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Frayed Societies: Decoding the Interplay between Conflicts and Gender Inequality

29 April 2025

WEBINAR

IMF | **MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER**

FRAYED SOCIETIES: DECODING THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN CONFLICTS AND GENDER INEQUALITY

April 29, 2025
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Beirut Time

CAN SEVER
Economist
African Department, IMF

PAOLA GANUM
Economist
Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, IMF

Logos of partner organizations: European Union, France, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Netherlands, and others.

Conflicts have been on the rise globally, creating immediate and devastating effects on human lives and livelihoods and presenting a significant development challenge for many countries, often resulting in a persistent drag on economic performance. The webinar discussed how conflicts exacerbate gender inequality. Available data show that both interstate and intrastate conflicts predict higher levels of gender inequality. Conflicts correlate with decreased primary school enrollment rates for females, a decline in women's parliamentary representation, an increase in maternal mortality rates, and lower economic rights for women. In the Q&A session, participants engaged presenters Paola Ganum and Can Sever from the IMF with questions on the impact of conflict on education and the two-way causality between political violence and gender inequality. Policy recommendations for addressing long-term effects include improved access to education, healthcare, and political participation, emphasizing the importance of external funding and legislative reform. Participants examined how conflicts influence changes in legislation and how conflict-related increases in gender inequality contribute to worse economic performance and GDP losses. The discussion underscored the multifaceted challenges posed by conflicts and the critical need for targeted policy interventions to mitigate their impact on gender inequality.