Ten factors for successful reform

The report identifies ten factors that contributed to the success of the initiatives highlighted. These provide insights for policy makers into what “success factors” they may choose to prioritise to ensure that reforms actually translate into greater women’s economic empowerment.

1. International standards and review mechanisms
   - Why does it matter?
     - Standards are ambitious benchmarks against which to measure countries’ progress.
     - Adherence to these standards sends a signal of political will.
     - Countries have to report on progress. These progress reports are an important advocacy tool for further reform.

2. Evidence base
   - Why does it matter?
     - Building the evidence base is crucial in advocating for and securing legal, policy and institutional reform in support of gender equality.
     - Countries have invested heavily in collecting, analysing and disseminating different types of data, but gaps remain.

Promising practices

- The four countries have ratified CEDAW and several ILO conventions, which are legally binding. However, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco still have reservations to various CEDAW articles.
- Morocco has adhered to the OECD Recommendation on Gender Equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship.
- The four countries have signed up to the SDGs and been actively participating in the Commission on the Status of Women and the Beijing Declaration.
- Regional Standards including the Maputo Protocol and the Cairo Declaration also provide important review mechanisms.

3. Policy sequencing
   - Why does it matter?
     - Countries are collecting new types of quantitative and qualitative data: economic cost, attitude towards gender equality etc.
     - Evidence-based campaigns at the right moment have advanced legal reform.
     - Improving gender data in MENA countries is an important priority for the MENA-OECD Women’s Economic Empowerment Forum.

4. Political commitment
   - Why does it matter?
     - Adherence to these standards on international and regional standards and review mechanisms.
     - Adherence comes with obligation to implement international standards at the national level.

5. Tenacious advocacy
   - Why does it matter?
     - Countries have invested heavily in collecting, analysing and disseminating different types of data, but gaps remain.

6. Women’s participation and leadership

7. Multi-stakeholder and multi-sector

8. Capacity building and peer learning

9. Social norms and stereotypes

10. Implementation and compliance