

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE



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- Women between peace and development.
- Yemeni women and education.
- Displaced Yemeni women and the stage of conflict.

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Yemeni activists to the UN envoy: “Improving the living conditions of and lifting restrictions on civilians are among their priorities for the peace process.”

In their meeting with the UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Yemeni women peace activists highlighted their priorities for the peace process, including improving the living conditions and livelihoods of Yemeni civilians, lifting restrictions on the freedom of movement of civilians, especially women and children, addressing the recruitment of child soldiers, safeguarding schools, ensuring access to education, involving local mediators and the private sector in the security track of the peace process, improving access to basic services and goods, addressing the fragmentation of fiscal and monetary policies, focusing on the removal of mines that impact women and children, and ensuring equal job opportunities for all Yemenis, including women and youth.

“While continuously encouraging the parties to ensure women’s meaningful participation in the peace process remains a priority for me, it is also important that we integrate the views of Yemeni women into the design of the peace process to ensure it is sensitive to the issues that Yemeni women and youth face,” said UN Special Envoy Hans Grundberg.

It is reported that the UN Special Envoy will continue in upcoming weeks his consultations with diverse Yemeni constituencies, including economic experts, civil society, and political parties.



UN Secretary-General: “Women Agenda is one of our best hopes”

The Women, Peace and Security agenda is “one of our best hopes” for a more peaceful future and a liveable planet, UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the Security Council.

The Secretary-General also called on the international community to pursue proven strategies for peace and stability. Protecting and promoting women’s rights is such a strategy,” he emphasized during the debate, highlighting the positive role regional organizations have played in protecting and advancing the key agenda.

“Today’s conflicts are amplifying gender inequality, poverty, climate disruptions, and other forms of inequality,” he pointed out. “women and girls are disproportionately affected by the violence, and impacts of these cascading crises,” he added.



Yemeni Women and Conflict:

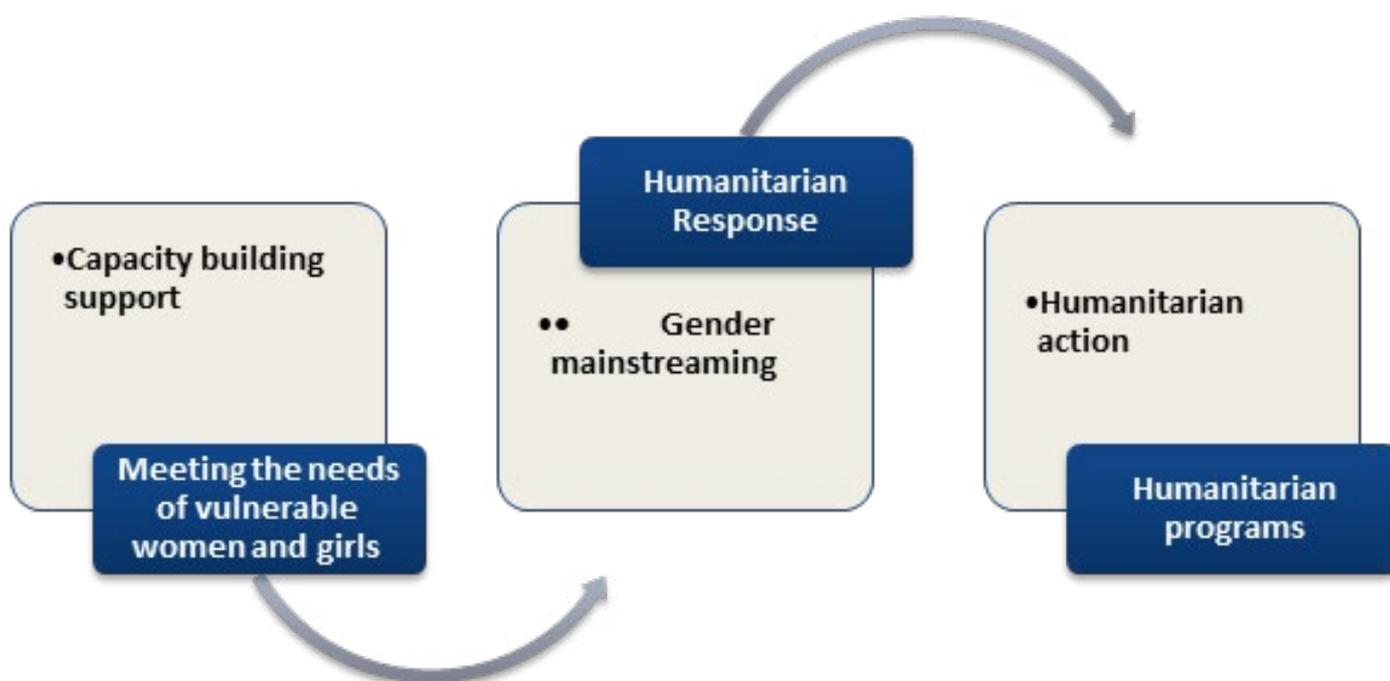
Yemen is enduring various crises due to the current conflict, which has led to the deteriorating humanitarian conditions. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more than 76% of Yemenis need humanitarian assistance.

The situation of women and girls in Yemen is very challenging. Conflict has added layers of vulnerability for women and girls and exacerbated existing gender inequalities and social injustice. In 2017, Yemen was ranked at the bottom of the Gender Gap Index. Against this backdrop, UN Women in Yemen seeks to address issues of structural gender inequality, and to meet the urgent needs of women and girls. In doing so, it implements a variety of projects – from assisting vulnerable women in places of detention to supporting women’s rights actors working for peace.

UN Women Yemen works with its partners to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower them, and promote equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action, and peace and security activities. This work aims to achieve three strategic goals:

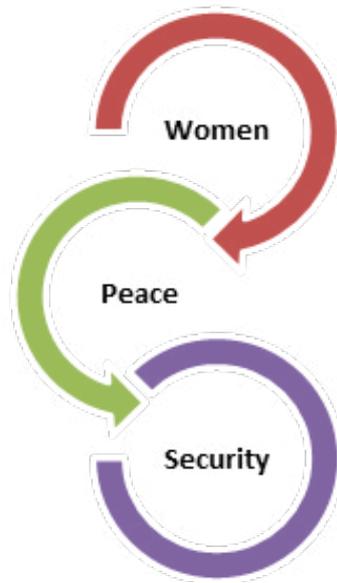
- Humanitarian action: to meet the needs of vulnerable women and girls to ensure the participation of women affected by the crisis in response and recovery efforts, through which they are empowered and get benefited.
- Gender mainstreaming in humanitarian response.
- Provision of capacity building support to leaders, networks, civil society, and UN agencies on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian programming.

These strategic goals can be illustrated in the following diagram:



Women, Peace and Security:

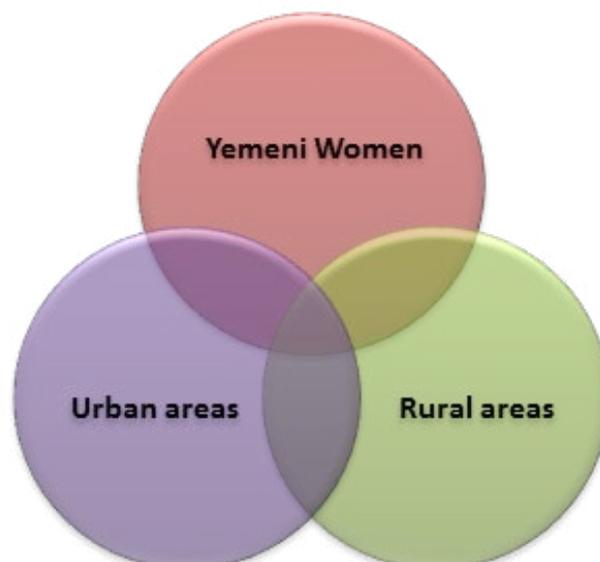
This is done by increasing women's leadership and inclusion in peace processes and enhance gender in peacebuilding in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that enhances the status of women and their role in societies, stresses the necessity of empowering them in many areas of life, and urges the preservation of their full rights as their counterparts, men.



Promoting Gender Equality:

The outbreak of conflict increased issues of gender justice. Many initiatives have largely stalled, including those efforts that seek to promote gender equality and empower women in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

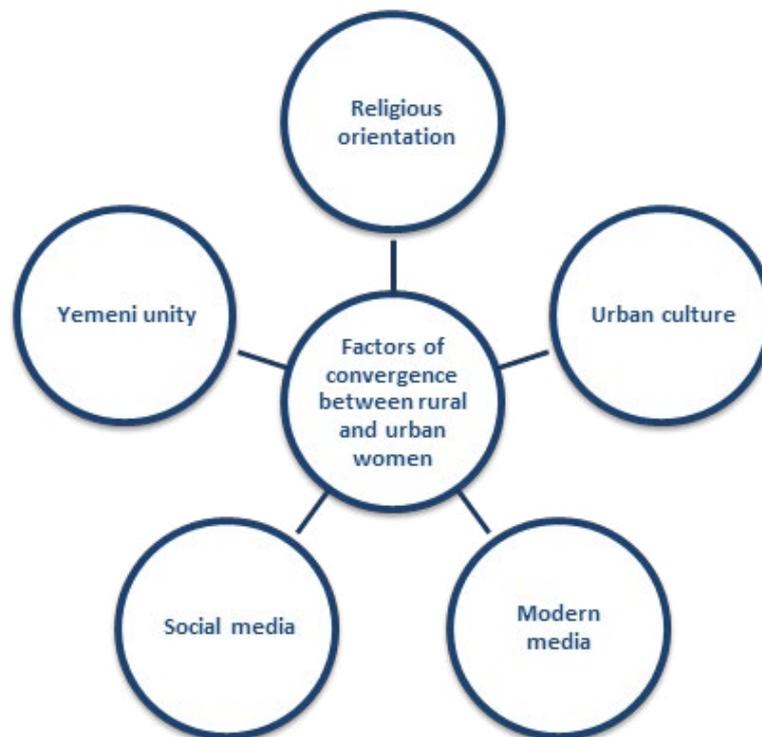
One of the main factors affecting the lifestyle of women in Yemen is the place of residence, such as living in urban areas or in rural areas. According to the National Health and Demographic Survey (2013), the percentage of women in rural areas is 66%.



Consequently, women in urban areas have better access to basic domestic services, educational opportunities, and the possibility to work. Women in rural areas often do certain work that requires physical effort, such as fetching water, providing fodder and wood, and participating in agricultural work. Urban women may be more restricted in their movement, and thus should wear conservative clothes. The family is increasingly concerned about the different natures and behaviors of urban people. Unlike in the countryside, people don't know each other well.

Yemeni women's experiences:

Despite the varied experiences of Yemeni women and gender activism, many factors have limited privacy and reduced differences between those areas in terms of dressing style, form of social interaction, social norms and customs. Among these factors: urbanization, politics, and religious orientation in recent decades, as well as the Yemeni unity that took place in 1990, the spread of conservative traditions and beliefs, the spread of modern media, and the prevalence of urban culture.



Psychological health has been a serious issue, especially because of the ongoing war events and the resulting crises. Even children have not been spared from its devastating effects. A recent study conducted by a Yemeni researcher¹ found that 79% of more than 900 children- girls more frequently than boys - reported that they are experiencing PTSD symptoms. The conflict has resulted in the suffering of many members of Yemeni society and the loss of hundreds of civilian lives, including children.

1- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder among Yemeni Children as a Consequence of the Ongoing War BRIEF 20.03.2018 10 by Fawziah al-Ammar

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and Women

Resolution 1325, adopted by the United Nations Security Council on October 31, 2000, on Women, Peace and Security, emphasizes the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding. The resolution was implemented within the international framework of the women, peace, and security agenda, and introduced four "pillars" or priority areas: prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery. In addition, the resolution calls for the protection of women and girls in conflict settings.

This resolution represents the first official document issued by the United Nations Security Council, requiring all parties to the conflict to respect women's rights and support their participation in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction.

As a member state of the UN, Yemen is obliged to implement UNSC resolutions, including 1325. Indeed, some outcomes of the 2013-2014 National Dialogue Conference (NDC) – such as quotas on women's political participation – aligned with the agenda of the resolution and its four pillars. The UNSC has recommended that states should develop National Action Plans (NAPs) to outline government strategies to implement Resolution 1325.

In all cases, Yemeni history, in its successive stages, witnesses- and is confirmed by the current reality- those Yemeni women are distinguished by their productive capacity within their family and society, whenever they get the chance to do so. According to the opinions of many observers and those interested in Yemeni women issues, they also have an ambitious and positive personality and great self-confidence, which help them to go through life. In addition, they constantly work to develop their families and support members of their community. There are also many effective and honorable models for Yemenis and Arabs as well, which enhances the role of Yemeni women and girls for their active participation in the areas of sustainable development within their country. The role women play in the development and growth of societies cannot be underestimated. For this, every Yemeni should participate in supporting them for the advancement of Yemen at the regional and international levels.

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- * Press Release Issued by UN Women and the Office of the Special Envoy For Yemen on the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda October 29, 2020 <https://osesgy.unmissions.org/un-women-and-office-special-envoy-yemen-20th-anniversary-united-nations-security-council-resolution>
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Yemeni Women Models in Development and Peace

Productive Yemeni Women during the Conflict

Yemeni women have been striving to survive the conflict. They struggle with its catastrophic consequences, including waves of price hikes, to fend for their families and secure their material and economic needs. Hodeidah is one of the cities most affected by the conflict.

In 2015, Mona Mohammed (a pseudonym) graduated from the University of Hodeida, Department of Business Administration. She started the process of getting her university documents in order to be able to search for a job opportunity through which she could help her husband, improve her family's income, and secure the needs of their child. However, as soon as it started to work, she met a wave of displacement and closure of many commercial shops and establishments, as well as many centers and service facilities.

Mona says, "I tried to knock on the doors of all the institutions inside the city, they were asking me to give them my documents and they told me that if there is a work opportunity, they would contact me. They gave me hope that there may be job opportunities waiting for me, even though they did not contact me."

After Mona found all doors of getting a job shut, she coordinated with one of her friends to work with in marketing her products in the field of fabrics and ready-made clothes. She succeeded in convincing her, and she was able to get a job opportunity, and provide what she could with her husband.

Fatima's story is not different from Mona, both of them are looking for a life, but what Fatima differs in is that she faced acts of violence and neglect from her husband side. She had failed to obtain her rights as a wife. So, she decided to work in sewing clothes to provide the requirements of living. Fatima says, "I married a man, who had 7 children. His wife passed away after a struggle with illness. I worked to take care of his children, and I gave everything I could to play the role of their mother towards them. After the children grew up and each went for his own affairs and his own life, I was surprised by the denial of my rights by their father (my husband).

Fatima, a skilled seamstress, works in the neighborhood in which she lives after she was able to attend many sewing courses. She succeeded in providing distinctive designs to her customers, so that her work expanded to cover demand that come from outside the governorate. She became a provider to the father after his sons abandoned him.

These events are repeated for many families within Yemeni society, especially with the conditions of the conflict that has existed in the country since 2015 and its consequences, such as: the

suspension of salaries, the layoff of many workers from facilities that suffer from bankruptcy or the transfer of their headquarters to safe areas inside the country. This put the woman in a cycle of difficult conditions in her family. She hastened to make great contributions to improving the family's income, and to be of help to men in the difficult time experienced by many Yemeni families. She went out to work in markets, service centers, or educational facilities. Many organizations have also sought to provide empowerment programs for productive families, and these programs have been able to greatly help in addressing the economic fissure suffered by many families.



Tamkeen Programs (empowerment programs)

” Productive Families” is a government institution that targets and trains women and brings them out into society as an effective member, meaning that they have a craft in the food industries, knitting, embroidery, perfumery and other livelihood opportunities.

Ahmed Shuja' Al-Din, the General Director of “Productive Families”, explains the goal of establishing the National Program for Productive Families is to fund poor families that depend for their livelihood on the aid they receive from governmental or non-governmental institutions to the extent that allows them to survive without being able to participate in the general social and economic life. This program helps families to be able to participate in the production of goods and services that allow them to obtain income that contributes to providing the family's commodity and service needs, and contributes to increasing the annual national production of goods and services. So that they participate in community development and progress.

Shuja' Al-Din indicates that the process of transforming poor families from the first case (dependence on others and negativity towards society) to the second case, which is participation in the productive process, and obtaining a decent income from the proceeds of their work, in addition to contributing to the development process takes place by providing training opportunities and the rehabilitation available in the training centers affiliated with the program in various governorates,

amounting to 75 centers, which allows girls and young people from poor families to acquire the skills necessary for production in various fields, most notably the production of all kinds of clothing, the production of light foods such as sweets of all kinds, pastries such as petit fours and biscuits, and the production of juices, incense, perfumes, accessories, and other fields, which number up to fourteen, and their presence in the centers ranges between 3-10 fields.

Shuja' Al-Din adds: “The program has so far managed to train and qualify more than ninety thousand girls and women, but it has not been able to provide job opportunities or marketing the products of all the center’s graduates due to the limited possibilities available to the program, therefore the vast majority of graduates of the centers rely on their own capabilities to join the labor market or market their products.

Pastry Queen

” The idea of the project came from my desire to be a free woman and have my own money to spend it freely without waiting for anybody to give me so I can give others.” With these words, Hana started her talk about the idea of her project.

Hana chose the name “Queen of Pastries” for her own project, which is a factory that prepares snacks and sweets for various weddings and occasions in the coastal governorate of Hodeidah. She could gain the trust of her customers through her project that started in 2011. Hana says: “I started my project by making favorite meals, and the idea was expanded to preparing birthday meals and then to wedding parties and other occasions.

She points out by saying: “I am from a conservative area where women are forbidden to mix with men or leave her house a lot. I thought that I would work in a school, but I did not succeed. I went to sell clothes and was unable to continue working. Then I decided to return to my old hobby of making meals since my childhood, which I acquired twenty years ago from my Egyptian and foreign neighbors. I learned from them how to make many meals.” She also adds that she derives her strength from her work, especially after her husband died two years ago, on whom she was dependent to provide for the needs of life.

She indicates that the situation has changed currently after the conflict. For example, some meals used to cost seven or eight thousand Yemeni riyals, and now the size has decreased with the price dropping by one thousand five hundred or two thousand dues to the decline in the purchasing power of customers. “We tried to keep our customers.” The meals that she does are making cakes, pizza, shawarma sandwiches of all kinds, and cakes of various shapes.

Hana also explains that she faces many obstacles in her work, including power cuts and the lack of domestic gas, which pushed her to search for alternatives such as solar energy or to subscribe to



commercial electricity. At the same time, Hana aspires to be a businesswoman and states that her goal will not stop here, but rather She will work to develop it by owning an oven to make all kinds of bread, contrary to what is available, which you see here is not good, and she also hopes that the war machine will remain silent and the crises end, so that she can expand her project.

Figures and Companies

According to a specialized research center in Yemen¹, in 2015, women-owned businesses were harder hit than male-owned businesses, although in actual terms far fewer were affected as they accounted for just 4% of all businesses prior to the conflict. While 26% of businesses in the trade, services and industrial sectors had closed by 2015, this rate rose to 42 % among female-owned businesses, usually due to physical damage, as well as loss of capital and shortages of electricity and fuel. Female business owners found it more difficult than their male counterparts to access dollar bank accounts, according to a study by the UN Development Program (UNDP).

The conflict-driven challenges to the labor market have had multifaceted impacts on women. Research suggests that initially, the war affected a larger proportion of women in the labor force than men. In 2015, male employment had declined by 11% while female employment had fallen by 28%. These figures varied nationally; 43% of the employment decline for women occurred in Sana'a, due to the heavily-hit private sector, while in Aden the number of women in employment actually rose by 11 %.

According to an ILO labor force survey conducted in 2013-2014, only 6% of women participated in the labor force prior to the conflict, while just 7% of jobs were held by women. In 2013, higher education levels were linked to greater workforce participation for women. Some 62.1% of women with a university education were part of the workforce in Yemen, compared with just 4.5% of those with a primary education or lower. The ILO survey found that of the 293,000 women employed before the conflict, around half worked in agriculture, either as dairy and livestock producers or field crop and vegetable growers, while around one third were employed in the service industry. More than one-third of women worked in family businesses, compared with less than one-tenth of men.

UN statistics indicated that nearly 30% of displaced families are financially supported by women, compared to only 9% before the escalation of the conflict in 2015. The challenges are doubled by the rise in food prices due to the sharp decline in the value of the Yemeni rial and the deterioration of the economy.²



1- Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies

2- United Nations website, Women, 2022

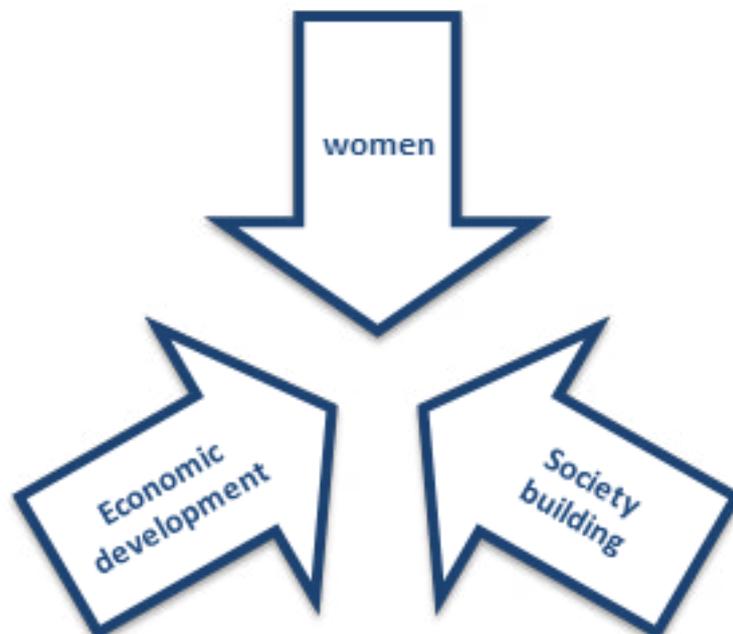
Women's Economic Empowerment

Women's Empowerment at the workplace

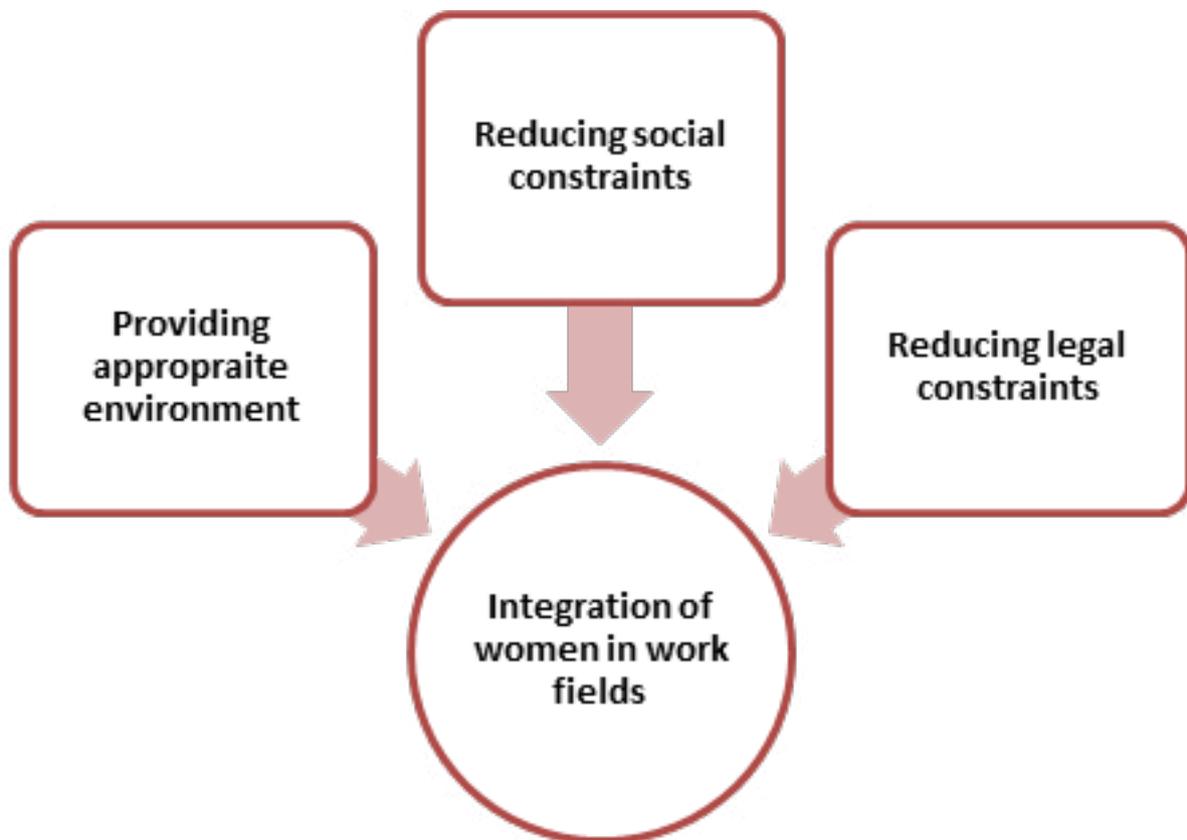
Issues of women's economic empowerment and participation are among the goals of economic development in developing countries. There is certainly a close link between women's contribution to building society and enhancing their capabilities on the one hand, and economic advancement and their growth on the other. The World Bank Report 2001, entitled "Engendering development through gender equality in rights, resources, and voice" provided strong evidence that excluding women from economically tangible productive participation negatively affects the effectiveness of government economic policies. Many interested people and researchers in the field of women's empowerment and their economic activity have noticed that accelerating women's empowerment is a necessary imperative for countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Of the region's 450 million people, nearly two-thirds, almost 300 million people, are under the age of 35. Unfortunately, this vast human resource is highly "untapped," and nearly 80% of women are not participating in the labor force.

The costs of exclusion are enormous. Women generate less than one-fifth of the region's GDP, which is less than half of the average that women generate in the rest of the world. The result is that MENA is losing out nearly \$575 billion per year, according to the OECD.

The recommendations that came from the World Conference on Women held in Beijing affirmed that it is difficult to achieve sustainable development without the positive participation of women in the economic building process. Among the third Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were agreed upon in the United Nations declaration in September/2000 was to encourage and empower women to avoid economic problems such as hunger and extreme poverty. Hence, these international conferences and reports lead to a conclusion that the relationship between the two sides of the equation, in terms of economic development and women's empowerment, is positive.



Practically speaking, we need to focus on reducing formal constraints, such as legal constraints, practical constraints, such as childcare and safe transport, and informal constraints, such as restrictive social norms and discriminatory behavior. It is really not about forcing women to go to work, but making sure they have opportunities to do so in work environments free of discrimination and harassment. For example, an Equitable Growth and Job Creation Project supports the provision of job opportunities, and addresses the issue of harassment on public transport and in the workplace. This gives working women opportunities to start and move freely, and enhances their ambitions in the desired field of work and empowerment.



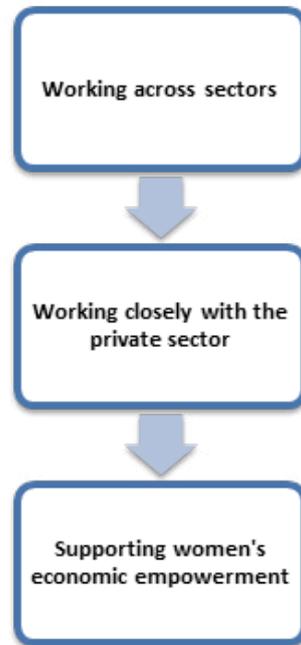
Distinguished Arab models:

There are Arab countries-Lebanon at their forefront- where almost half of the firms receiving equity finance under it are women-owned and approximately 32% of SME jobs (full-time and part-time) over the past year belonged to women— Much higher than the 20% benchmark in the Lebanese startup ecosystem overall.

The Electricity Services Reconstruction and Enhancement Project in Iraq was designed to address specific energy constraints facing women business owners. It proposes targeting them with information about rights, responsibilities, and bill payment options.

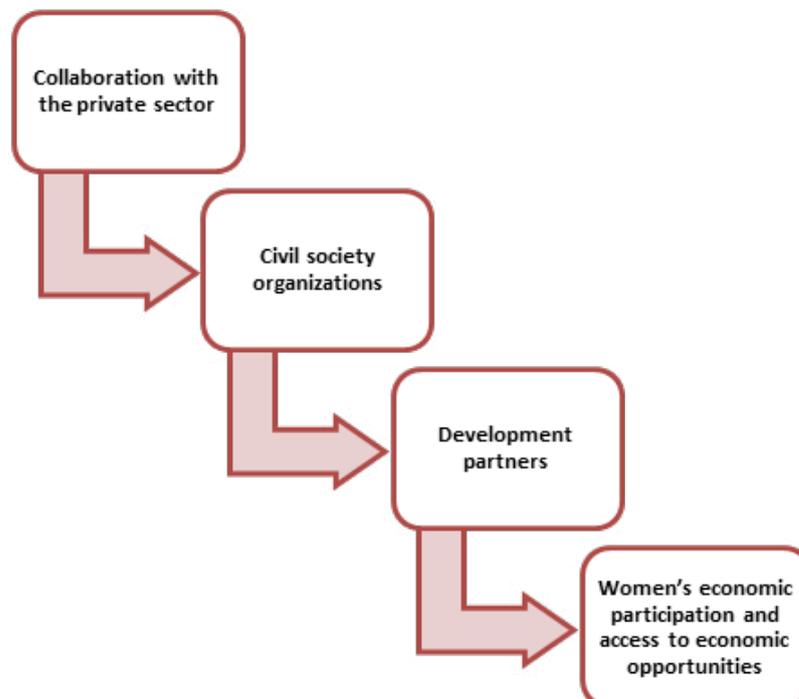
To enable women to take part in the labor force, we need to work across sectors and with a wide range of stakeholders. We need to work closely with the private sector, the main engine for job creation. To support the governments of Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon in their efforts to increase wom-

en's economic opportunities and achieve specific targets they have set to increase women's labor force participation, the World Bank and IFC, in collaboration with Canada and Norway, launched Women's Economic Empowerment program.



Through collaboration with the private sector, civil society organizations, and development partners, this program provides technical assistance to support government-led efforts, country-level priorities and strategic regional activities, which emphasize women's economic participation and access to economic opportunities.

Research suggests that if women could fully participate in the global economy, they would contribute up to 28 trillion dollars to annual global GDP by the year 2025 and this represents a 26% increase compared with a business-as-usual scenario— especially significant in an age of economic crises.



Many were looking forward to the Second Mashreq Conference on Women's Economic Empowerment, to be held in Amman, Jordan, 2020. The conference will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on progress and challenges, and to recommit to the agenda of facilitating Mashreq women's economic participation. at the level of the region.

The Effect of Women's participation in the labor market

Very few Yemeni women participate in the labor market. The majority of women who work, especially rural women, work without pay, in the informal sector, on farms, or in family enterprises. Despite significant gains in human development, Yemeni girls lag far behind boys in education levels, and women continue to have limited access to reproductive health care. All these gaps are particularly stark in rural areas.

In the same context, Yemen has made important progress in closing key gender gaps: female literacy rates and life expectancy have grown more than twice as fast in Yemen as in MENA over the last decade. Yet many challenges remain:

- * Significant differences between boys and girls in school enrolment and educational attainment.
- * Significant unmet reproductive and child health needs.
- * No legal minimum age of marriage for girls.
- * Legal restrictions on women's mobility and decision-making.
- * Limited role of women within and outside home.

According to men's and women's focus groups, domestic violence in their community occurs when women disobey the norms surrounding household roles and proper behaviors for women in both the public and private domains, and also when the family is under economic stress. Survey findings indicate that 37% of Yemenis agree that violence against women is justified if they are disobedient.

The protracted conflict and the difficult social conditions of many families have, on the one hand, pushed more women into the workforce and new labor markets, in some cases into professions previously dominated by men. While some women have established new enterprises, often home-based businesses, others have engaged in poorly paid physical work in response to the economic crisis and the loss of male breadwinners. On the other hand, the war has imposed new constraints on an already low women's participation rate.

Some parties in this regard recommend that micro-economic initiatives to bring women into the workforce must be accompanied by long-term efforts to address socio-economic structures that have historically constrained women's access to the workforce. Interventions must be guided by local consultations with women and men from all demographics, and must promote work that is fairly paid and provides security and social protection. Quota systems could ensure that women play an active role in recovery and reconstruction efforts; women must also be engaged at all decision-making levels in peace building efforts and in post-conflict Yemen.

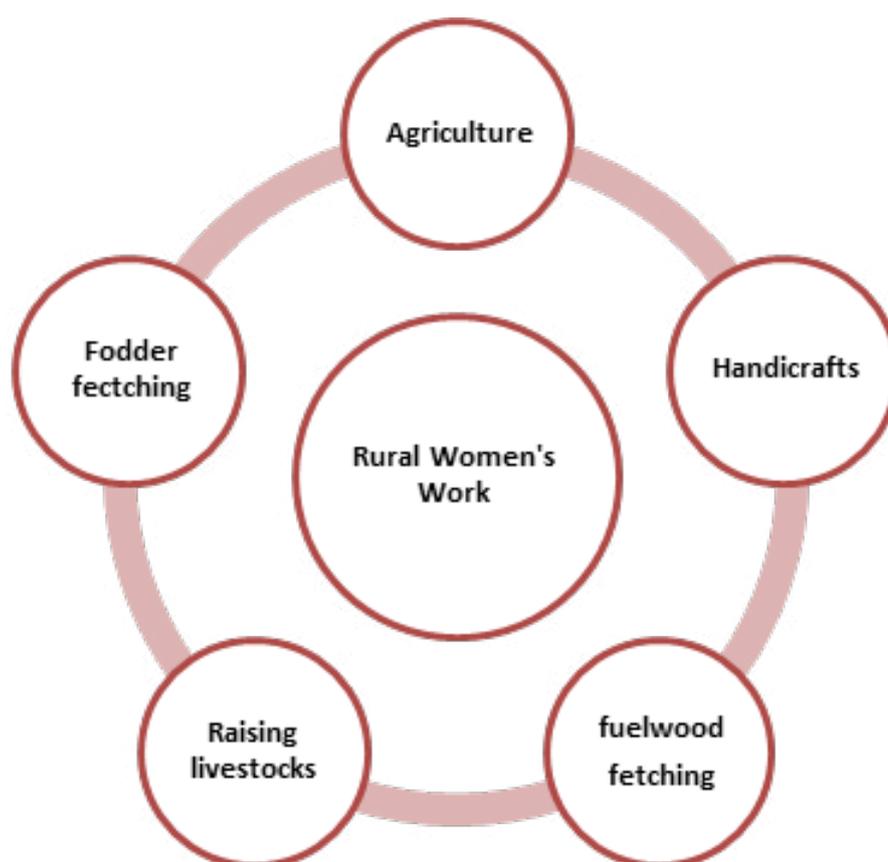
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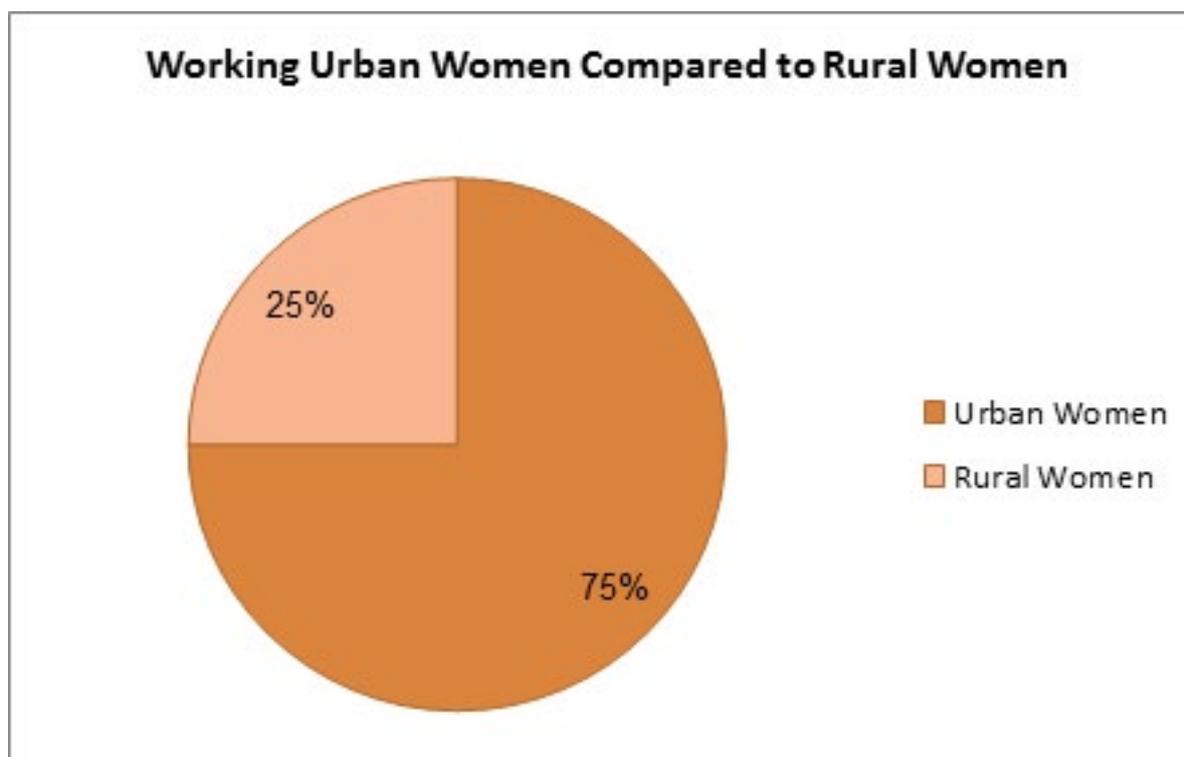
Constraints to and opportunities for Yemeni rural women's economic participation:

Yemeni men and women suffer from high unemployment rates and limited job opportunities. Women face additional barriers that severely limit their labor force participation despite the financial needs of their families. More than 90% of working age Yemeni women do not participate in the labor force (i.e. neither employed nor looking for work) compared to 20% of men.

Worryingly, more than 90% of Yemeni women who work, and almost all rural Yemeni women who work, do so without pay, because of the strict gender norms that apply to them. Such norms limit the role of women to domestic responsibilities, restrict their economic activities, restrain their mobility, seclude them, reduce their access to education, and raise concerns about their honor and safety. Women's unpaid work, including farm work and home-based sewing and handicraft activities are part of women's typical household responsibilities, particularly in rural communities.



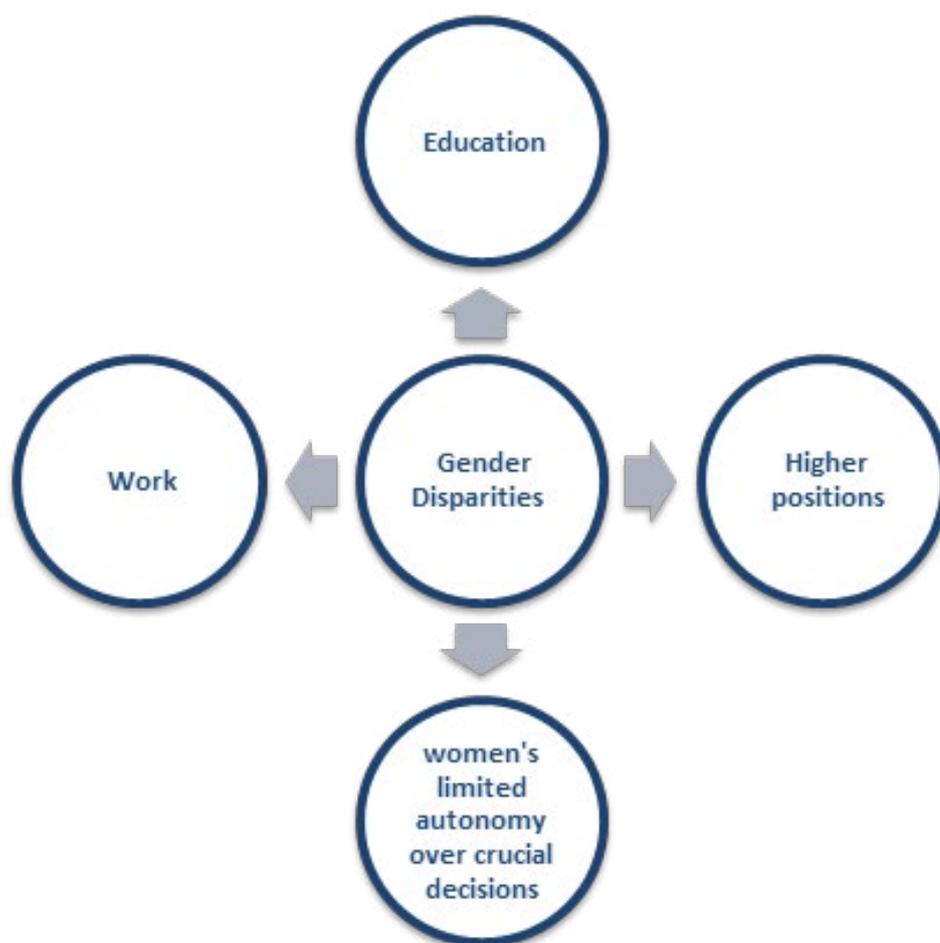
Women in urban areas participate in the workforce at almost three times the rural rate –working for pay. Urban areas provide more outlets for women who wish to engage in paid work beyond their homes, but many of the norms discourage rural women from economic participation or limit their participation to jobs that are extensions of domestic roles.



In urban areas, men also suffer from unemployment, but at a lower rate compared to women. Entrepreneurship can provide outlets for women, including working from home, and may therefore be more compatible with prevailing conservative norms. However, only about 6.5% of firms have female owners, women make up only 5% of permanent full-time workers in enterprises, and firms with women top managers are very few. The strong gender hierarchy governing marital relations and control of assets makes it very difficult for women to pursue business without support. Women business owners struggle to raise capital through formal and informal venues, putting up assets as collateral.

A window of opportunity to improve the status of women:

The country's large gender disparities in education and work, and women's limited autonomy over crucial family formation decisions, reflect deeply held norms, discriminatory laws, and years of accumulated disadvantages. Norms and awareness can be very slow to change, but it is not an option to wait.



Policy action across diverse fronts will be needed to reduce and remove severe and interlocking constraints on women's aspirations, capacities, and opportunities for inclusion. Interventions are also needed to provide promising outlets for men and boys to participate and thrive as well. The findings from this report point to the following areas for action:

1. Expand access to quality education and health care, especially in rural areas: While the physical availability of girls' schools and classrooms remains a critical constraint to girls' educational attainment, especially in rural and remote areas, complementary, gender-sensitive, and gender targeted interventions are also needed. Local norms must be taken into account for effective interventions and there is scope for civil society to raise awareness about the importance of education for girls.

In addition to expanding access to educational facilities, education can be brought closer to home through the provision of safe, reliable and affordable transportation. Schools need to be staffed by a cadre of qualified female teachers, perhaps drawing on local women, to increase girls' enrolment and retention in education.

In the case of health, providing broad-based gender-neutral programs to improve the distribution and quality of healthcare facilities, water supply, and sanitation can have significant impacts on female and child mortality.

Targeted interventions are needed to April 2014 · Number 123 4 bridge the gaps in maternal and child health needs, and spread awareness on the benefits of timely preventive and curative care. Investing in children will require bringing services closer to the people, especially in rural

Yemen, through mobile service delivery, or investing in skills of community midwives and local health staff.

All of this aim to protect both Yemeni women and men, because humans are the basis in the process of development and evolution. In the event of a woman's weakness and deterioration of her personality, society will regress and lag behind in all aspects of life, as women are the center of the family and society alike. Life becomes difficult without them since woman assumes several roles all at one time as mother, wife, educator, worker, doctor, farmer among others. In other words, woman is the driving force of life.

2. Expand productive economic opportunities: Given the extremely low rates of women's participation in the workforce, and the significant incidence of women working without pay, it is critical to better understand unpaid work and constraints to female participation. This can lead to appropriate policy interventions addressing these constraints.

Given the strong social norms around women working for pay and working outside the home, normative change will need to be actively fostered- in schools, communities, and in the workplace. Over and above the need for boosting private-sector job creation, there are opportunities to expand men's and women's equal access to productive employment through reconstruction, public works and humanitarian assistance.

Another key policy area is supporting self-employment and female entrepreneurship, especially in rural areas and agriculture-based activities. These needs expanding access to credit and markets and investing in business skills. Similar efforts are being implemented by the Social Welfare Fund and the Social Fund for Development, it is important to ensure that these reach women as well as men.



3. Bring justice home: As in many countries in the region, Yemen's legal framework also imposes significant constraints on women's agency, voice, and mobility. The absence of a legal minimum marriage age poses even more fundamental constraints to women's human development, economic empowerment, and agency within and outside the home. This is an urgent priority for reform and empowerment. Building support through a broad-based advocacy group of stakeholders will be critical to successfully activating the role of rural women and empowering them economically inside Yemen.

4. Establishing peace and security, and moving to address development emergencies: Ushering in political reform, stabilizing security, and providing law and order are critical pre-conditions for any sustainable improvement in outcomes for women. An inclusive political transition that allows for women to freely participate in constitutional reforms, elections and elected bodies, is an important step. There will need to be accompanied by concrete efforts to enhance women's participation in civic and political life through parliamentary quota for women, mentoring, capacity building, and mobilization around key issues. At the same time, urgent humanitarian needs for food, supplies and services need to be addressed.

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