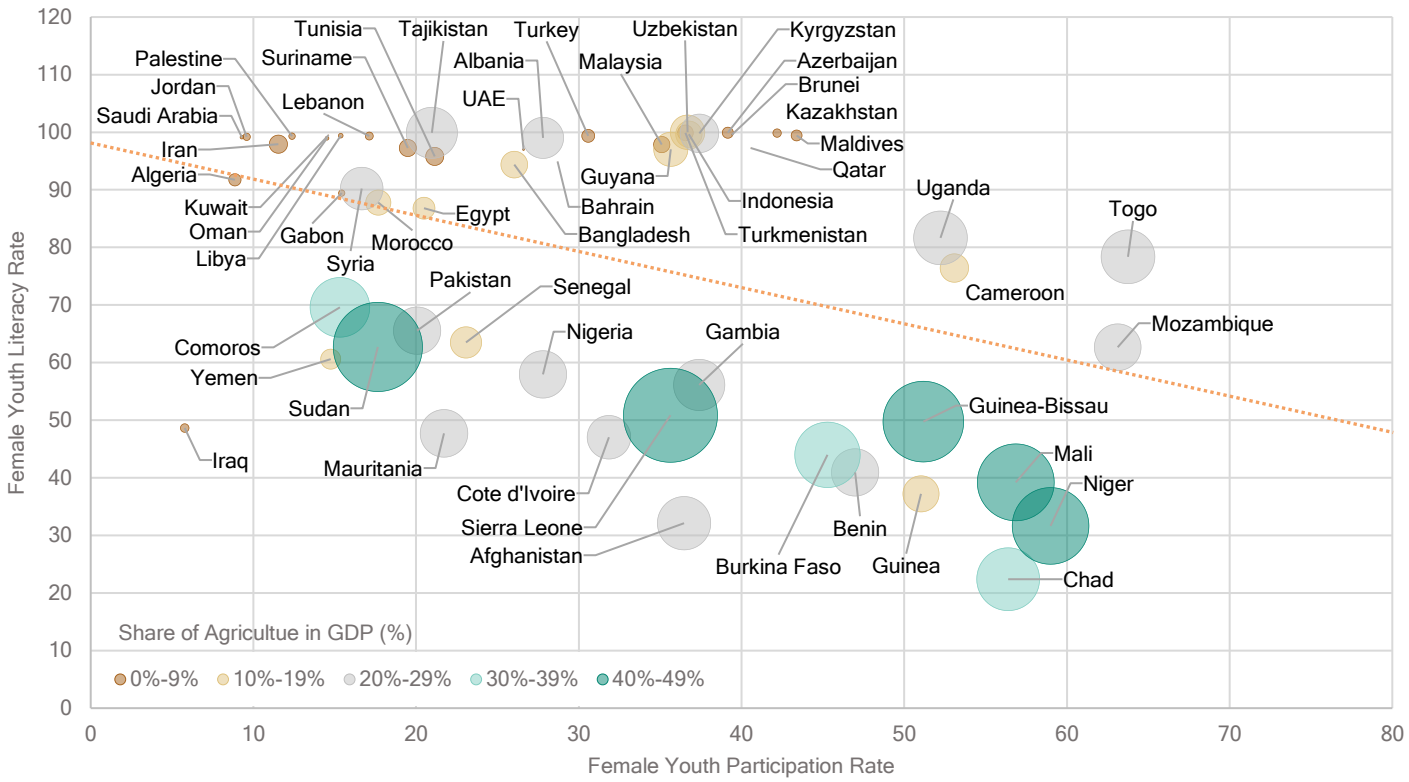
DID YOU KNOW?

2019-23

Literacy Rate vs. Labour Force Participation Rate for Female Youth with Comparison to Share of Agriculture in GDP (%) across OIC Countries



- **Female youth labour force participation rate** is the proportion of the female population ages 15-24 that is economically active.
- **Female youth literacy rate** shows the percentage of the female population ages 15-24 that is able to read and write.
- Economic structure of a country has an influence on youth participation in the labour force which is also related with the education level of youth.
- **Agriculture sector** comprises more than one fifth of the economies of **22 OIC countries.** Particularly, Sierra Leone (49.1%), Sudan (46.6%), Guinea-Bissau (42.2%), Mali (40.2%) and Niger (40.1%) were **top 5 OIC countries** with agriculture sector's share above 40% in their GDPs.
- **11 OIC countries** including Chad (22.4%), Niger (31.6%), Afghanistan (32.1%), Guinea (37.2%), Mali (39.2%), Benin (40.9%), Burkina Faso (44.0%), Cote d'Ivoire (47.0%), Mauritania (47.7%), Iraq (48.6%), and Guinea-Bissau (49.8%) had all **female youth literacy rate below 50%** based on the last year available data between 2004 and 2018.
- On the other hand, **29 OIC countries** had **female youth literacy rates above 90%**. Among them, Uzbekistan took the lead with **100%** female youth literacy rate followed by **17 OIC countries** including Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Brunei, Kuwait, Maldives, Libya, Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Albania, and Oman **with over 99%**. As the above chart shows, these countries are situated at the top across the x-axis.
- Concentrated in the right hand side of the chart, **9 OIC countries in Sub-Saharan Africa** including Togo (63.8%), Mozambique (63.1%), Niger (59.0%), Mali (56.9%), Chad (56.4%), Cameroon (53.1%), Uganda (52.2%), Guinea-Bissau (51.2%), and Guinea (51.0%) had **female youth labour participation rates over 50%.**
- In this connection, agriculture as a labour-intensive sector claimed a larger part of labour force, especially among the female youth, in some OIC countries. As can be seen from the chart's trendline, **a negative relationship exists between female youth labour force participation and literacy rates**.
- All in all, countries with higher investments in their education sectors are expected to decrease their poverty rates, increase the standards of living of their citizens, and eventually contribute to the growth of their economies in the long-run.

Note: The above chart focuses on female youth literacy rate based on the last year available data between 2004 and 2018. To preserve the consistency, reciprocal year was used for female youth labour force participation rate data. The size and colour of the bubbles correspond to the share of agriculture sector in the economy. E.g. larger and darker the bubble means larger the agriculture sector value added to the GDP.

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 10/06/2019 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database. Please visit **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database** (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other Youth indicators.

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