

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

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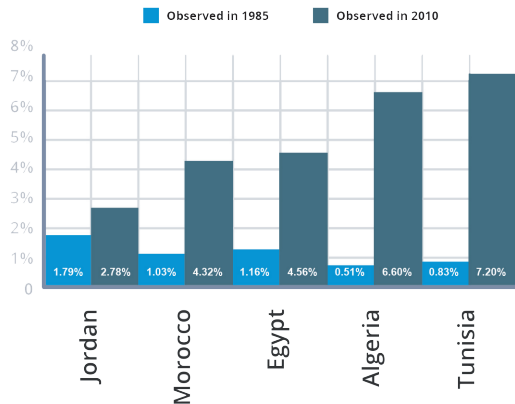
## Critical issues in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs)

### 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

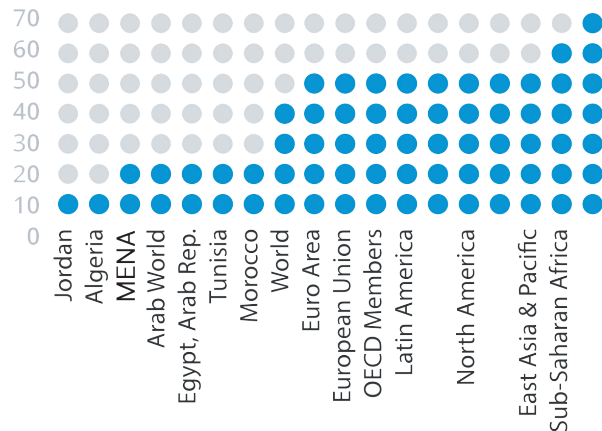
Percentage of female population aged 25 and + with tertiary schooling completed

Source: World Bank from Barro and Lee



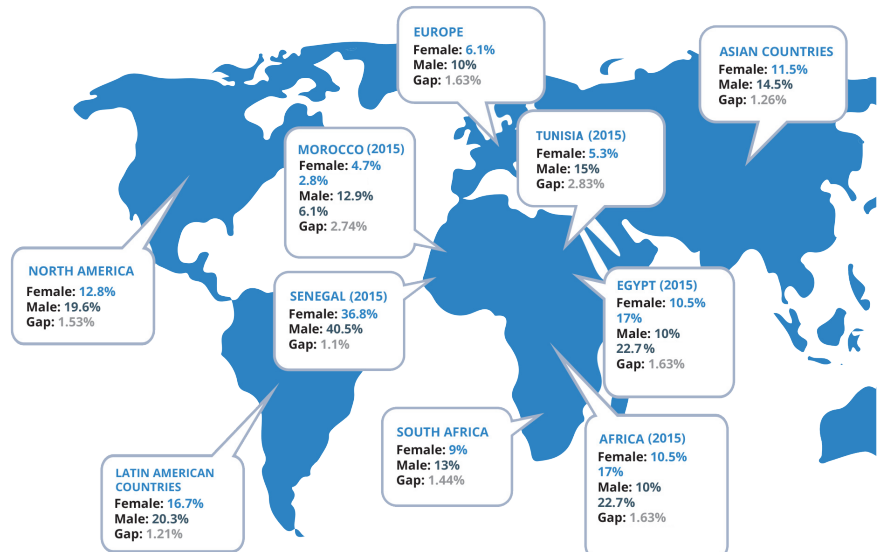
Women's Labour Force Participation in 2017

(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)



## 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**