



ENABLING INCLUSION IN MENA



Creating economic opportunities for all people requires policies to promote access and support disadvantaged groups



The poor face disadvantages in accessing public services and jobs



Corruption and weak governance are limiting access to opportunity



Many lack access to finance



The youth unemployment rate is the highest in the world



Citizens in rural areas are twice as likely to be poor



Women in the region face the world's largest gender gap



MENA carries a high burden of conflict and refugees



7 POLICIES TO ENABLE GREATER INCLUSION



Improve governance and control of corruption



Increase access to finance



Strengthen social safety nets



Increase opportunities for youth



Eliminate gender disparities



Support rural communities



Help refugees

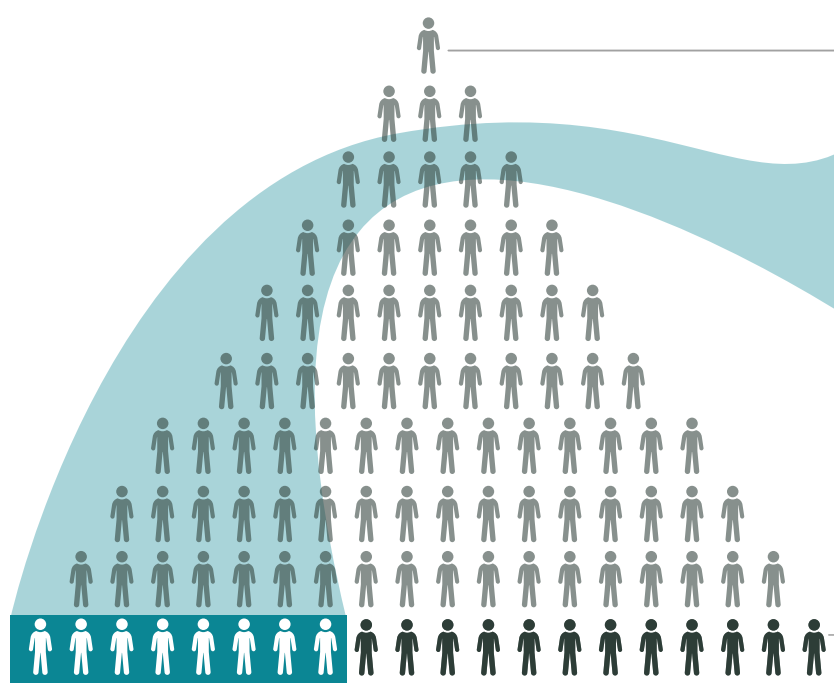
* MENA refers to the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

The poor face disadvantages in accessing public services and jobs



More than 25%

of poor children are chronically malnourished and are likely to have dropped out of school by age 16

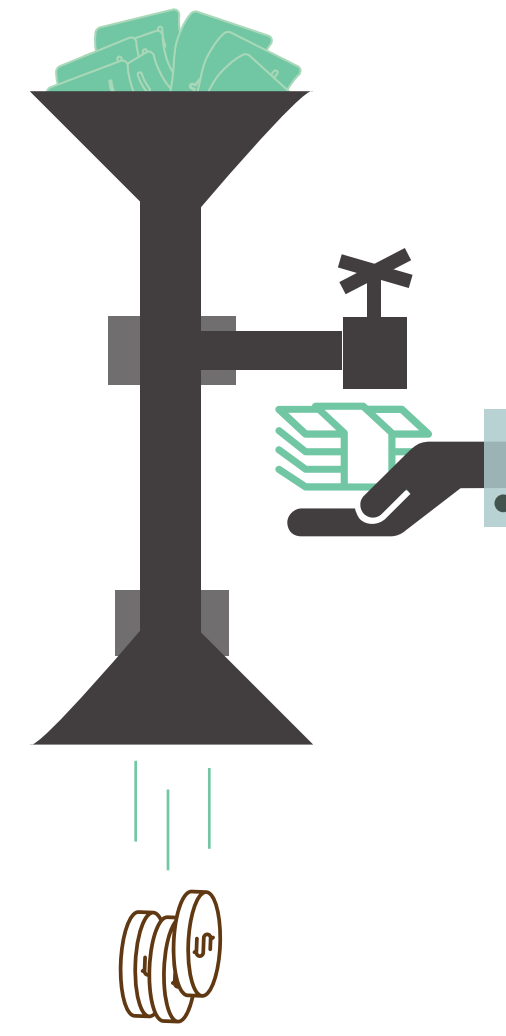


About 40%

of the poor in MENA are covered by social safety nets

Corruption and weak governance are limiting access to opportunity

Corruption is a major business constraint

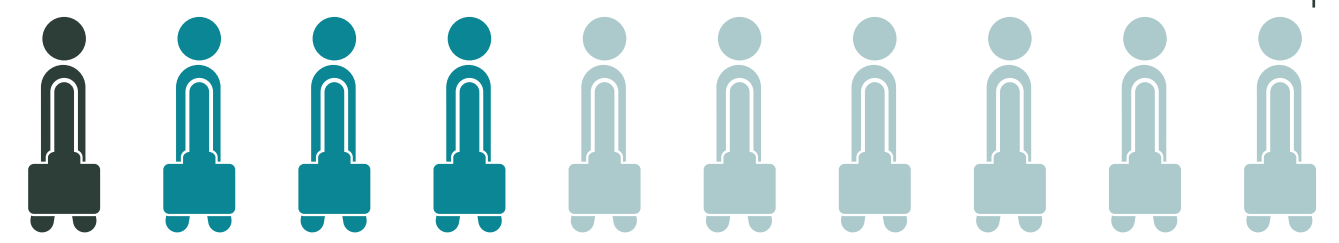


Firms Citing Corruption as a Major Constraint

55% MENA

- 39% LAC¹
- 36% SSA²
- 24% EDA³
- 23% CIS⁴
- 22% EDE⁵

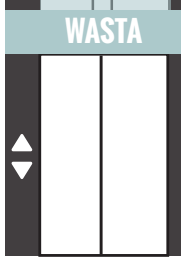
Between 60-90% of people think that "wasta" (connections) rather than merit is critical for getting a job



¹ Latin America and the Caribbean
² Sub-Saharan Africa

³ Emerging Asia
⁴ Commonwealth of Independent States

⁵ Emerging Europe

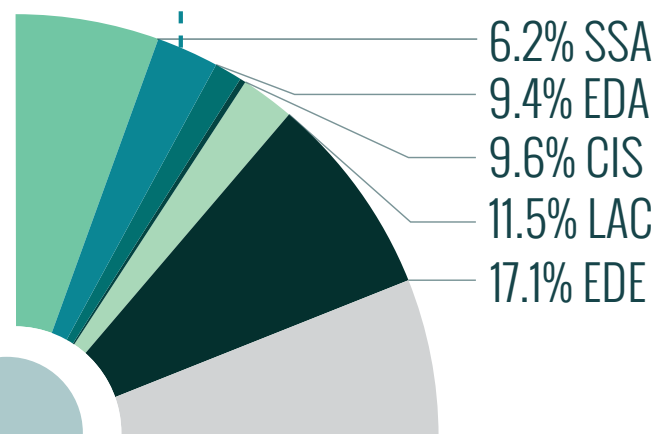


Many lack access to finance



Only 8%

of adults in the region
obtain loans through a
formal financial institution



Nearly

70%

of adults in
the region

do not have a

bank account



ATM

Four groups are particularly excluded from access to economic opportunity



youth



women



rural communities



people affected by conflict

The youth unemployment rate is the highest in the world

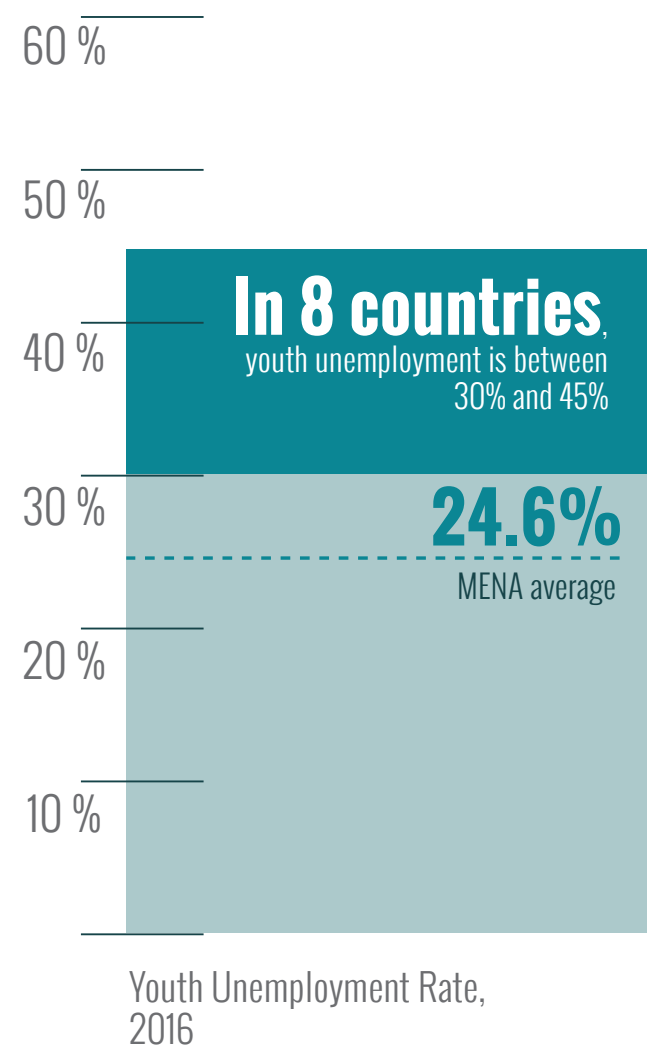


Even though youth are educated and tech-savvy, **30% of youth** are neither in education nor work

The youth unemployment rate is between

30%-45%

in eight regional countries which are home to **40 million** youth



Women in the region face the world's largest gender gap

18 out of the 30 countries in the world that have 10 or more legal gender differences are in MENA



The region has the **greatest legal and institutional barriers** for women

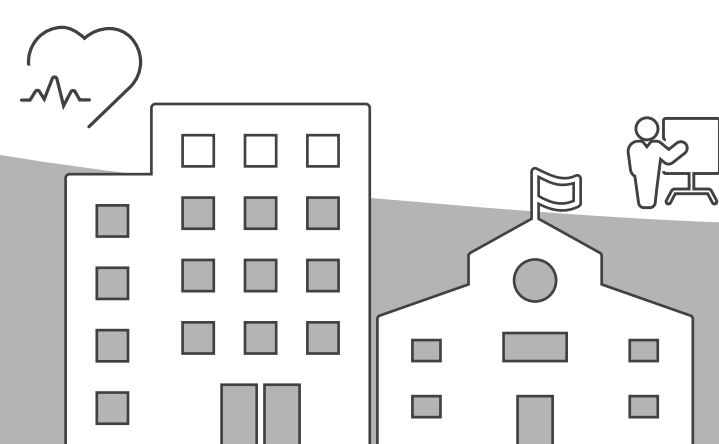
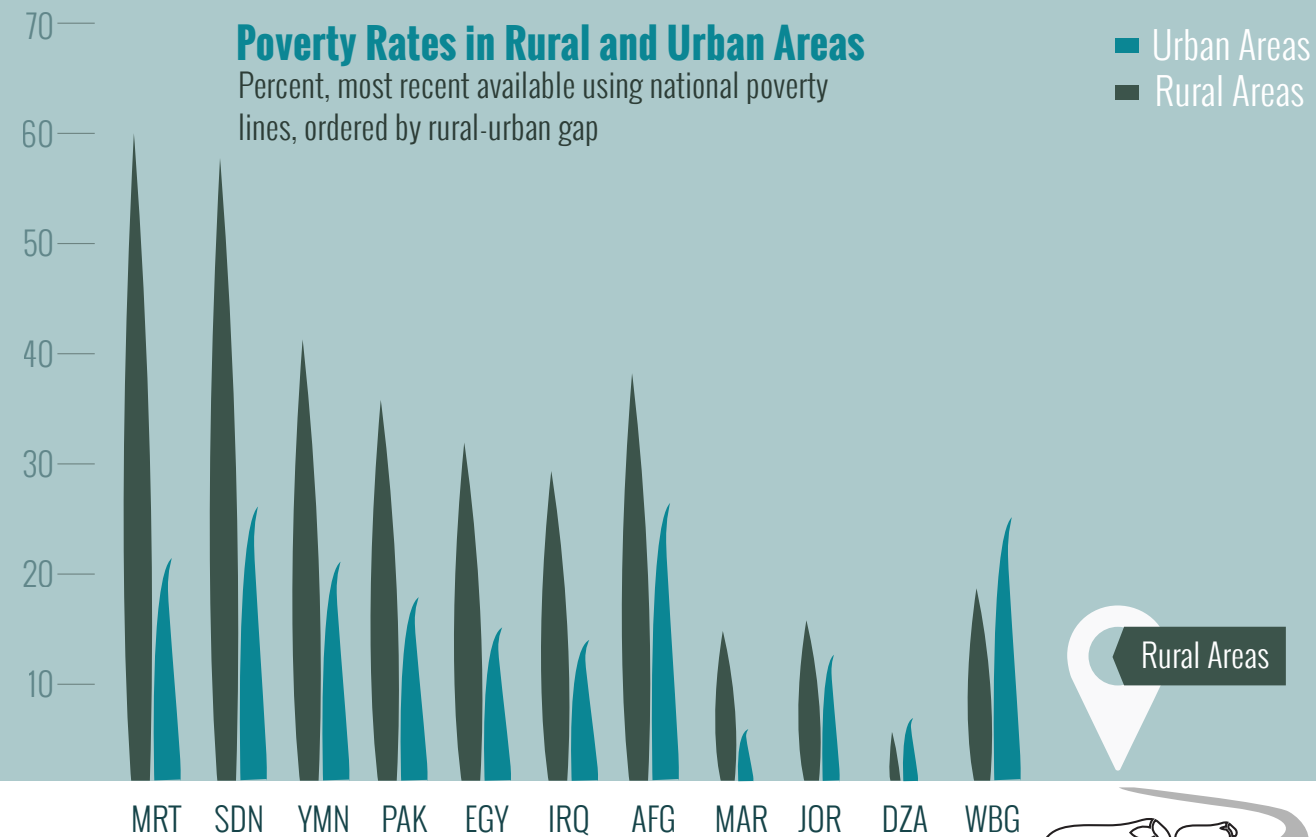
Only about **1/4** of **women** seek jobs, the **lowest rate** among the world's regions



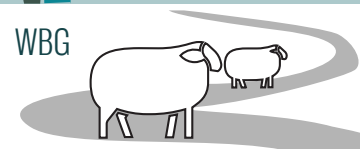


Citizens in rural areas are twice as likely to be poor

Rural poverty is concentrated in distinct geographical areas, where **access to healthcare and education** is more limited and where **human development** indicators are below national averages.



Urban Areas



Rural Areas



MENA carries a heavy burden of conflict and refugees

While MENA accounts for only 10% of the world's population, it **hosts 44% of the world's people displaced by conflict**



In Syria...

6 in 10 people live in extreme poverty

Armed conflict has forced more than **10 million children out of school** in MENA



7 POLICIES TO ENABLE GREATER INCLUSION



1

Improve governance and control of corruption



Ensure the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary



Bolster anti-corruption and audit agencies



Streamline public administrative processes

2

Increase access to finance



Promote competition amongst banks and develop targeted financial products



Strengthen Islamic finance



Develop microfinance



Improve financial literacy



Harness Fintech (mobile banking, e-banking, e-wallets)

3

Strengthen social safety nets



Raise spending on social safety nets



Improve efficiency and targeting



Develop conditional cash transfers where possible



Inform potential recipients about programs



Increase access to vocational training, apprenticeships, internships, job counseling, and intermediation and placement services



Align education with private sector needs



Explore measures to encourage firms to hire youth

Increase opportunities for youth

4



Strengthen women's legal rights



Provide access to childcare, parental leave, and safe public transportation



Consider targeted measures such as hiring quotas, employment subsidies, or tax incentives

An enormous untapped potential: the region could have gained **\$1 trillion** in cumulative output over a decade⁷

Eliminate gender disparities

5



Foster rural development through better physical and digital connectivity

Support rural communities

6



Provide basic services to refugees



Better integrate refugees to the education system and labor markets



More international financial support to host communities

Help refugees

7

