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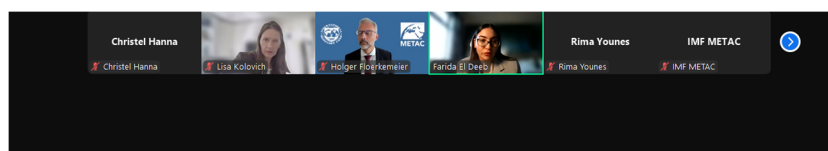
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Follow-up Webinar Series: Bridging Gaps through Evidence-Based Policies

May 20, 2025

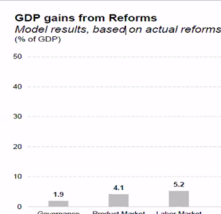


Gender & Macroeconomic Dynamics

World Bank analysis conducted in 2024 reveals that closing the gender employment gap could boost the economy by around 56%.

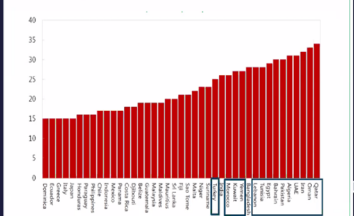
Despite this significant opportunity, the current female labor force participation rate is around 18%, compared to 73% for men in Egypt.

Opportunities



Source: The first four columns are from WEO (IMF, Oct. 2019, Ch. 3), model simulated, based on actual reforms. The fifth column is based on Ostry and others (2018), updated by staff assuming all countries reduce gender gaps in line with what the top 5% best performing countries achieved during 2014-19.

Losses due to Economic Gender Gaps in Select Countries (Percent of GDP)



Source: Estimates by Cuberes and Teignier (2014).

Challenges



6

The true value of regional workshops lies not just in the sessions themselves, but in continued peer exchanges among participants and ongoing follow-up to support participants in effectively implementing what they have learned. Following the regional workshop "*Bridging Gaps through Evidence-Based Policies: A Deep Dive into Gender Inequality and Macroeconomic Outcomes*" held in Cairo in January 2025, METAC and the IMF's Strategy, Policy and Review Department (SPR) organized a virtual discussion session for workshop participants on May 20.

This is the first of a **series of follow-up online meetings** on the topic. The primary goal of these webinars is to facilitate the sharing of participants' experiences in implementing the lessons learned during the workshop, including results achieved, institutional buy-in obtained, and challenges faced.

Farida El Deeb, Economist at the Central Bank of Egypt's Monetary Policy Sector, and Rima Younes, Deputy Director and gender focal point at the Central Bank of Lebanon, recounted their experience with the tools learned, including how they applied them and how they confronted difficulties in doing so. Ms. Farida emphasized that integrating a gender lens into macroeconomic policymaking is essential for fostering inclusive and sustainable growth, highlighting that gender equality is a macroeconomic necessity. She underscored that ongoing and in-depth training

remains critical to ensure effective application of IMF toolkits. Meanwhile, Ms. Rima underscored the significant role of the IMF program in advancing the gender agenda. The presenters received feedback from a panel of experts that included Racha Ramadan, Professor of Economics at Cairo University, Lisa Kolovich, Senior Economist at IMF SPR, and Daniela Viana Costa, Economist at IMF SPR.