

USAID TAKAMOL NEWSLETTER

USAID Takamol is a USAID-Funded Program Implemented by IREX

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

SUMMER 2016, ISSUE 1



"JOINING THE MEN'S CLUB."

"THIS CARTOON IS ILLUSTRATED BY TALA ABDULHADI WHO IS ENROLLED IN A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT USAID TAKAMOL."

POLITICAL PARTY LAW

The 2015 Political Parties Law stipulates no quota for women unlike the previous law that required a 10% representation of women as founding members

The current Political Parties Law number 39 for the year 2015 reduced the number of founding members of the party from 500 to 150 members without requiring representation of neither governorates nor women. Thus, this law is the only one that did not pledge women's representation in political parties when compared to the decentralization law, municipality law and the election law. What is also surprising is that the human rights and women organizations did not pay attention to the importance of this law and to the representation of women in political parties, as this law was adopted without any objection or claim for quota for women unlike the decentralization law, which had initially no quota, but was then included during the discussion with the lower House of Parliament in response to the demands of the civil society organizations.

[Read full paper on USAID Jordan's knowledge Management Portal.](#)

IMPACT OF ELECTION LAW ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENT

Article 6 of 2016 election law allocated 15 seats for women out of the 130 seats; which is the highest percentage (11.5%) when compared to previous election laws. The law also stipulates that running for elections for women's seats has to be within a list without affecting the maximum limit of candidates in the list. This created a lack of clarity on whether women need to decide beforehand whether they are running competitively or on quota and lack of clarity on women's candidacy on the ethnic and religious minorities' seats.

Based on previous election laws, women could run for elections outside the quota, which gave them two chances of winning a seat; the first through competition and the second through the quota and this enabled 3 women to win outside the quota in the 2013 Parliament. Based on the current law, this was unclear until the Law Interpretation Bureau resolved this ambiguity by clearly ruling that a female candidate is not under obligation to announce that she is running for quota or not. There is no doubt that this ruling enhances women's political participation and increases her chances of winning a seat in normal competition.

[Read full paper on USAID Jordan's knowledge Management Portal.](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE CONFERENCE

On February 1st 2016, USAID Takamol organized the first dedicated conference on climate change and gender in Jordan entitled "Climate Change from a Gender Perspective". The one-day conference and the subsequent two days of technical meetings addressed climate change from a global perspective and in the Jordanian context, how do men and women adapt to climate change, Jordanian efforts in this regard, and opportunities and challenges. Recommendations of the conference are highlighted in this info graph.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE CONFERENCE



Institutional Advocacy Platform.

Institutional platform with sufficient capacity and resources to advocate for gender mainstreaming into climate change and environmental policies and plans.



Social inclusion and climate justice

Mobilize all stakeholders towards climate action



Genderized Climate Media

Gender mainstreaming training and capacity building for Climate and Environment Media aiming to create Climate/Environment Journalists Networks



Innovative Approaches for Climate Change and Gender Awareness

Real Examples & Role Models. Targeting different groups and sectors including youth. Messages through Media.



Data and knowledge Managements Framework

Redefining data sets, resources, format of collection and reporting is a key priority for the sector and for advancing gender mainstreaming



Gender and Climate Research Bridging Task Force

Bridging research priorities and identification of specific topics for joint research.

THE EQUAL FUTURES PARTNERSHIP- FROM PROMISE TO PROGRESS

The Equal Futures Partnership was launched in September 2012 by the United States along with 12 other founding members (Australia, Benin, Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, Indonesia, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, and Tunisia; as well as the European Union). Each founding member made national commitments to policy, legal, and regulatory reforms to promote two mutually reinforcing goals: expanding economic opportunity for women and increasing political and civic participation by women at local, state and national levels.

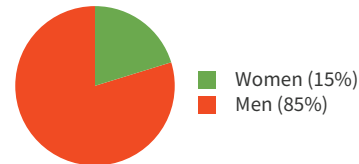
The Jordanian National Commission for Women with the technical support of USAID Takamol prepared a Jordanian National Action Plan to implement Jordan's commitments towards the Equal Futures Partnership to increase women's political and economic participation.

7

The info graphic below explains the 7 commitments towards increasing women's political participation.

INDICATORS FOR WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN JORDAN FROM THE EQUAL FUTURES PARTNERSHIP WORK PLAN

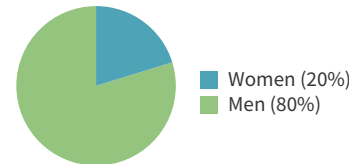
1



Women's representation in the council of ministers should be no less than 15%

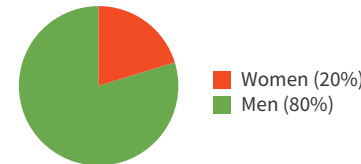
The current representation of women in Jordan is 13.8% (4 female ministers out of 29 ministers), it reached 18.5% in previous cabinets.

2



Women's representation in leadership positions in the public sector should be no less than 20%

3



Enhance women's participation in the Judiciary especially in high-ranked judicial positions and increase her representation to be no less than 20%

Women's current representation in the Judiciary is 18.4%

4

Increase women's representation in the lower house of parliament for the next 4 years and increase women's representation in the senate in the upcoming year.



Women's current representation in the Senate is 10.7% and was in the former lower house of parliament (Deputies) 12%. The number of Deputies was reduced from 150 to 130 members while the women's quota remained the same (15 seats) which will increase the percentage of women's representation in the parliament to be at least 11.5% The new decentralization law includes a 15% quota for women.

5

Increase women's participation in the Diplomatic Corp



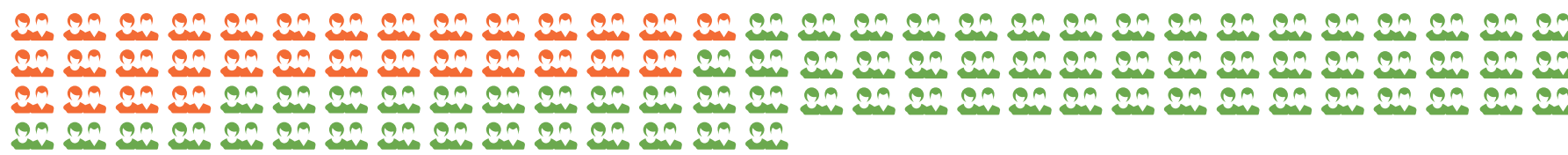
Women's representation in the diplomatic corp in 2014 according to the Department Of Statistics was 18.8%

6

Increasing women's representation in the local council from 25% to 35% in the next 3 years, and then aiming for full parity (50%)



7



Increase women's representation in commissions, councils, government committees and semi-government committees (Anti-corruption commission, Independent election committee, Economic and Social council, Academic and Administrative Institutions and Deanships at Universities, National Center for Human Rights, Ombudsman Bureau, ...) by no less than 30%

Articles contributing to the conversation on GENDER (regional and international).

- [Women's wisdom crucial to beating climate change, researchers say](#)
- [Lessons from Rwanda's female-run institutions](#)
- [Women voters in Tamil Nadu make history](#)



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Faces of Takamol