

The gendered impact of corruption in public services sectors in MENA

Possible solutions

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Limited data on gendered experiences of corruption in public services in MENA

- ❑ One in five people (22 per cent) paid a bribe for basic services, such as healthcare or education.
- ❑ Highest rates of bribery in Police, Identity registration, Utilities and Courts
- ❑ Two in five people who accessed public services in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine-used wasta, paid bribes or both.
- ❑ One in five citizens across Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine experienced sextortion, or know someone who has.

* ***Global Corruption Barometer 2019***. Findings not disaggregated by gender, even though the detailed data shows that respondent's gender was recorded.

Gendered effects of corruption

What can we assume?

- Corruption diverts funds intended for public services
- Corruption in procurement affects the quality of public services
- Corruption perpetuates inequity in access to public services
- Corruption limits women's employment opportunities and access to decision-making roles in government

Which women suffer more?

Corruption as a vehicle for discrimination

- ✓ Rural women
- ✓ Unmarried women
- ✓ Widows
- ✓ Divorced women
- ✓ Ethnic and religious minorities
- ✓ Migrants
- ✓ Women with disabilities
- ✓ Gender non-conforming persons

Measures that improve gender equality and reduce corruption too

- Mainstreaming both gender and corruption in sectoral planning processes (SWAp)
- Gender-responsive transparency /open government / access to information
- Gender Responsive (Participatory) Budgeting
- Gender-sensitive or gender-smart procurement
- Affirmative action and merit-based recruitment in the public sector
- Gender-responsive citizen feedback, complaint and whistleblowing mechanisms

Quick wins/ feasible entry points

- **Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in health and education**
 - Job segregation - women's labour force participation highest in health and education sectors
 - Cultural acceptance of women's role in these sectors - starting point to pilot new policies such as GRB
- **Merit-based recruitment and affirmative action**
 - Wasta is highly gendered, benefitting men more than women in access to employment and public office
 - World Values Survey shows that most MENA cultures value women's access to education, but maybe not its utilization
 - Use examinations rather than advertising and interviewing for recruitment

THANK YOU!

- ✓ Join the United Nations Against Corruption (UNCAC) Coalition Working Group on gender and corruption chaired by U4

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