

3 Sequencing policies towards gradual legal reform

Why does it matter?



The interaction between legal and policy reform processes is **complex** and **multifold**.



Legal reform is not an isolated process but takes place in the framework of the countries' overall **policy priorities** on gender equality.

Promising practices



Having a gender equality policy can sometimes provide leverage for **pressing for legal reform**. E.g., the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women 2030 was used as leverage to negotiate the revision of Egypt's inheritance law.



A gender equality perspective should also be embedded into the **overall economic strategies**.



Countries have taken advantage of a policy reform in a certain area in order to **mainstream gender concerns**. E.g., overall strategies for refugees in Jordan have included a gender component.

Promising practices



All four countries have **ministries** and/or **semi-government structures** responsible for enhancing gender equality.



Support from other types of **high-level** personalities (e.g. religious leaders) for legal reforms also has good results.

4 Securing political commitment at the highest levels

Why does it matter?



Government leaders or heads of state in the four countries have either created **political momentum** for a reform or capitalised on existing momentum to express their support for a certain reform on women's economic empowerment.

5 Being tenacious in advocacy and lobbying

Why does it matter?



Advocacy and lobbying have been essential for achieving legal reform in favour of women's economic empowerment. In some cases, these efforts needed to be **sustained over decades** in order to achieve results.

Promising practices



The four countries have used a range of advocacy and lobbying approaches and techniques throughout the legislative cycle.



Advocacy and lobbying have to deliver the **right messages** to **different audiences**. Throughout the region, social media campaigns in follow up to the #MeToo movement have influenced the recent reforms on violence against women.



The best advocacy and lobbying results have been achieved when **different types of actors** have worked together to put pressure on governments.



Advocacy that begins at the **grassroots level** can evolve into a **national effort**. E.g., in Morocco, a women's grassroots movement successfully advocated for equal access to collective land.

Promising practices



Literature and case studies show that support from **female parliamentarians** is important in influencing the passing of gender equality legislation.



When women hold **high-level positions in the government**, both at national and local levels, they are more likely than men to push for gender equality legislation.



Having **more women present in the judiciary** can lead to more landmark cases that open the way to women's economic empowerment.



It is mostly under **female leadership** that **private sector** initiatives in support of women's economic empowerment have been initiated in the region.

Improving the gender balance within **workers' and employers' organisations** can help women to make their voices heard and encourage more women to join the organisation.

Allowing women leaders to gain visibility in the **media** can create a more diverse picture of leadership and role models.

6 Fostering women's participation and leadership

Why does it matter?



Having **more women in leadership positions** in different types of institutions is conducive to successful legal reform for women's economic empowerment.



Women rights activists who began working for CSOs have opportunities to move into leadership positions in the government or in IGOs where they lead important legal reforms.