UN Regional Workshop on the Women, Peace and Security Index

Session 2: WPS Index aims, method and global findings

Jeni Klugman

January 19, 2021
Outline

Why a new index?
Chapter 1: Global, regional, and comparative findings
Chapter 2: Insights from recent trends in the WPS Index
Chapter 3: How the WPS Index matters
Why a new Index was needed

1. A simple number and ranking
2. Wide country coverage
3. The first ever Index bringing women, development, and security
4. Spotlight gains and gaps, demonstrate the feasibility of progress
5. Inform and inspire action
The WPS Index captures three dimensions of women’s well-being and empowerment in 11 indicators:

**Inclusion**
- Education
- Financial inclusion
- Employment
- Cellphone use
- Parliamentary representation

**Justice**
- Legal discrimination
- Discriminatory norms
- Son bias

**Security**
- Intimate partner violence
- Community safety
- Organized violence
Chapter 1: Global, regional, and comparative findings
The dozen best and worst performers on the WPS Index

**Best performers**

- Norway: 0.904
- Switzerland: 0.893
- Finland: 0.891
- Denmark: 0.891
- Iceland: 0.888
- Austria: 0.884
- United Kingdom: 0.883
- Luxembourg: 0.880
- Sweden: 0.879
- Netherlands: 0.879
- Canada: 0.876
- Estonia: 0.873

**Worst performers**

- Yemen: 0.351
- Afghanistan: 0.373
- Syria: 0.416
- Pakistan: 0.460
- South Sudan: 0.479
- Iraq: 0.490
- Dem. Rep. of Congo: 0.512
- Central African Republic: 0.513
- Mali: 0.539
- Libya: 0.546
- Sudan: 0.547
- Chad: 0.553

*Index score*
A spectrum of WPS Index scores around the world

Note: Countries outlined in red are classified as fragile and conflict affected. See statistical table 1 for data sources, detailed scores, and date ranges.  
Source: Authors’ estimates.
Some countries perform much better and some much worse than their regional and country group average on the WPS Index.
### Countries that rank much better or much worse on the WPS Index than on per capita income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GDP rank</th>
<th>GDP per capita 2017 PPP ($)</th>
<th>Index rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>2,429</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>9,046</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>2,697</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>5,698</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>7,560</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>15,429</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>3,726</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>156</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>10,683</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>4,492</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>2,946</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>2,422</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>1,864</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>16,988</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>17,398</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>11,584</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>18,075</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>20,841</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>47,527</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>15,260</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>26,519</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>14,482</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>128,374</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>24,387</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>71,943</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>16,899</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>19,631</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>53,779</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of places higher or lower in index ranking than in income per capita ranking
All 16 countries in MENA perform worse than the global mean on legal discrimination; 9 countries among the world’s bottom dozen performers.

*Legal Discrimination Aggregate (Score)*

- Saudi Arabia: 54
- Yemen: 50
- Syria: 48
- UAE: 48
- Jordan: 46
- Qatar: 45
- Kuwait: 44
- Bahrain: 42
- Iraq: 41
- Libya: 39
- Egypt: 37
- Lebanon: 33
- Algeria: 29
- Tunisia: 29
- Morocco: 26

MENA Average: 38.7
Global Average: 21.9

Aggregate score of laws and regulations that limit women’s ability to participate in society or the economy or that differentiate between men and women. **Lower is better.**

Australia

Ranked 22\textsuperscript{nd} globally, in top tercile but below the developed country average.

Ranking dropped five places (from 17\textsuperscript{th}) place in 2017.

New Zealand ranks 14\textsuperscript{th} globally, and outperforms Australia on several indicators, including employment, parliamentary representation and community safety.
Jordan

Note: Higher is better.
Libya

Note: Higher is better.
Chapter 2: Insights from recent trends in the WPS Index
**Good news:**

Widespread progress on women’s inclusion, access to justice, and security

- Almost **60 countries** across all regions recorded major progress – although only two in MENA.
- Only **Yemen** scored significantly worse than in 2017.

**Progress on multiple fronts**

- Often due to financial inclusion.
- Globally, legal reforms drove many of the biggest movers.
- The number of battle deaths from organized violence fell.
Top 10 gainers in women’s financial inclusion since the 2017 WPS Index

Percent of women with financial account

Namibia  India  Georgia  Gabon  Zimbabwe  Moldova  Tajikistan  Kyrgyzstan  Senegal  Togo  Turkmenistan

2017 index  2019 index  Percentage point change between 2017 index and 2019 index
Total battle deaths have declined globally since the 2012–14 peak

Number of battle deaths

- Total
- State-based
- One-sided
- Nonstate


Max value: 509,286
Yet progress is too slow and uneven

• Women’s employment is moving in the wrong direction globally; falling in all regions except Sub-Saharan Africa

• Women’s parliamentary representation stalled far below parity

• Women’s financial inclusion remains low in conflict-affected countries, at only about 1 in 10; MENA regional rates of women’s financial inclusion remain below half the global average
Large differences across regions and countries in women’s paid employment

Percent of women employed

Sub-Saharan Africa
East Asia & the Pacific
Central and Eastern Europe & Central Asia
Developed Countries
Latin America & the Caribbean
South Asia
Middle East & North Africa
Fragile States

Rwanda
Lao PDR
Kazakhstan
Iceland
Peru
Nepal
Burundi
Timor-Leste
Tajikistan
Greece
Guyana
Kuwait
Global average (49.4)

Regional or group average
Best
Worst
The gender gap in paid employment gap averages 60 percentage points in MENA, with 8 of the bottom 10 countries globally...
Women’s parliamentary representation largely stalled below parity

**Representation in government**
The average share of women in national legislatures is 21.5 percent worldwide. At the current pace, it will take 52 years to reach gender parity.

---

*Source: Berman-Vaporis, Parker, and Wardley, November 2019. Used with permission by National Geographic. Copyright of NGP 2019.*
MENA is below global average on women’s parliamentary representation -- Tunisia leads the region, at 36 percent, scoring higher than Australia, the Netherlands, and Canada.

The worst rates of current intimate partner violence are similar across several developing regions

Percent of women

- Timor-Leste
- Iraq
- South Sudan
- Afghanistan
- South Sudan
- Bolivia
- Tajikistan
- South Korea
- Singapore, Switzerland
- Georgia
- Argentina, Chile
- Indonesia
- Morocco
- Comoros
- Maldives
- Comoros

Developed Countries
Central and Eastern Europe & Central Asia
Latin America & the Caribbean
East Asia & the Pacific
Middle East & North Africa
Sub-Saharan Africa
South Asia
Fragile States

Regional or group average
Best
Worst
Chapter 3: How the WPS Index Matters
How the WPS Index intersects with broader aspects of the SDGs

Ensure justice SDG 16
Promote peace SDG 16
Eliminate partner violence SDG 5
End preventable deaths SDG 3
Reduce conflict-related sexual violence SDG 16

Women, Peace, and Security Index

Inclusion
Security
Justice
As a spur to action

PERIL PROGRESS PROSPERITY

WOMEN'S WELL-BEING AROUND THE WORLD

BY IRENE BERMAN-VAPORIS, LAWSON PARKER, AND ROSEMARY WARDLEY

The best and worst countries to be a woman

Source: Authors.
Resources and Looking Ahead

Women, Peace and Security Index: A Tool for Accelerating Gender Equality

Explore by Country

Hover over a country and click to explore more.

Average Index Rating

0 - 0.43
0.43 - 0.57
0.57 - 0.71
0.71 - 0.86
0.86 - 1

giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index