

11-12 FEBRUARY 2025

RABAT, MOROCCO

Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II



WEFE NEXUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**EXPLORING AND BRIDGING NEXUS FOR
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



These projects are part of the
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Day 1 – 11th February 2025

PILLAR 2: GENDER IN WEFE NEXUS

GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON WEFE NEXUS



Understanding gender dimensions in water, energy, and food security

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Gender and WEFE NEXUS

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CAWTAR



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Gender Equality in the world and MENA Region

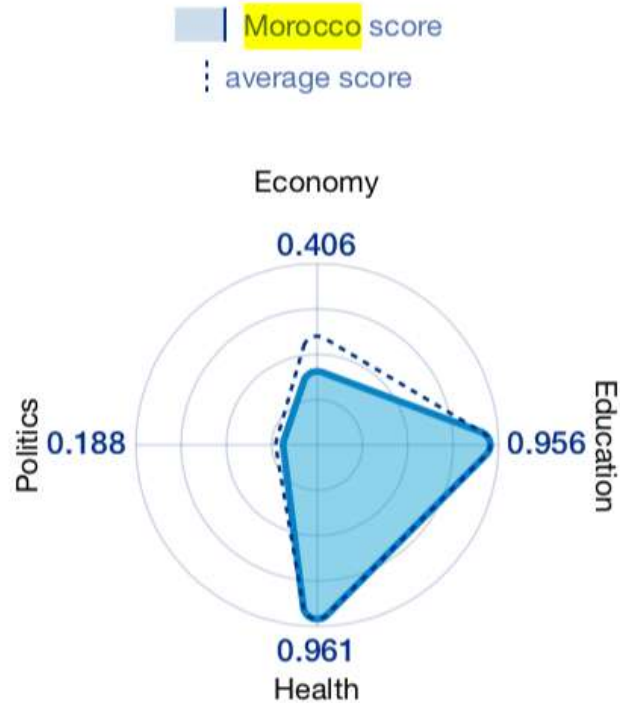
- The global gender gap score in 2024 for the 146 countries stands at 68.5% closed. Based on current data, it will take 134 years to reach full parity – roughly five generations beyond the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target.
- Since 2006, the MENA region has advanced +3.9 percentage points on its overall gender-parity score.
- Despite this positive trajectory, Middle East and Northern Africa ranks last out of all regions, having closed under two-thirds of its regional gender gap (61.7%). About 86.7% of the economies in the region have closed over 60% of their gender gap.
- Only two out of the 15 economies in Middle East and Northern Africa rank in the top 100, showing there is still some progress to be made.

In Morocco for instance, despite efforts and reforms that are being made de reduce the gender gap :

- Implementation of constitutional rights, promoting equality of rights (Constitution of 2011);
- The ongoing reform of family law;
- Differents institutional programs related to empowering women (socially and economically) ;
- Gender-based budgetd;
- ...

... the country position is 137th out of 149 countries

Global Gender Gap Index 2024 Edition



Overview

Index and Subindex	2024		▼ 2023	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Global Gender Gap Index	0.628	137th	0.621	136th
 Economic Participation and Opportunity	0.406	141st	0.404	141st
 Educational Attainment	0.956	118th	0.953	115th
 Health and Survival	0.961	131st	0.961	130th
 Political Empowerment	0.188	85th	0.165	90th

Gender and WEFE Resources

- Growing scarcity and lack of access to water in many regions of the world, due to: high population growth and urbanization rates, growing competition for water within different sectors...
- Women and men have differential roles, rights and responsibilities with regards to water ([Ahmed, 2018](#)). Women face inequity in access to water resources, despite the fact that they are primarily responsible for the management of household water supply, sanitation and health
- In rural areas, women and girls are forced to walk long distances to fetch water, preventing them from undertaking other activities or participating in education and threatening their physical security. For example, in Mauritania, Somalia, and Tunisia, an average distance of a trip to collect water is 4-5 kms and takes 33 mins each way ([Connell, 2017](#)).
- Inequitable access to water can also lead to poor sanitation and health burdens for women ([WaterAid Canada, 2017](#); [Pouramin et al., 2020](#))

Gender and WEFE Resources

- Access to energy is a human right, and gender impacts this right in two ways: supply (production) and consumption ([Banerjee, 2019](#); [Johnson et al., 2019](#))
- Access to electricity within the household has indirect but strong impact on women ([Banerjee, 2019](#)). For example, household electrification increased female employment and school attendance in rural areas, especially amongst teenage women, while in rural health centers, access to electricity has been instrumental in much safer child deliveries
- The lack of control over land and property, affects their ability to benefit equally to men from energy facilities, including, solar systems, wind turbines, and bio-fuel plantations, which require land ([Danielsen, 2012](#))
- A lack of income and credit also acts as a barrier for women to invest in technology that can significantly improve the productivity of their labor ([Danielsen, 2012](#)).

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Gender and WEFE Resources

- Traditionally, within the household, women play a critical role in securing food for their families ([Hyder et al., 2005](#)) . Women produce up to 80% of food for household consumption and sale in local markets ([Ben-Ari, 2014](#)).They also participate in a range of community-level activities that support agricultural development, for example, soil and water conservation, afforestation and crop domestication ([Habtezion Z., 2012](#)).
- Although agriculture is central to women's livelihoods, they encounter several barriers in accessing productive resources, assets, services, and markets
- Lack of access to education, agricultural information and extension services, technology, credit and other financial services make it difficult for women to participate effectively in agricultural production, increasing their vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity ([Habtezion Z., 2012](#)), and negatively impacting their income generation opportunities ([Sakho-Jimbira and Hathie, 2020](#)).

Mainstreaming Gender into the WEFE Nexus

Introducing A new dynamic and holistic reading grid that consider :

- . Re-evaluating social relationships around resources by integrating a diversity of roles and situations.
- . Avoiding a stereotypical approach by proposing a functional analysis that includes differentiated (and sometimes similar) paths for women and men.
- . Women are not automatically “victims” but can occupy several roles (managers, actors, beneficiaries) depending on the context.
- . The main differentiation is functional (according to roles in resource management), but the relationship with men and patriarchal structures reinforces inequalities or slows down women's progression towards more influential roles.

Mainstreaming Gender into the WEFE Nexus

Extend the analysis to Social inclusion :

- Include vulnerable and marginalised groups (youth, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, etc.) in WEFE nexus policies, management and projects.
- .Ensure equitable access to natural resources, infrastructure and services.
- .Promote social justice by addressing socio-economic disparities that limit some communities' access to the benefits of the WEFE nexus.



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