



EGM on "Technology as a Renewed Hope to Achieving Gender Equality in the Arab Region: A Fact or Illusion?"

24 – 25 October 2018

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الاستسقا

ESCWA

**Technology and Women's
Socio-economic Empowerment**

This presentation focuses on target 5.4 on SDG 5



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

Achieving economic empowerment of women is salient across many goals and targets, including poverty eradication, education, equal rights for women and men to social protection systems and economic and productive resources. Furthermore, achieving full and productive employment and decent work for women is important to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, thus the importance of ensuring women's economic rights, including women's equal opportunities to organize for better wages and working conditions, and improving their access to land and resources, including financial services and control over income. The level of unpaid care and domestic work provided by women is impeding their participation in the paid labour market. Consequently, it becomes critical to recognizing and supporting women's unpaid and domestic work.

Regional situation in relation to target 5.4

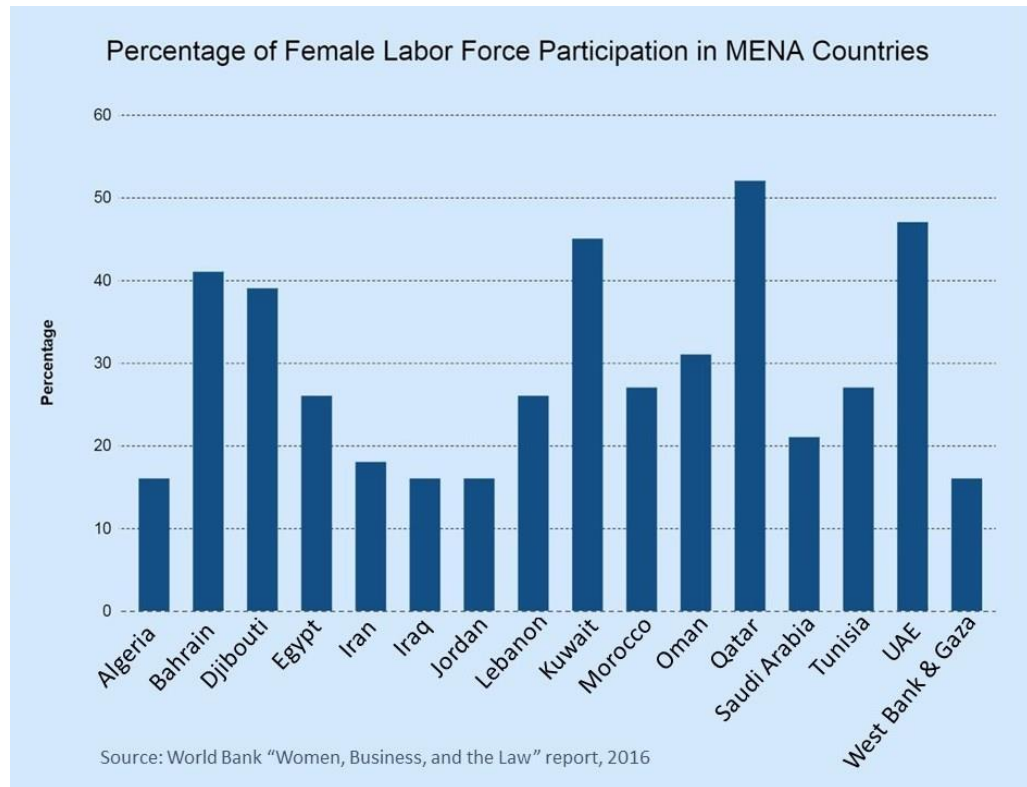
- Unpaid care and domestic work tend not to be recognized as work, and are therefore not valued
- We see unequal gender distribution of this work worldwide
- Role of women still generally perceived as related to families and households

Unpaid work in the Arab region



Participation in the labour force

- Women face challenges to access job market: low work force participation rate and high unemployment rate



Participation in the labour force

- Gender wage gap continues: in Jordan it is 41.3% in manufacturing, 27.9% in health and social work, and 24.5% in education.

Is ICT a solution?

Is ICT a positive employment option for women?

- Levels of participation in the tech sector are high
- Disadvantaged in obtaining complex ICT skills

ICT can expand paid work opportunities for women

ICT as a pathway for women's economic empowerment:

- Provides an opportunity for women to engage in income generating activities
- Connects migrant women workers to support networks
- Savings and financial services
- Digital licences with educational packages
- Increases women's access to information for their priorities
- Contributes to improved equality in households

Questions

- How can ICT contribute to recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work?
- How can ICT-based innovation contribute to enhancing the economic status of women in the region?
- How is access to modern, clean, affordable and sustainable energy at the household level a gender concern in the Arab region?
- In what ways can ICTs contribute to enhancing women's economic opportunities?
- In what ways can ICTs contribute to enhancing women's social status?
- Are existing good practices at the global level fit to the regional context?
- What are the challenges facing the use of ICT for women's socio-economic empowerment? (What about the Arab digital gender divide?)



Thank You



UNITED NATIONS

الاستسقا

ESCWA