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Boosting Female Employment Opportunities in Jordan

16 October 2024

The banner features a blue background with a world map. At the top left, there is a yellow headset icon and the word 'WEBINAR' in yellow. To the right, the IMF logo and the METAC logo are displayed. The main title 'BOOSTING FEMALE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN JORDAN' is centered in white. Below the title, the date and time 'October 16, 2024 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Beirut Time' are listed. A circular portrait of Rayah Al-Farah is shown, with her name and title 'RAYAH AL-FARAH Economist Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF' below it. At the bottom, logos for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Netherlands, the Swiss Confederation, the European Union, and France are displayed.

Despite high levels of education, female labor force participation in Jordan has been historically low and unemployment high. Participation rates have been inelastic to exogenous shocks to the economy, suggesting that low labor market participation is largely due to structural factors. This webinar was based on a [Selected Issues Paper](#) on the case of Jordan, and discussed structural and legal impediments that contribute to gender disparities in Jordan's labor market participation. The webinar highlighted labor market and regulatory characteristics in Jordan and outlined key reform priorities.

The 56 webinar participants contributed to a vivid discussion with the presenter during the Q&A session. The presenter, Rayah Al-Farah from the Middle East and Central Asia Department discussed with the participants how a conducive regulatory environment, and the provision of childcare and transportation could incentivize higher women's labor market participation in Jordan. The Q&A session also elaborated on how remote jobs, flexible work arrangements, quotas, or the removal of structural and legal impediments could spur female employment.