



# **Women's Rights in Jordan and the Main Challenges**

*March 8<sup>th</sup>. 2021*

# Context:

- Jordan is a **constitutional monarchy**, in a **parliamentary** system of government.
- Population of 10 million.
  - (**Female:** 47%; **Males:** 53%) as of 2015.
- As of 2019, the number of refugees registered in Jordan stood at **744,795** persons of concern, among them approximately 655,000 Syrians, (**UNHCR**).
- Conservative social norms.
- A sizeable gap exists for women between constitutional rights and acceptable social norms, with traditional expectations and cultural restraints continuing to limit women's advancement (USAID, 2021).



# Women in Education

- There is no specific gender disparity in Jordanian primary schools. Over **94 percent of girls** attend school compared to **95 percent of boys**. Girls in rural areas are just as likely as girls in urban areas to attend school.



WFP Jordan ✓ @WFP\_J... · 17/02/2021 ···

#schools are back and so are @WFP's nutrient-rich, high-energy date bars! 😊

These date bars are more than just nutritious snacks, they are an incentive for parents to keep their children in school and out of child labour and early marriage.

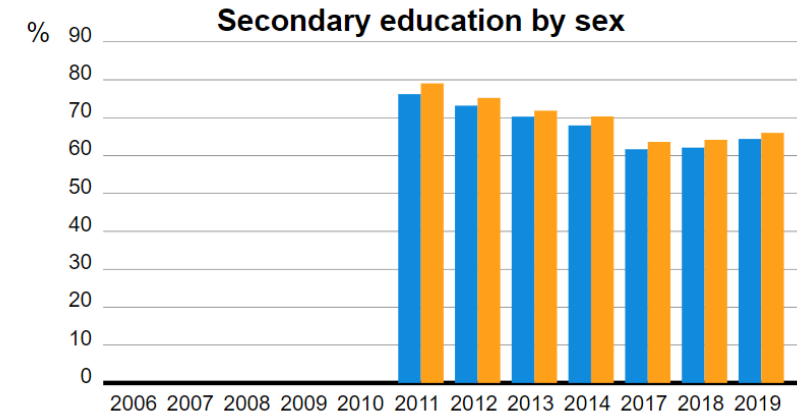
#BackToSchool #WednesdayMotivation



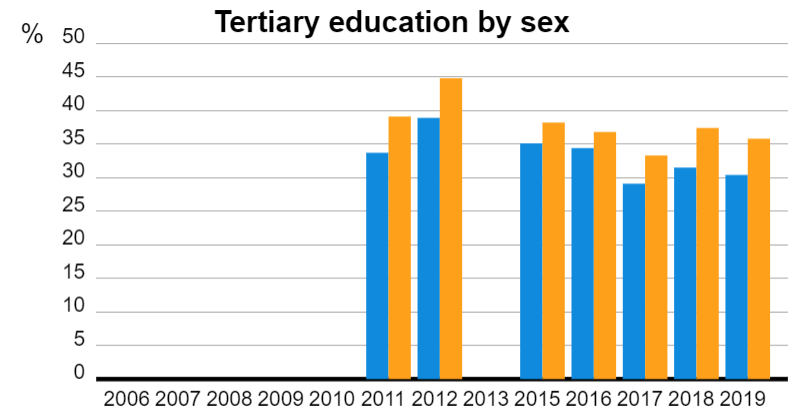
💬 2

↻ 9

❤ 14



■ Gross enrolment ratio, male ■ Gross enrolment ratio, female



■ Gross enrolment ratio, male ■ Gross enrolment ratio, female

(UIS-UNESCO, 2019)

# Education & Economic Participation

- **Literacy rates** for girls in Jordan is one of the in the Middle East, which is a staggering **97.3 percent**.
- According to UNESCO, overall enrolment of **women in Jordanian universities** stands at **52%** compared to 48% for their male counterparts (2014).
- This educational advancement does not transfer over to the job force.
- Jordan has one of the **lowest rates of women's economic participation** in the world. Stopping at 15% despite advancement in and equal access to education (SADAQA, 2020).



[Global Edition](#) [Africa Edition](#) [Asia Hub](#) [Transformative Leadership](#) [Special Reports](#) [Even](#)

Join us on **Facebook**  
Follow us on **Twitter**

JORDAN

## Jordanian women raise academic bar

Wachira Kigotho 23 May 2014

[in Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Share 0](#)

Women in Jordan have raised the academic bar against their male counterparts, despite entrenched cultural and social barriers that contribute to high unemployment rates among female university graduates, according to a World Bank study on gender assessment.

## Child Marriage

- The law in Jordan sets a minimum age of marriage of 18, but there is concern regarding the extensive use of derogations from the minimum age of marriage.
- Around 13% of girls marrying in Jordan are between 15-18 years of age.
- Early marriage can be attributed to poverty and harmful traditional practices.
- Child marriage is exacerbated by displacement and is prevalent among refugee population. In times of crisis, families see child marriage as a way to cope with greater economic hardship, to protect girls from increased violence and to enable them to move out of camps.

# Economic Activity

- Barriers are rooted in **social norms and cultural preferences** that **hinder women from realizing their full potential**.
- Women in Jordan are perceived to be less productive than men and subsequently face restrictions to the labor market.
- The **main barriers** that affect women's participation in the workplace include lack of **daycares, transportation, and pay inequity**.
- The closure of daycares during the pandemic is currently forcing more women to leave the workforce.

- Gender equality is still held back by **discrimination in most workplaces**, forcing women to increasingly seek employment in the education and health sectors.
- Employment trends in Jordan indicate that female workers are not only locked into low growth sectors but also in sectors with **limited labor productivity**, such as **education, health and public administration** (World Bank Report, 2014).

الاقتصاد Economy				
Indicator	فجوة النوع* Gender Gap*	الجنس Sex		المؤشر
		ذكر Male	أنثى Female	
Economic Activity Rate (population age15+)	41.0	56.4	15.4	معدل النشاط الاقتصادي (للسكان 15 سنة فأكثر)
Youth Economic Activity Rate(15-24)	27.6	37.5	9.9	معدل النشاط الاقتصادي للشباب (15-24)
Unemployment Rate (population age15+)	-10.3	16.5	26.8	معدل بطالة (للسكان 15 سنة فأكثر)
Youth Unemployment Rate (15-24)	-23.8	34.8	58.6	معدل بطالة الشباب (15-24)

Source: Employment and Unemployment Survey, 2018  
Department of statistics

المصدر: مسح العمالة والبطالة، 2018  
دائرة الإحصاءات العامة

# Political Participation

- Despite the inclusion of **quotas** for women in national and municipal bodies, political participation for women remains limited (USAID, 2021).
- Only around one sixth of seats in Jordan's Parliament are held by women (USAID, 2021).

Kingdom		2018		المملكة
السياسة (%) Politics (%)				
Indicator	فجوة النوع* Gender Gap	الجنس Sex		المؤشر
		ذكر Male	انثى Female	
The Cabinet	52.0	76.0	24.0	السلك الوزاري
The Diplomatic Corps at all levels	59.8	79.9	20.1	السلك الدبلوماسي في كافة المستويات
Ambassadors	79.7	89.8	10.2	السفراء
The Upper House of Parliament (Senates)	69.4	84.7	15.3	المشاركة في المجلس التشريعي الأول (الأعيان)
The Lower House of Parliament (Deputies)	69.2	84.6	15.4	المشاركة في المجلس التشريعي الثاني (النواب)
Local Councils	44.4	72.2	27.8	المجالس البلدية
Labor Unions	...	...	...	النقابات العمالية
Professional Union Boards	...	...	...	مجالس النقابات المهنية
Professional Unions	...	...	...	النقابات المهنية
Political Parties	29.5	64.7	35.3	الأحزاب السياسية
Chambers of Industry	82.6	91.3	8.7	غرف الصناعة
Chambers of Commerce	100.0	100.0	0.0	غرف التجارة

Source: Administrative records from the concerned authorities ,2018
المصدر: سجلات ادارية من الجهات المعنية، 2018

Source: Administrative records from the concerned authorities ,2018

المصدر: سجلات إدارية من الجهات المعنية، 2018

\* Gender Gap = (%) Male - (%) Female

\* فجوة النوع = (%) الذكر - (%) الأنثى

# Thank you

*By Ikram Bataineh*

## References:

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/>

<http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/jo?theme=education-and-literacy>

<https://borgenproject.org/top-10-facts-about-girls-education-in-jordan/>

<http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/population/woman-statistics/>

<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/jordan/>

<http://www.sadaqajo.org/>

<https://www.usaid.gov/jordan/gender-equality-womens-empowerment>