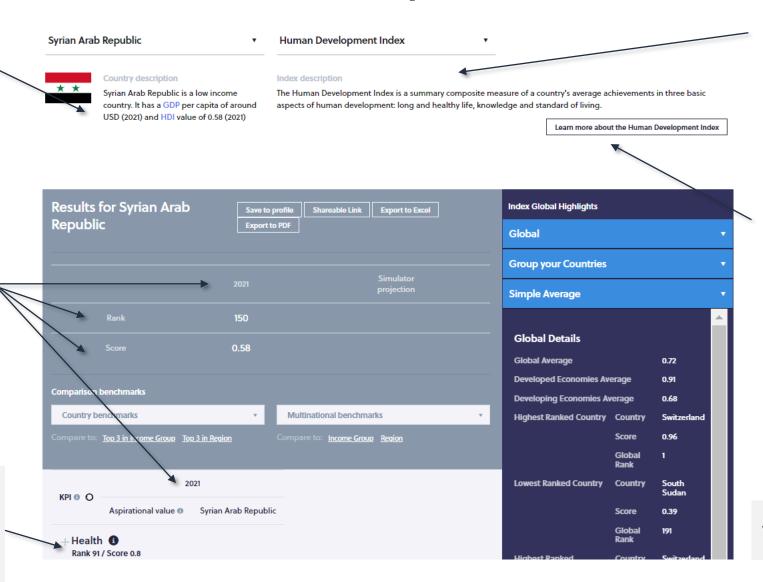


Brief
description of
the country
for
benchmarking

Year of the last ranking available

Rank and score

Dimensions with rank and score per dimension



Brief
description of
the selected
index

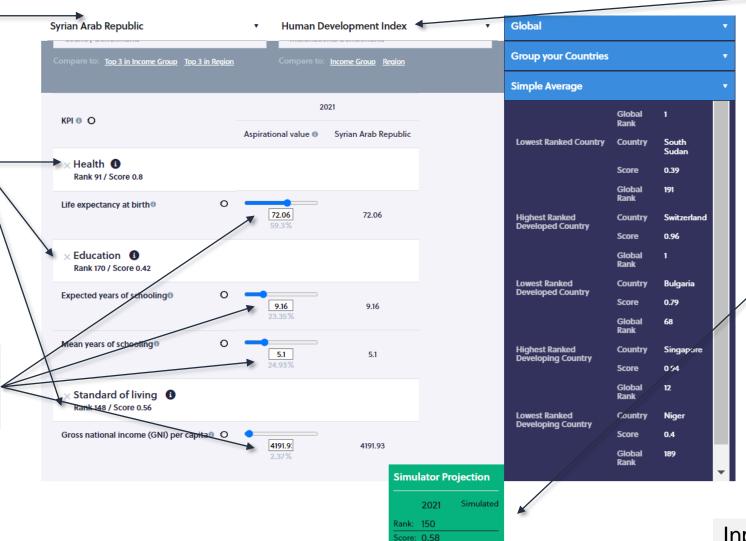
Link to the webpage of the selected index

Scroll down...

Country's name

Click on the dimension's name to see the KPIs

Actual values of the KPIs



Index's name

Box in which the impact of the rank and score will be shown. For now, the year of the last ranking, the rank and score are provided for reference

Input your aspirational values...

Syrian Arab Republic **Human Development Index** Global Slide the **Group your Countries** re to: Top 3 in Income Group Top 3 in Region Compare to: Income Group Region cursor Simple Average 2021 Or input your Global KPI 0 O Rank Syrian Arab Republic Aspirational value Lowest Ranked Country South Country data Health (1) 0.39 ok 91 / Score 0.8 - Simulated Rank 92 / Simulated Score 0.801 Global The year of the last Life expectancy at birth® 72.06 **Highest Ranked** ranking, the rank and 0.96 score are provided for \times Education \bigcirc Global Rank Rank 170 / Score 0.42 - Simulated Rank 157 / Simulated Score 0.488 reference Lowest Ranked Developed Country Bulgaria Expected years of schooling® Score 0.79 Global 68 Rank The simulated rank Mean years of schooling Highest Ranked Developing Country Actual values of and score are 0.94 displayed the KPIs are tandard of living Rank 148 / Score 0.56 - Simulated Rank 14 / Simulated Score 0.564 Lowest Ranked duplicated for Developing Country Gross national income (GNI) per cap 4191.93 reference Global Simulator Projection Aspirational Select aspirational values values appear using benchmarks... in RED

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Human Development Index

Select benchmark countries Or group

Actual KPIs values for the selected country and benchmarks are displayed



The year of the last ranking, the rank and score are provided for reference

The simulated rank and score are displayed

A strategy for a short, medium and long term can be designed

Aspirational values are selected in RED

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This index will be engendered so stay tuned....

Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA



Session IV: Introduction to Global Gender Equality Indicators

Global Gender Gap Index

The difficulties of an engendered index using ratios

Go to ISPAR / Countries / select your country (flag) / select "View the international index rankings" / go to the Global Gender Gap Index and select "Explore the index simulator"

Or,

go to ISPAR / Simulators / All / Global Gender Gap Index / select the country of interest

How to perform performance simulation?

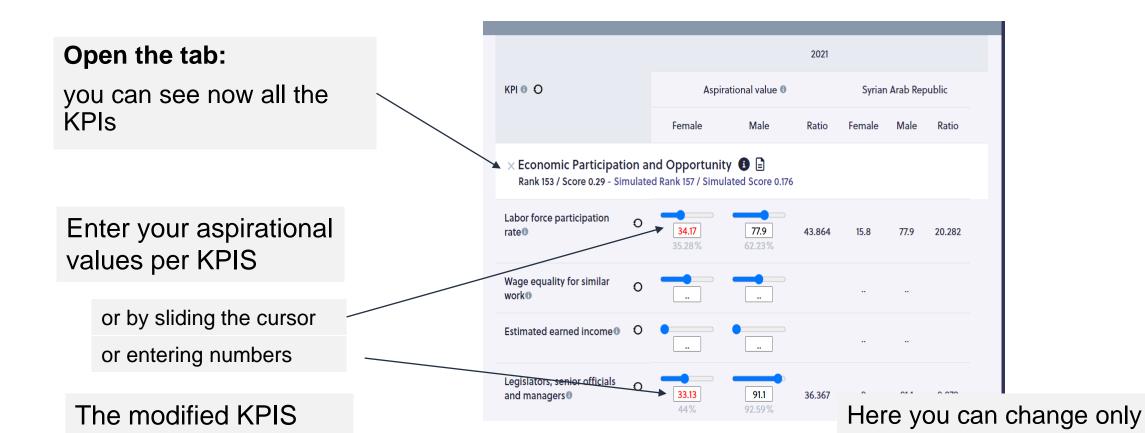
Setting aspirational values

Syrian Arab Republic Global Gender Gap Index Gender parity has a fundamental bearing on whether or not economies and societies thrive. Developing and deploying one-half of the world's available talent has a huge bearing on the growth, competitiveness and future-readiness of Select a country Learn more about the Global Gender Gap Index Results for Syrian Arab **Index Global Highlights** Select the index Republic Global **Group your Countries** Simple Average See the country's **Global Details** score and rank over time Country benchmarks Multinational benchmarks Top 3 in Income Group Top 3 in Regio The KPIs for 'female', 'male' and the ratio Health and Survival 1 are displayed Rank 115 / Score 0.97 Political Empowerment 1 1 Rank 142 / Score 0.07

Short description of the index

Link to the website of the index publisher

Change the values of the KPIs for female...



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the value of the KPIs for

the 'female' population

appear in **RED**

Open the tab:

you can see now all the KPIs

Enter your aspirational values per KPIS

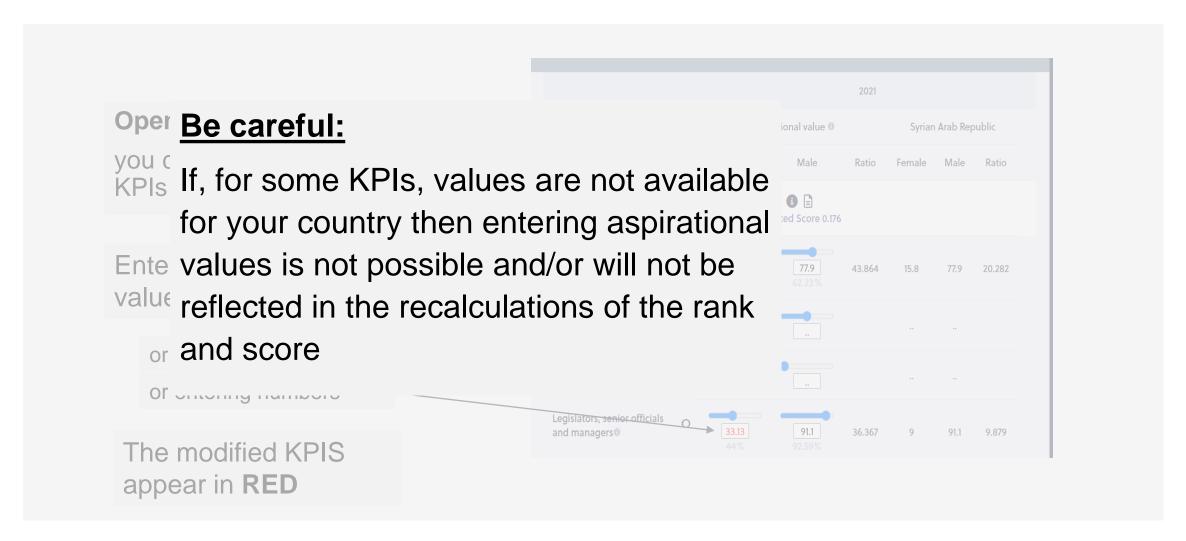
or by sliding the cursor or entering numbers

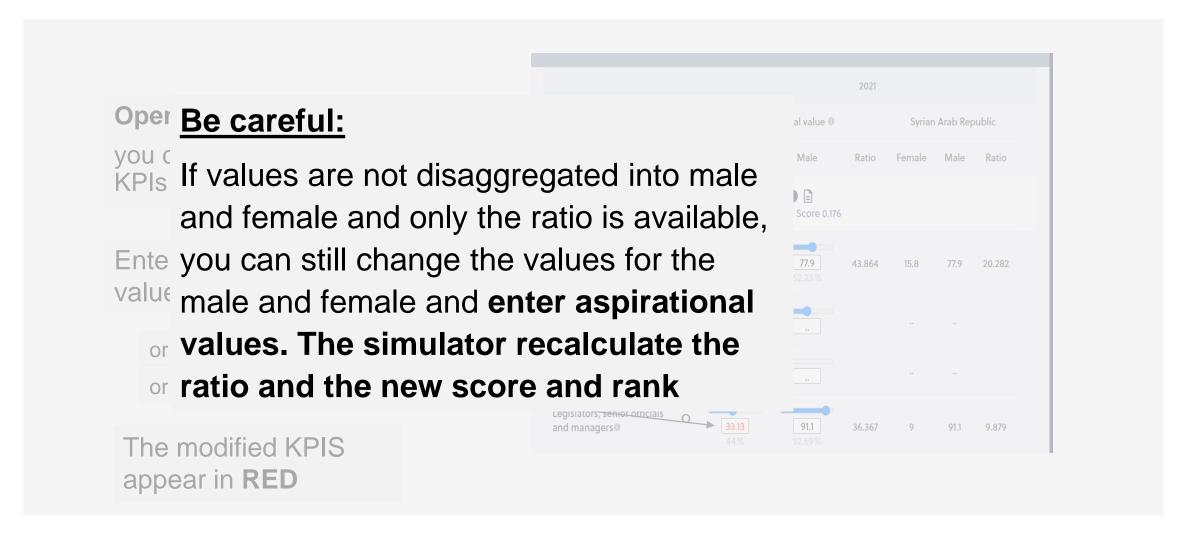
The modified KPIS appear in **RED**



Impact on score and rank will show here

pillar score and rank overall rank and score



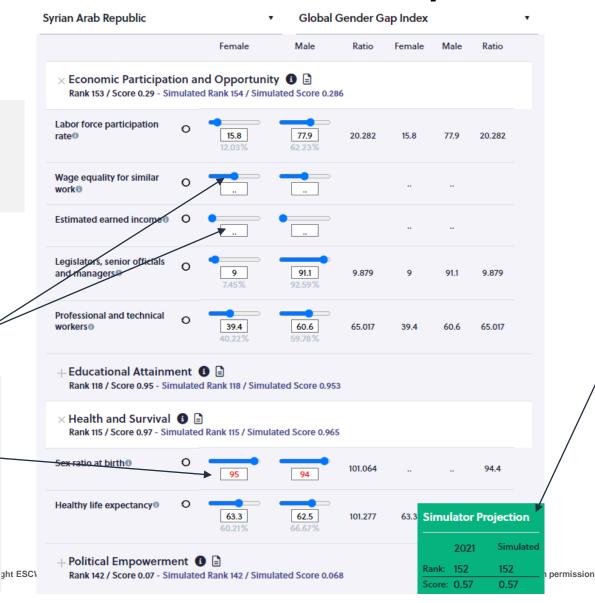


Open the tab:

you can see now all the KPIs

For those KPIs, no data is available, so it is impossible to enter aspirational values

For the sex ratio at birth, data for female and male are not available but the ratio is, hence data for male and female can be entered on the simulator



Impact on score and rank will show here

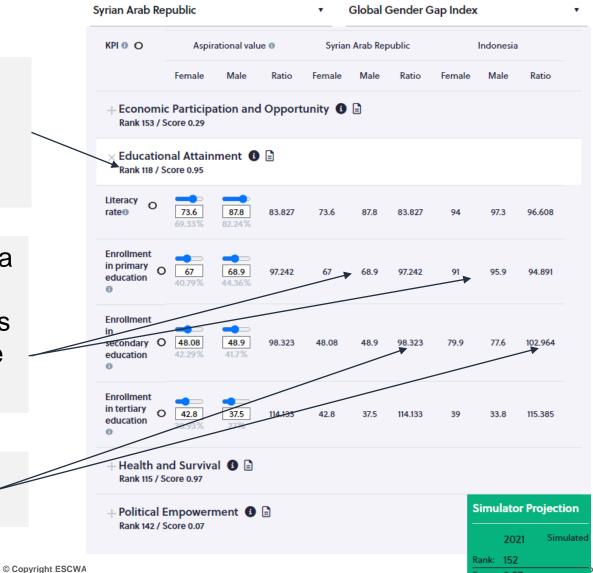


Open the tab:

you can see the KPIs for 'Educational attainment'

Compare to Indonesia (benchmark for LT achievements) Syria's KPIs are low for male and female

But the ratios are similar



As a result, Syria and Indonesia will be considered as equally performant on those KPIs which is misleading

KPIs in level must then be used instead of ratios

New indices will be added to ISPAR to address this issue

More accurate assessments and recommendations can then be made using the Thematic simulator

permission

Score: 0.57

Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA



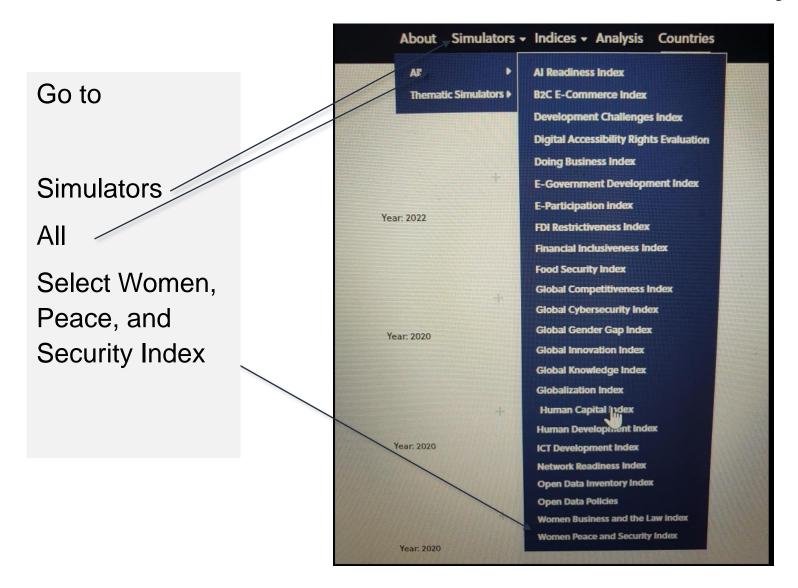
Session V: Introduction to Global Gender Equality Indicators

Women, Peace, and Security Index

Simulations

Go to ISPAR / Simulators / All / select 'Women, Peace, and Security Index'

Women, Peace, and Security Index



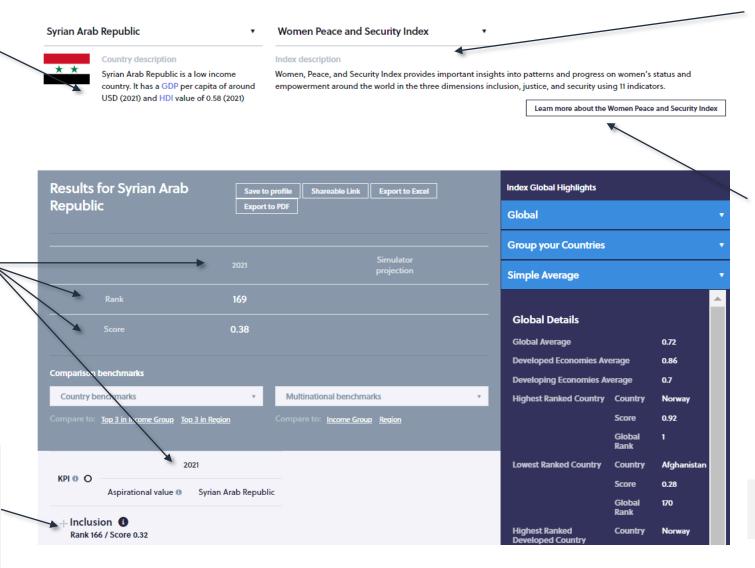
Women, Peace, and Security Index

Brief
description of
the country
for
benchmarking

Year of the last ranking available

Rank and score

Dimensions with rank and score per dimension



Brief description of the selected index

Link to the webpage of the selected index

Scroll down...

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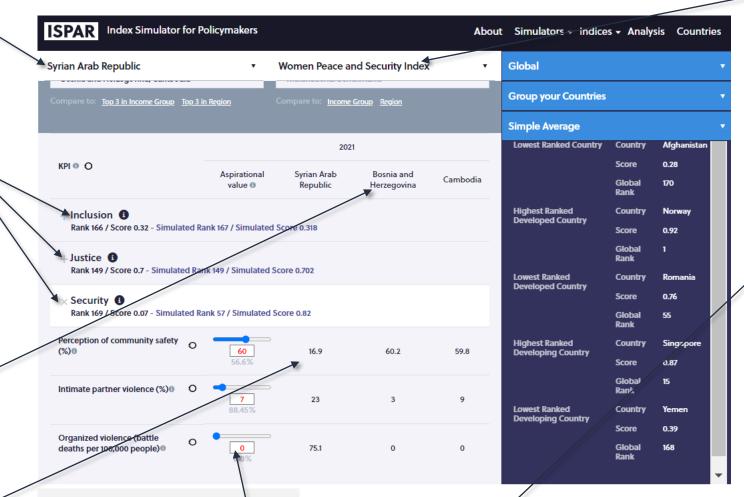
Women, Peace, and Security Index

Country's name

Click on the dimension's name to see the KPIs

Select benchmarks

Actual values of the KPIs



Index's name

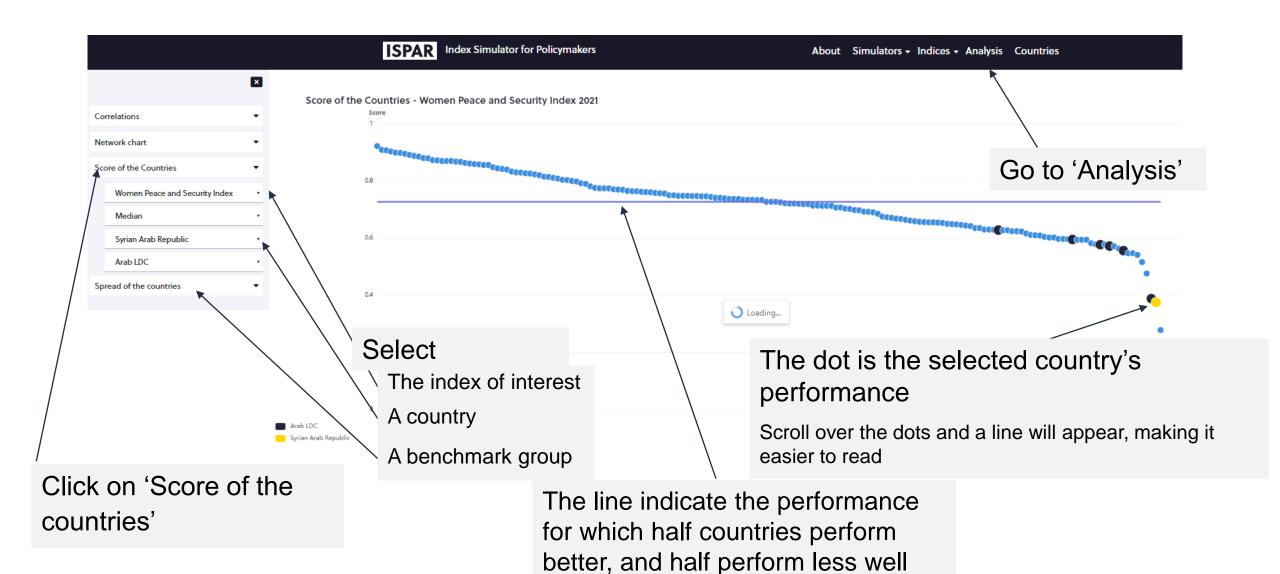
Box in which the impact of the rank and score will be shown. For now, the year of the last ranking, the rank and score are provided for reference

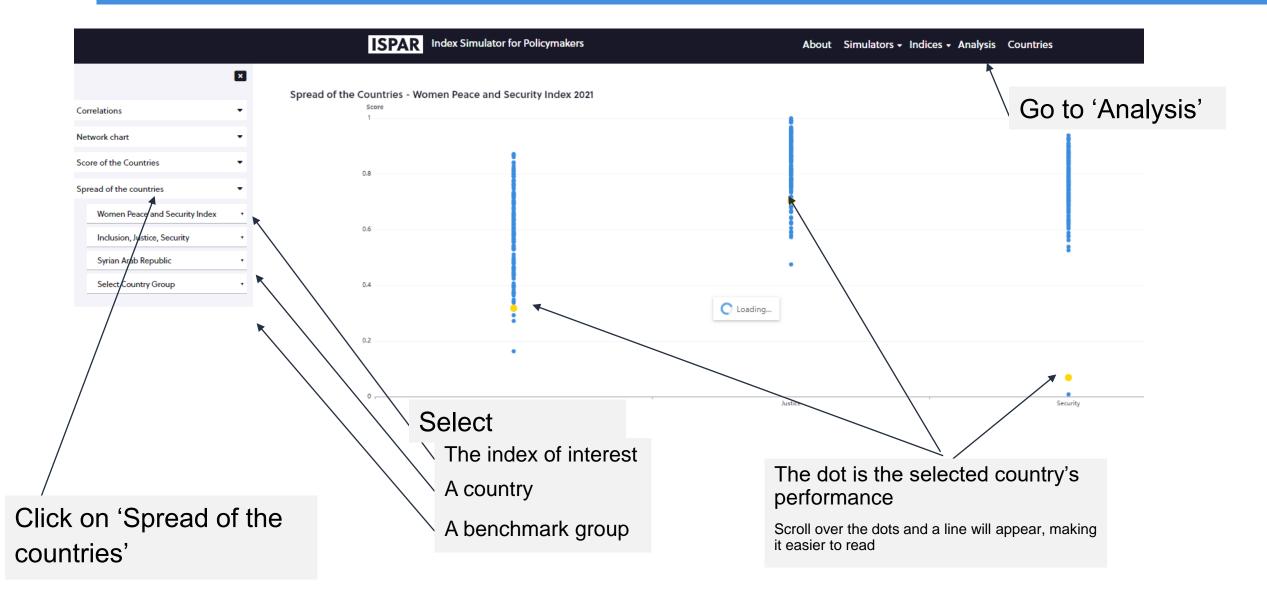
Aspirational values of the KPIs in Red

(SUZ . .

Exploring the interlinkages among KPIs...

Go to ISPAR / Simulators / All / select 'Women, Peace, and Security Index'





Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

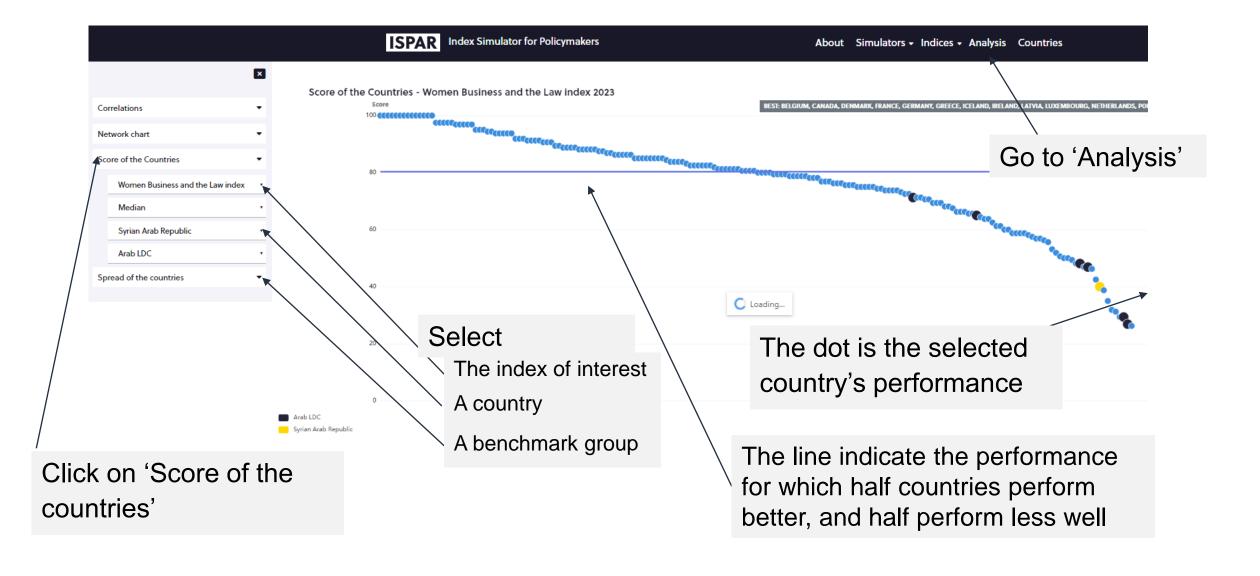


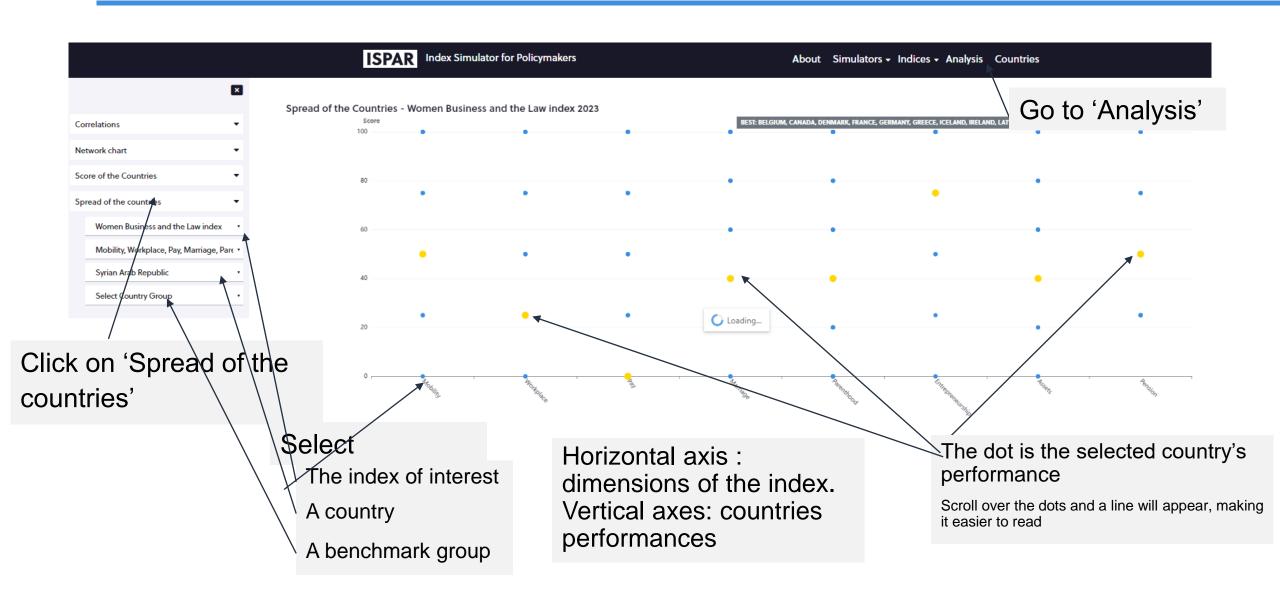
Session VI: Introduction to Global Gender Equality Indicators

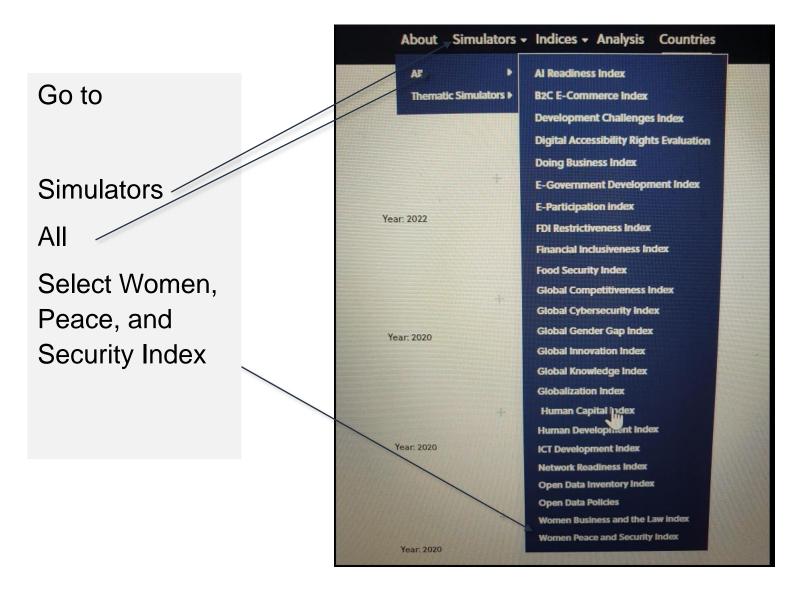
Women Business and the Law Index

The specificities of a 'discrete' index

Go to ISPAR / Simulators / All / select 'Women,
Business and the Law'







Brief
description of
the country
for
benchmarking



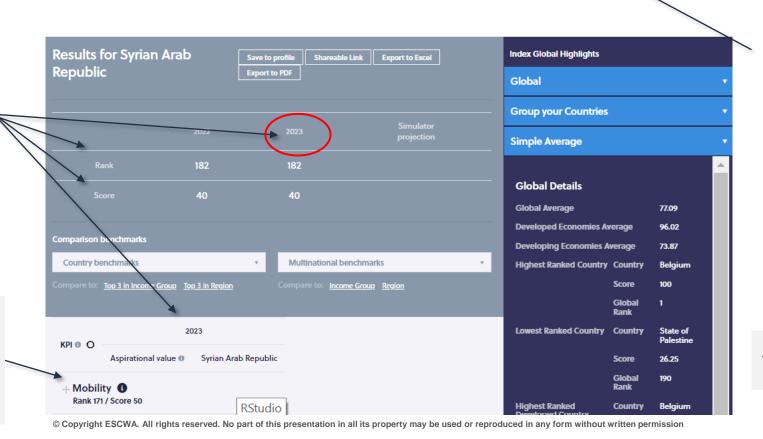
Brief description of the selected index

Learn more about the Women Business and the Law index

Year of the last ranking available

Rank and score

Dimensions with rank and score per dimension



Link to the webpage of the selected index

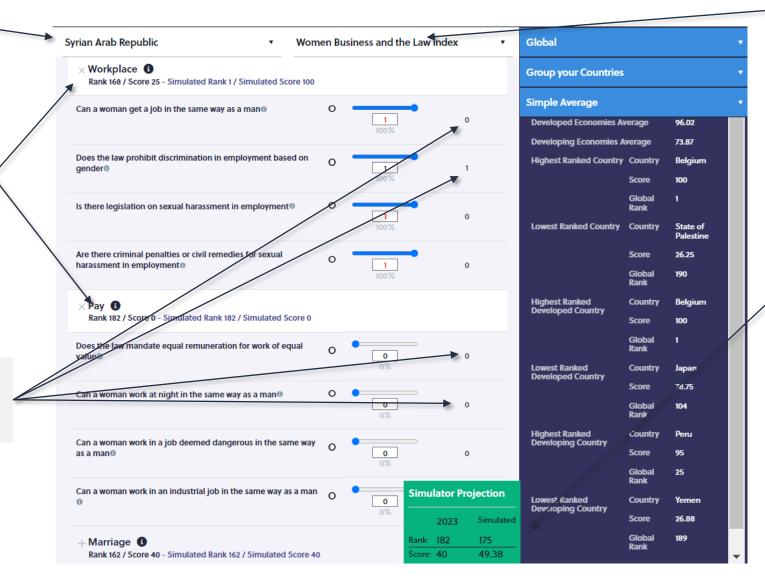
Regularly updated

Scroll down...

Country's name

Click on the dimension's name to see the KPIs

Actual values of the KPIs



Index's name

Box in which the impact of the rank and score will be shown. For now, the year of the last ranking, the rank and score are provided for reference



Improving on one KPIs improve the dimension score and rank by 20 to 25% depending on the number of KPIS per dimension

But here, the obstacles are laws which requires efforts and time to amend The advantage of ISPAR is that the tool allows to identify the NATURE of the obstacles and set a timeline for rankings improvement

Developing Indices Simulators for policymaking – Gender Gap Index for Syrian Arab Republic

Nathalie PICASSO-GRAND, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

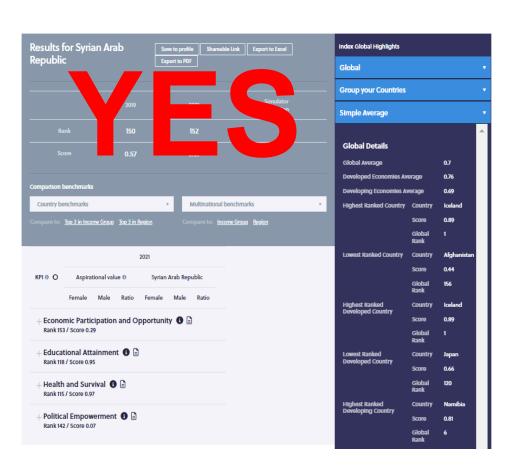


Session VIII: Interlinkages between global indices and more...

Let's summarize what we have seen

Indices for policymaking





- Monitoring and accuracy of performance assessment: the governance of data production and diffusion
 - Simulation of policy changes on achievements using the Index simulators
 - Identify the nature of obstacles and set a timeline (ST, MT and LT strategies)
 - Benchmarking is possible (country and groupings) as well as learning from other countries experiences
 - How to build a narrative and design a comprehensive strategy: Using the Thematic simulators

Now, let's complete the story by

- Assessing the direct but also the indirect impact of policies across indices
- 2. Learning from the policy experience of other countries
- 3. Assessing the impact of policy changes on a set of end goals

Indirect impact and spillover effects across indices

Go to ISPAR / Analysis /

Understand and evaluate spillover effects

Under the tab 'Analyses'



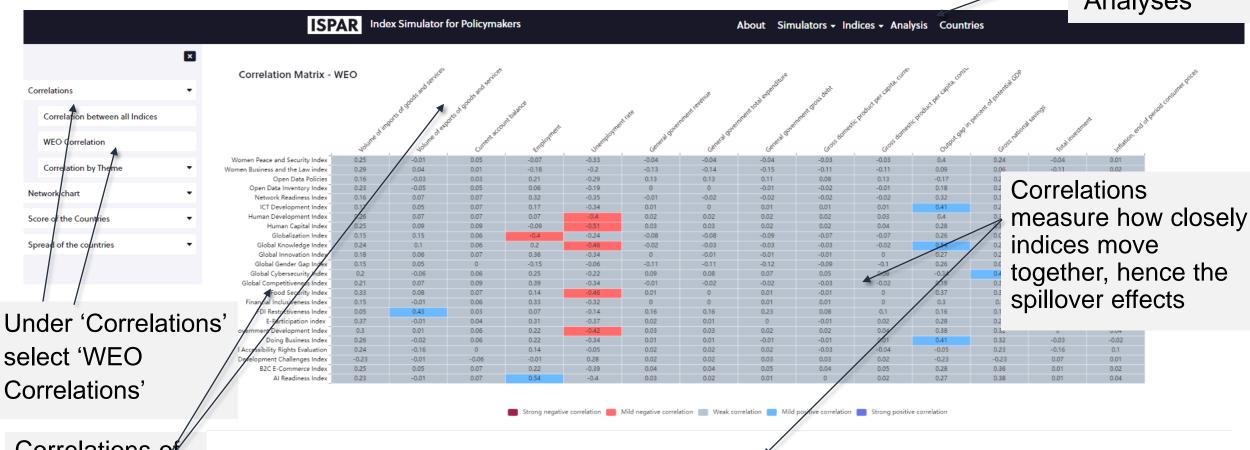
Correlations of all indices against each other

rrelation is a statistical measure that describes the relationship between two indices. A positive correlation means that both indices are increasing or decreasing in parallel. A negative correlation indicates that when a country's performance improves on one index it worsens on the total content in the relation is strong if the correlation coefficient is greater than 0.7 (smaller than -0.7). It is milled if the coefficient is between 0.4 and 0.7 (or -0.7 and -0.4). Correlation coefficients, that appear on the table, can be used to assess how performances across indices tend to linked to each other.

wever, correlation must not be confused with causality. If two indices/indicators are correlated, it does not imply that one index/indicator causes the changes in another one. Correlation only assesses relationships between indices/indicators, and different factors may lead to the ationships. Causation may be a reason for the correlation, but it is not the only possible explanation.

Understand and evaluate spillover effects

Under the tab 'Analyses'



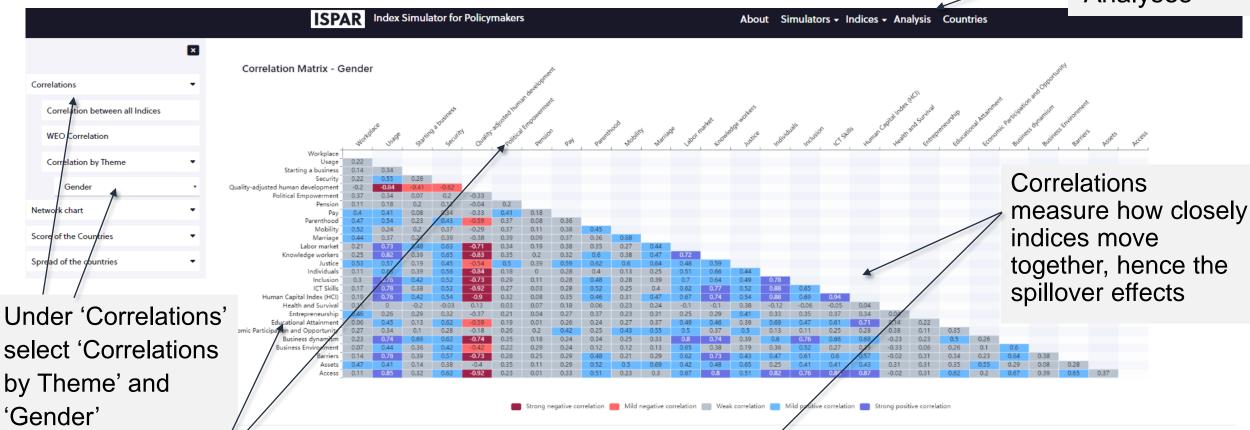
Correlations of indices and macroeconomic outcomes

Correlation is a statistical measure that describes the relationship between two indices. A positive correlation means that both indices are increasing or decreasing in parallel. A negative correlation indicates that when a country's performance improves on one index it worsens on the other. The relation is strong if the correlation coefficient is greater than 0.7 (smaller than -0.7). It is milled if the coefficient is between 0.4 and 0.7 (or -0.7 and -0.4). Correlation coefficients, that appear on the table, can be used to assess how performances across indices tend to be linked to each other.

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Understand and evaluate spillover effects

Under the tab 'Analyses'



Correlations of all sub-dimensions of all gender indices

ion is a statistical measure that describes the relationship between two indices. A positive correlation means that both indices are increasing or decreasing in parallel. A negative correlation indicates that when a country's performance improves on one index it worsens on er. The relation is strong if the correlation coefficient is greater than 0.7 (smaller than -0.7). it is milled if the coefficient is between 0.4 and 0.7 (or -0.7 and -0.4). Correlation coefficients, that appear on the table, can be used to assess how performances across indices tend to d to each other.

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Help governments set priorities

- 1. Identify nature of obstacles (administrative, regulatory, laws need to be change, implementation has to be improved, etc...) and set short-, medium- and long-term goals/targets
- 2. Where resources should be allocated based on where a country wants to improve the ranking

Example: if political participation is a priority, the simulator shows how it can enhance the overall ranking

Build your own scenario

Thank you for your time!

