

The Missing Pillar of Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development in MENA?

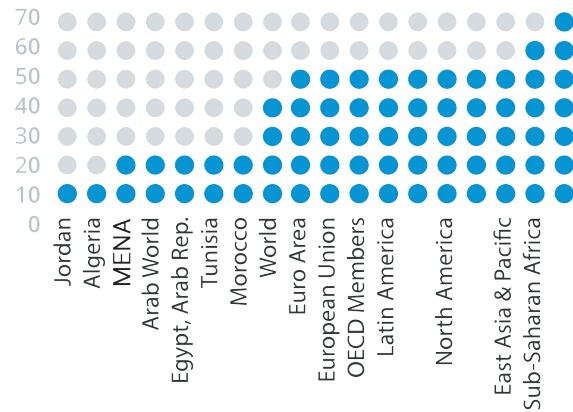
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Critical issues in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs)

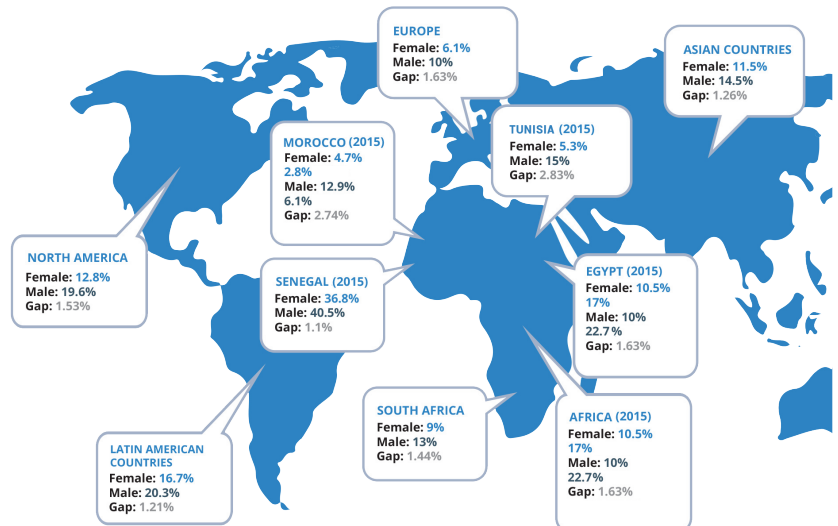
Discouraging picture of Female Labour Force Participation (LFP) and Entrepreneurial Activity in MENA

- Low rates of participation despite increased educational attainment
- Underutilization of skills acquired by educated women
- Lack of financial autonomy and degrading social status
- Un-conducive environment to women entrepreneurship

Women's Labour Force Participation in 2017
(In % of Population Age Female 15+) Source: World Bank

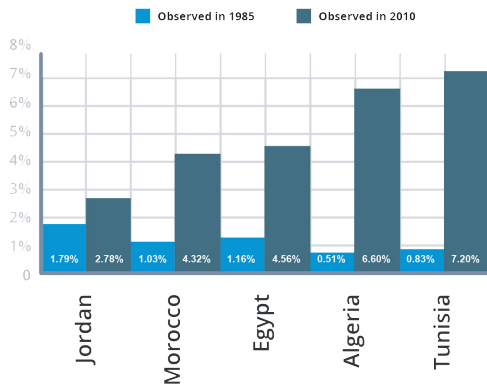


Total Early-stage entrepreneurial activity in 2017
(% of 18-64 years) Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitoring (GEM)



Percentage of female population aged 25 and + with tertiary schooling completed

Source: World Bank from Barro and Lee



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Measures to Improve Female LFP



Labour standards and anti-discrimination laws ensuring minimum wage legislation



Improving early childhood services allowing young mothers to return to work



Flexible employment opportunities for women in public and private sectors



Ensure women's equal rights, access to and opportunities for leadership and decision-making

Measures to Support Women's Entrepreneurship



Develop loan guarantee schemes to address the problem of lack of guarantees for women without asset



Promote investment funds and "private equity finance"



Support the development of micro finance adapted to micro-enterprises, and dedicated to female initiative