

# Gender Responsive and Inclusive Politics and Economics in the MENA Region

## The challenge

The countries in the MENA region are characterised by a patriarchal gender paradigm that establishes a particular set of norms, values, expected behaviours and gender roles. Women are under-represented at the political level and consequently have little scope to influence political and economic decisions. On average, only 18.3% of parliamentarians in MENA countries are women. The region also has some of the world's lowest levels of women employment: 20% in Egypt, 15.6% in Jordan, 25.6% in Lebanon, 21.3% in Morocco and 28.1% in Tunisia. At both national and company level, the very low proportion of women in the workforce represents a huge economic loss. This remains so despite some MENA region countries' efforts to adopt rules specifying a minimum level of women representation. As a result, their requirements and perspectives are largely excluded from national and regional negotiation processes on political and economic issues.

## Objective

The project aims to strengthen the political and economic participation of women in the MENA region in order to raise women representation in decision-making positions and to improve the opportunities available to women in the labour market and in working life.

## Our approach

The project cooperates with national and regional networks to implement measures to increase women participation in economic and political life. The overarching aim is to help empower and promote their fundamental human rights and to ensure they can make an effective contribution towards shaping policies that promote gender equality and inclusion in the MENA region.

The project will provide advice and capacity development support to make the work of economic and political change agents in the MENA region more effective.



Project name	Gender Responsive and Inclusive Politics and Economics in the MENA Region (WoMENA)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Countries	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Tunisia
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Awareness raising activities will be conducted among different age groups to promote an active role for women in political and economic life. In the same spirit, the active engagement of men for equality and women's rights will be promoted.

WoMENA will support 12 regional networks and 40 organisations in implementing measures to promote the political and economic participation of women in the MENA region. By strengthening the capacities of more than 1000 change-agents in all six countries, more than 3000 women and girls will be reached. Innovative approaches shall empower women and girls especially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.



School students are learning how to maintain a car at Girl's Day at a car workshop in Cairo. @GIZ/Sandra Wolf