



JORDAN



BACKGROUND

Jordan has undergone a decade of severe instability, exhibited by an influx of refugees and a decline in the economy's ability to produce enough work opportunities in proportion to the number of new entrants to the labor market, especially in the tech field. As a result, women's participation in the digital and entrepreneurial sectors remains restricted to this day.



PROMINENT GENDER DATA FINDINGS

133

Jordan's rank on the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 concerning economic participation and opportunity.

46.9
Points

Jordan's score on the Women, business and the Law Index: Entrepreneurship.

15%

Women labor force participation in Jordan.

75

Jordan's rank on the Doing Business Report.

83%

The percentage of women in Jordan using the internet.

15-16%

The total self-employed businesses are owned by women in Jordan.



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OUTCOMES

FINDINGS:

- Jordanian women often rely on informal entrepreneurship to start their businesses, as they dominate the informal labor market.
- Women holding refugee status in Jordan face several when seeking to formally open their businesses, as entrepreneurship is not seen as a priority within their development agenda.
- Despite the fact that Jordanian labor law prohibits wage discrimination, the wage gap persists; thus discouraging Jordanian women's overall economic participation.
- Digital literacy is significant within the emerging Jordanian entrepreneurial sector, but majorly lacking between women in Jordan, especially in rural areas.
- Women in leadership positions, especially in the Jordanian entrepreneurial & tech sectors, remain exceptionally underrepresented.
- Jordanian women face major constraints in physical mobility, whether inside the capital or in rural areas, due to limited safe public transportation means, further hindering their economic participation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Emphasize the need to raise the capacities of Jordanian women's digital and financial literacy, to ensure that are able to efficiently manage their online businesses.
- Provide consistent mentorship and capacity-building programs in rural areas to empower emerging women entrepreneurs across the country.
- Provide safe and equal services and opportunities for women entrepreneurs to encourage their participation.
- Increase the availability of affordable child-care services to allow women more time to focus on their business and decrease the domestic pressure.
- Amplify the effort put into raising awareness of the importance of women's active participation in the Jordanian entrepreneurial sector, and the utilization of digital tools to enhance their business performance.
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