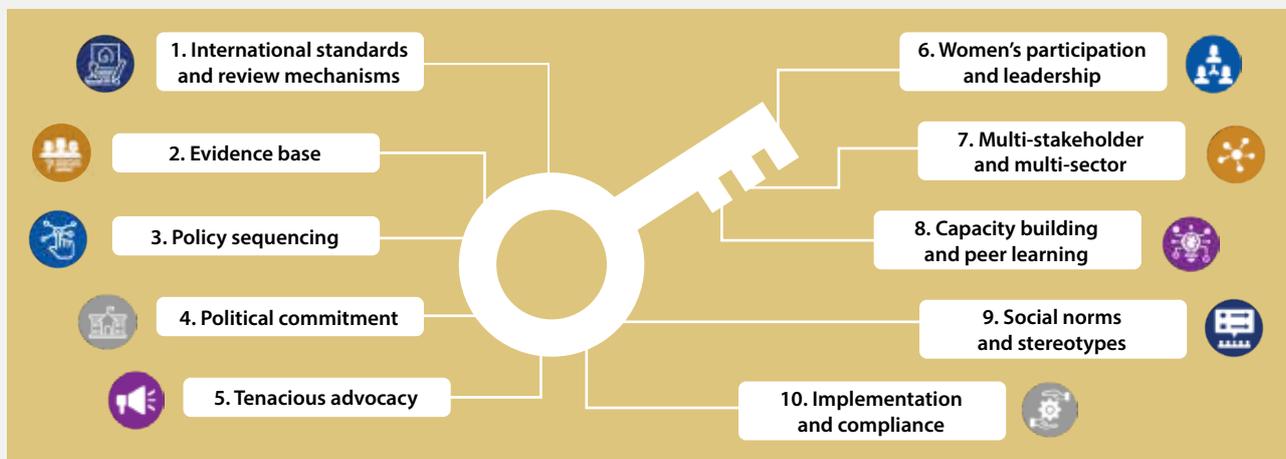


Ten factors for successful reform

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 Aligning with international/regional 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**.
- Adherence comes with obligation to **implement** international standards at the national level.
- Countries have to **report on progress**. These progress reports are an important advocacy tool for further reform.

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.

Promising practices

- SDGs have provided a strong impetus for improving **data collection** and **analysis** on gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- Countries are involving a **range of stakeholders** in data collection: government (NSOs), IGOs, academia, CSOs, private sector.
- 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**.

2 Building a strong 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.
- The situation of women in MENA has undergone **profound change** over the past decade, and it is important to document the changes in society that call for legal reform.