

منتدى الدوحة للبيانات

من أجل الابتكار في التنمية المستدامة

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Gender Data for Sustainable Development: Leaving no one behind

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Gender Data and the SDGs

Gender data is critical for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, as well as on SDG 5 on gender equality.

Ensuring all women and girls are counted means no one is left behind.

Today, we'll explore how gender data plays a fundamental role in monitoring progress, closing gaps, and promoting equality, especially in the **Arab States** region.

Role of Gender Data in the SDGs – part 1

Gender equality has been a strategic priority since the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015.

- **Monitoring SDGs:** Gender data is essential to track progress, not only for SDG 5 (gender equality) but also across other goals, including those related to health, education, and economic inclusion.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** When gender data gaps are addressed, policymakers are empowered to make evidence-based decisions, driving real progress toward gender equality.
- **Visibility and Inclusion:** Accurate gender data ensures women's visibility in global reports, supporting their inclusion in development policies and programs.

Role of Gender Data in the SDGs – part 2

- **Highlighting Needs:** Gender data sheds light on the distinct experiences and needs of women and girls in sectors like education, health, and the labor market, enabling targeted interventions.
- **Supporting Crisis Response:** During emergencies and crises, gender data ensures that responses meet the specific needs of women and girls, preventing their marginalization.
- **Making Victims Visible:** Many women and girls affected by violence and discrimination remain invisible in national statistics. Gender data shines a light on their challenges, informing decision-makers and development partners.

Gaps in the Arab States Region

The Arab States region has some of the **largest gender gaps** globally, in particularly SDG5.

- **Access to Services:** access to **quality education** and **access to health services** is on track (SDG3 and SDG4)
- **Political representation:** Though there's been progress, women's representation increased from **3.3% in 1997 to 18.2% in 2017**, still the world's lowest.
- **Labor force participation:** Women's participation remains **low at 26%**, compared to a global average of 48% (2023 data).
- **Data needs:** There is a pressing need for more data on **women's economic empowerment, violence against women (VAW)**, and more granular gender analysis across sectors.

Outlook for Gender Data in the Arab States

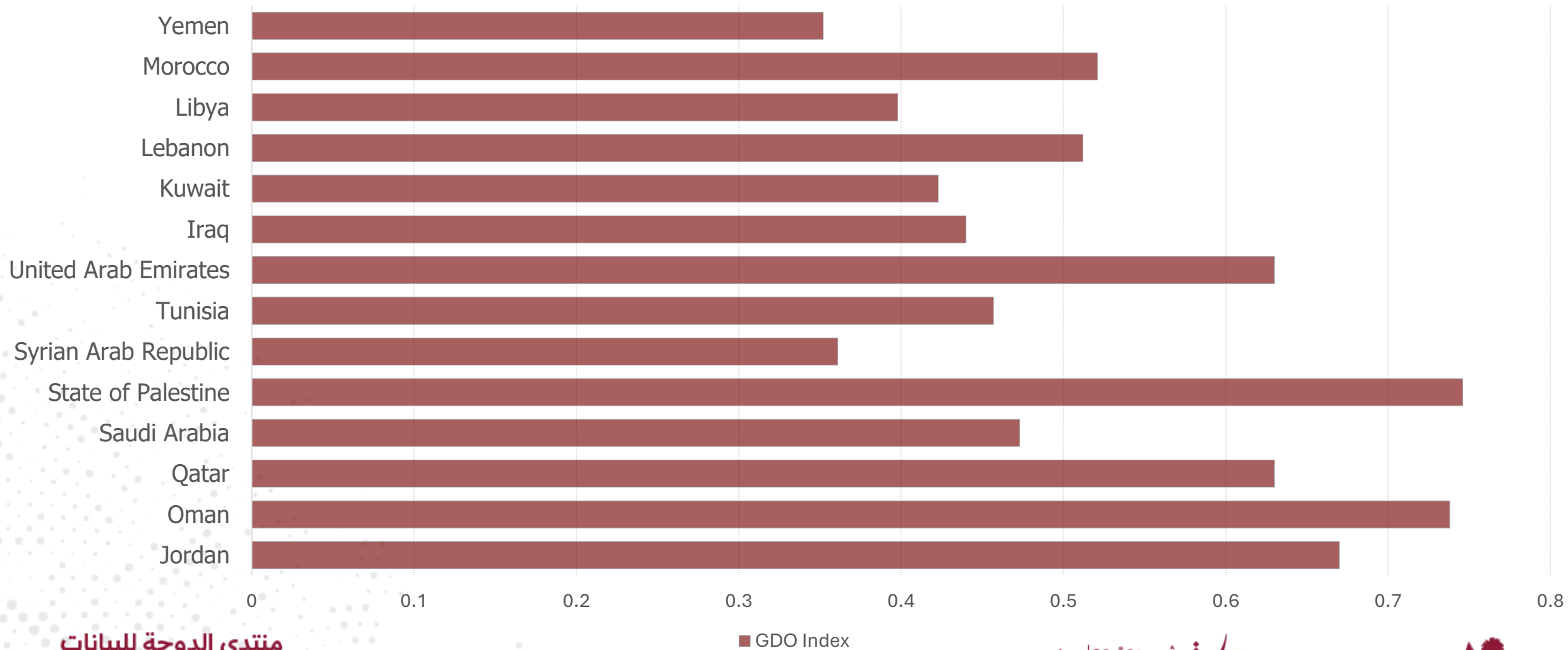
Gender Data Outlook Index (GDI) 2024: Enabling Environment, Production and Accessibility

Overview of Current Progress: Some countries in the Arab States region are leading in the **production, dissemination, and use** of gender data.

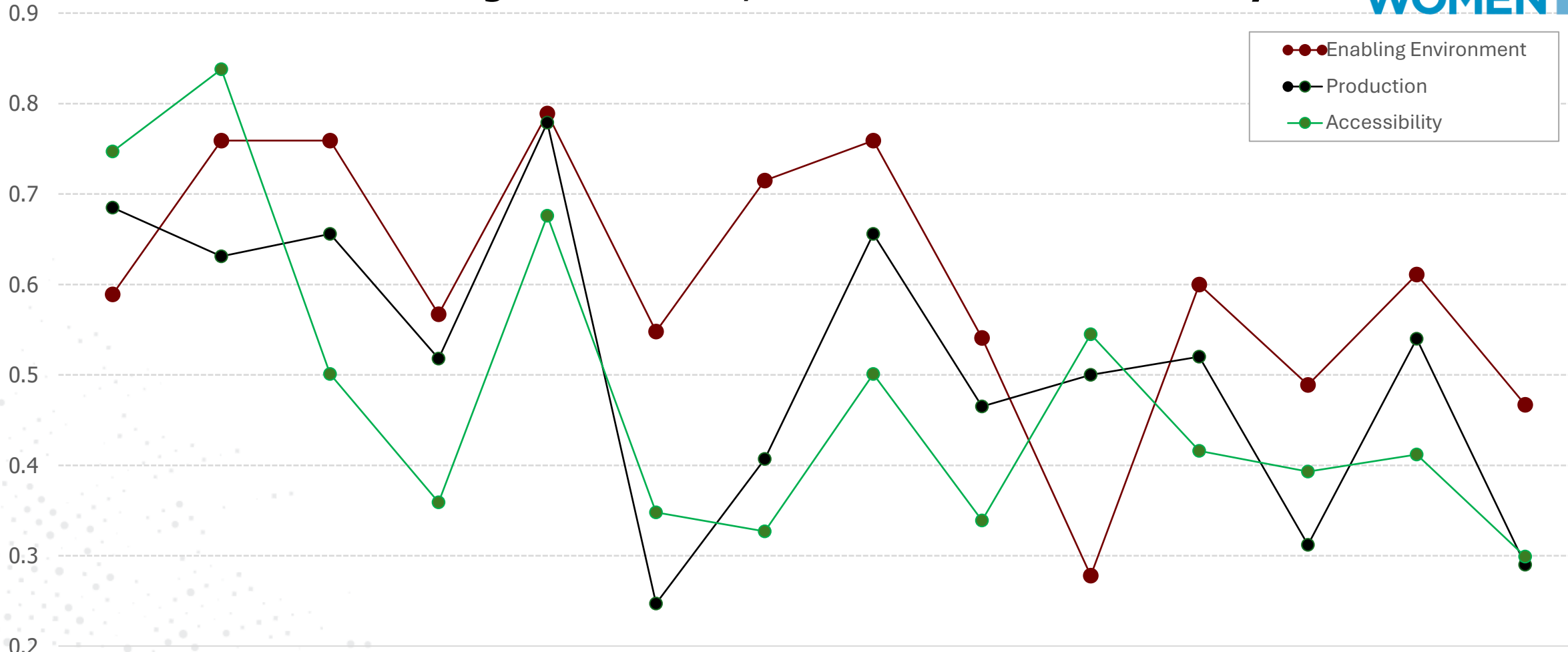
Enabling Environment: Countries with strong legislative frameworks, institutional support, and budget allocation for gender statistics are better positioned to **generate useful data**.

National statistics offices (NSOs) are increasingly playing a critical role in promoting **gender statistics** and fostering the use of this data across sectors.

Gender Data Outlook Index (GDO) by country



Enabling Environment, Production and Accessibility



The Role of AI & Machine Learning in Gender Data and Risks to SDG Progress

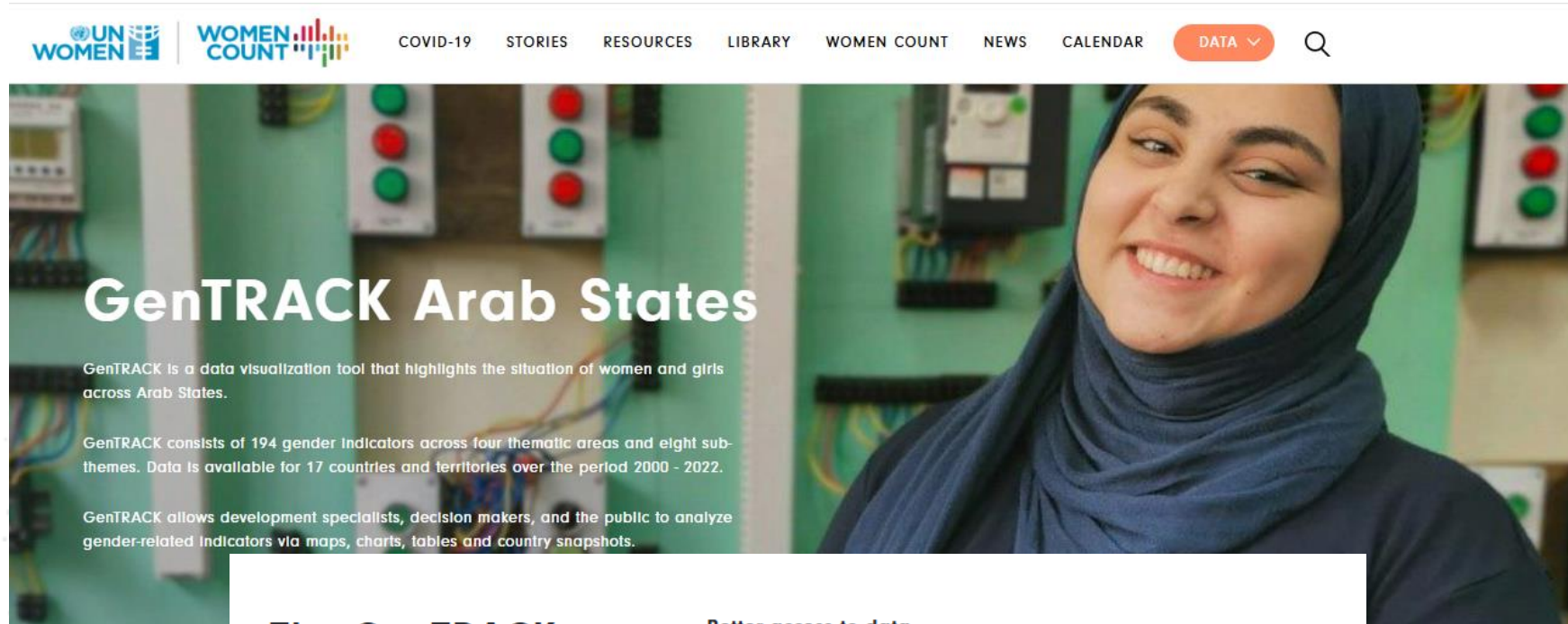
Potential Benefits for SDGs:

- AI can accelerate progress on the **SDGs** by providing **accurate, timely, and granular** data, supporting informed policy decisions.
- AI innovations can enhance the **efficiency of data collection** and improve **monitoring** of SDG targets, especially those related to gender equality, healthcare, and education.

Risks of AI & ML:

- **Gender biases** in AI systems can lead to **biased algorithms** that perpetuate gender inequality. For example:
 - **Underrepresentation of women** in training data can result in AI systems that fail to address the specific needs of women and girls.
 - Algorithms used for decision-making in critical areas (like healthcare or hiring) may reinforce existing inequalities if not designed with gender sensitivity in mind.

Innovative approaches and Tools:



GenTRACK Arab States

GenTRACK is a data visualization tool that highlights the situation of women and girls across Arab States.

GenTRACK consists of 194 gender indicators across four thematic areas and eight sub-themes. Data is available for 17 countries and territories over the period 2000 - 2022.

GenTRACK allows development specialists, decision makers, and the public to analyze gender-related indicators via maps, charts, tables and country snapshots.

The GenTRACK Goals

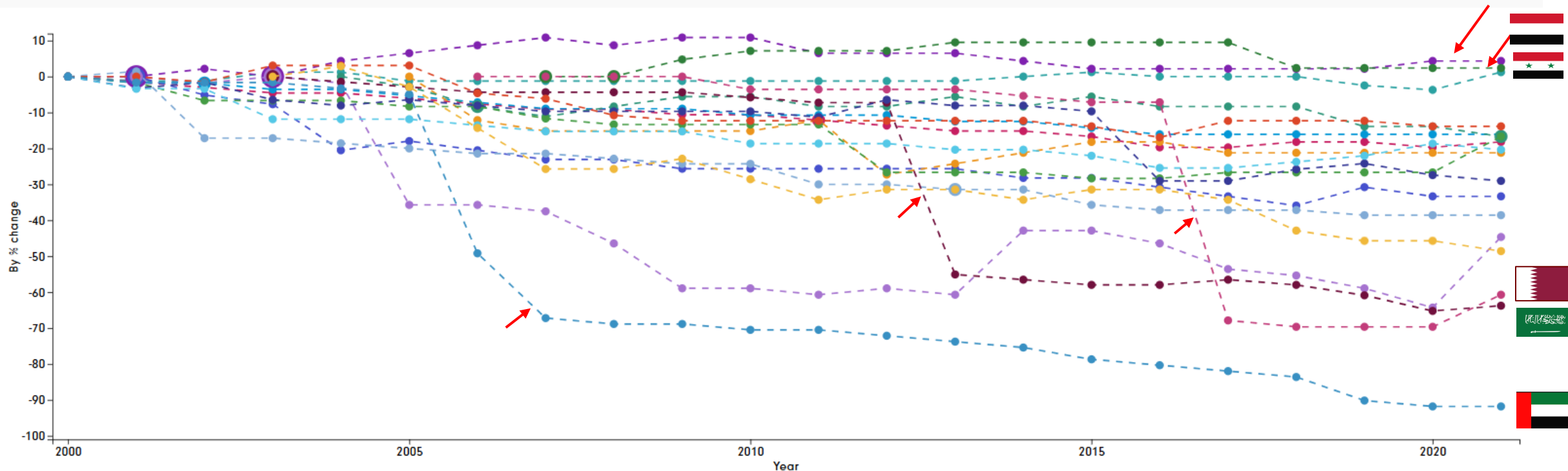
- A. **Better access to data**
Improve access to gender data and trend analysis through easy to use visualisations for various audiences
- B. **Greater understanding**
Better understand enablers and inhibitors that impact the situation of women and girls in each country in the region, and over time
- C. **Greater transparency**
Create transparency to drive positive changes for women and girls in Arab States.

Gender Inequality Index (GII), Total Indicator Details

- World ✕
- Algeria ✕
- Bahrain ✕
- Iraq ✕
- Jordan ✕
- Kuwait ✕
- Lebanon ✕
- Libya ✕
- Morocco ✕
- Oman ✕
- Qatar ✕
- Saudi Arabia ✕
- Syria ✕
- United Arab Emirates ✕
- Tunisia ✕
- Egypt ✕
- Yemen ✕
- Arab States ✕

-- Total

By value
 By rank
 By % change



Conclusion

Gender data is essential for achieving sustainable development and **leaving no one behind**.

The **Arab States** region has made progress, but significant **gaps remain** in areas like labor force participation, political representation, and violence against women.

Innovative data collection methods and tools like Gentrack are improving data availability and use, but challenges such as gender bias in AI systems require ongoing attention.

Call to Action:

- Encourage **stakeholders, governments, and partners** to prioritize gender data collection, close data gaps, and ensure gender considerations are integrated into national and international policies.
- AI systems must be developed with **inclusive datasets** and gender-aware frameworks to avoid reinforcing existing inequalities.
- Policies need to incorporate **ethical AI guidelines** to mitigate the risks of gender bias in machine learning and AI applications.

Thank you!