

Situational Analysis of Women and Girls in MENA and Arab States Region

Pillar 4: Participation and Leadership

Virtual Workshop
16 April 2020



Agenda



Activity/Task	Time (EDT) A.M.	Time (EEST) P.M.	Duration
Brief overview of methodology and walkthrough of chapter	7:00 – 7:15	2:00 – 2:15	15 minutes
Household-level participation and leadership	7:15 – 8:00	2:15 – 3:00	45 minutes
Political representation, participation, and leadership	8:00 – 8:45	3:00 – 3:45	45 minutes
Participation and leadership in peace and security	8:45 – 9:30	3:45 – 4:30	45 minutes
Overall feedback and discussion	9:30 – 10:15	4:30 – 5:15	45 minutes



Brief Overview of Scope and Methodology

Countries of Investigation:

Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Gulf Area Office or GAO (Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates), Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Timeframe: 2010 – 2019

Agreed to provide most up-to-date snapshot available based on desk review documentation and quantitative databases.

Desk Review Methodology

Regional-level documentation (to the extent possible) shared by UNICEF and the Reference Group

- First round desk review shared October 2019.
- Second round desk review, following the submission of the gaps analysis and robust outline, shared by reference group January 2020.

Statistical databases and indices as agreed (i.e. priority statistical data sources presented in the inception report)



Participation and Leadership

Pillar Overview

Overview of Pillar 4



Household-level Participation and Leadership

Laws and policies (marriage rights, divorce, and nationality)

Social and cultural norms and practices (household decision-making, employment, traditional gender roles and autonomy)

Community and national level civil society participation and leadership

Political Representation, Participation, and Leadership

Laws and policies (quotas, ministerial-level positions, and judiciary)

Social and cultural norms and biases

Civil liberties and rights

Participation and Leadership in Peace and Security

Laws and policies

Social and cultural norms and practices



Overview of Discussion

Approach

Perhaps more than other Pillars, this one will likely change quite a bit in the next draft. First, key sections, such as the judiciary and empowerment, require more coordination with the other sections in order to ensure that key issues are being addressed.

Second, I tried to focus on high-level regional issues and not delve too much into issues that may be specific to certain countries or certain types of countries. As a result, some issues have not been addressed in detail, such as voting.

Based on the discussions during today's feedback session, as well as progress towards a second draft, it is likely that this section will be significantly updated.

Overview of Section: Household-level Participation and Leadership



- While coverage of specific laws – such as marriage and divorce – is well-covered, other issues at the household level are not well-covered, such as custody, the role of elderly women, and issues faced by rural women and women with disabilities.
- Data regarding Law and Policies related to marriage, divorce, and nationality are relatively well-covered.

Are there other legal issues at the household level that we are missing?

- Social and cultural norms at the household level is difficult to understand, given the dynamics of individual households. We have tried to capture household decision-making, employment, and traditional gender roles and autonomy, but there is certainly more that can be said.

Are there any additional documents that discuss household dynamics that we may refer to?

Overview of Section: Household-level Participation and Leadership



- Community and National level civil society participation and leadership: in this section, we really wanted to focus on women in local, tribal, municipal, and country-level participation, however information around women at the local level is quite lacking.

Are there any good resources on women's participation in civil society and politics at the local (tribal, mayoral or city council, municipal) levels?

- Additionally, activism and the Arab Spring were not really included at this stage, as we mostly focused on women's ability to participate, rather than the movements themselves.

However, should more on this be included as it was an important moment in the history of the region?



Overview of Section:

Political Representation, Participation, and Leadership

- There are a lot of resources that cover women's quotas and increases in political participation for women in the region. A difficulty in this section is finding a way to discuss women's ability to participate in politics at a regional level when structures of governments are so different, and political realities in the region vary so widely.
- Data regarding Law and Policies related to ability to vote and quotas. There was some information regarding quotas or policies around women in national machineries and the judiciary, noting that there is discussion on judicial issues in Pillar 3.

Overview of Section: Political Representation, Participation, and Leadership



- One of the biggest questions on this section is regarding how to approach regimes types and voting. We can introduce a conversation about voter enfranchisement (who can vote), but given that many countries do not have representative or active legislatures, it is difficult to address voting on a regional level. Additionally, beyond voter enfranchisement there is also the issue of access to polls, infrastructure around voting, and empowerment of voters (especially in rural communities or the disabled). I have largely left this discussion out of this regional report, given the variation in the region.

How or should this be addressed at the regional level?

- In addition to access and ability to vote in how women use their vote. I am not sure this exists yet, especially at a regional level, but **is there information about how women vote – their perspectives, motivations, parties or politicians they support, etc?**
- Finally, few resources were provided about women politicians and campaigns. We are looking specifically at support for women's campaigns, as well as programs to support and promote women candidates.

Overview of Section: Participation and Leadership in Peace and Security



- This section was one of the least represented in the documentation provided to us. We understand that there is a growing amount of literature available on women, peace and security. However, given the constraints of this project, the documentation we received did not provide much information beyond the general information regarding UN resolutions and basic information in the region.
- For the next iteration of the report, we request documentation on women, peace, and security in the region, especially as it relates to their roles in negotiating agreements, information regarding youth or girls involvement in peace processes, and the inclusion of women, minorities, and crisis-affected populations were included in peace processes.

Next Steps



Reviewers to provide...

- Written feedback on Pillar 4
- Additional documentation to help fill gaps within Pillar 4

Deadline: End of day 23 April 2020

Send to: sjalal@unicef.org (Shoubo Jalal)



THANK YOU