



Engaging.

Learning.

Innovating.

**GENDER EQUALITY IS SMART ECONOMICS**, contributing to poverty reduction, strengthening resilience and boosting shared prosperity. **Empowering women** has **intrinsic** value and is **instrumental** to achieve more inclusive institutions, sound policies, and effective development outcomes.

*Closing the gender gap in labor force participation rates by 25% can boost GDP (PPP terms) by 9% in Lebanon, 10% in Jordan and 11% in Iraq (ILO 2018).*

In the Mashreq countries of Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon important gains have been made in women's access to education and health, but persistent challenges remain in women's economic opportunities. **For example, only around 1 in 5 women are economically active and less than 5% of firms are led by a woman.**

The **MASHREQ GENDER FACILITY** will provide technical assistance to the Mashreq countries to enhance women's economic empowerment and opportunities as a catalyst towards more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful societies, where economic growth benefits all.

Through collaboration with the private sector, civil society organizations and development partners, the Facility will support government-led efforts, country level priorities and strategic regional activities that:

1. **Strengthen** the enabling environment for relevant stakeholders to **effectively identify and address** constraints to women's economic participation;
2. **Improve** women's access to economic opportunities.

**Activities of the 5-year Facility (2019-2024) will be identified under three, interconnected, pillars:**

#### DIALOGUE AND PARTICIPATION

building capacity and awareness at all levels, convening stakeholders across sectors and segments

#### DATA AND KNOWLEDGE

gathering and producing country and regional data and analytics for evidence-based policies

#### INNOVATING FOR RESULTS



The Facility aims to energize countries in moving the needle on specific needs and priorities, effectively translating these into results for women, their families and the economies at large in the Mashreq.



**Stay tuned for more to come.**  
For more information, please contact  
[MGF@worldbankgroup.org](mailto:MGF@worldbankgroup.org)

Canada



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