

Factors need to be considered in the Arab region

(a) *Extent and type of female participation in the labour market*

According to modelled International Labour Organization (ILO) data, the Arab regional average rate of participation of women in the formal labour force reached 20.9 per cent in 2017, which is less than one third of the rate for men in the region (75 per cent)¹ and extremely low compared to the world average of 48.7 per cent. Female participation in the formal sector is predominantly characterized by governmental work and low wages. While female participation in the labour market increases with higher education, disclosing DV decreases in parallel with higher levels of education among women.

(b) *Breadth of the definition of female labour market participation*

Female labour market participation (FLP) increases if subsistence work is considered (using the extended labour market definition). For example, in Egypt in 2012, the FLP of around increases if the extended definition that includes subsistence work is used.² Since subsistence work is greater in rural areas and among less educated women in almost all Arab countries, adding several specific questions to the questionnaire is essential for computing the missing working days

(c) *Accounting for unpaid domestic work*

Unpaid domestic work is the most significant type of work that can be missed due to DV. Therefore, as previously noted, the questionnaire must include sound and accurate time use questions. The next section outlines how to estimate the costs of DV due to lost productivity in relation to this kind of work.

Valuing unpaid work. Unpaid work can be understood to include all productive activities outside the official labour market done by individuals for their own households or for others, such as housework, care for children and for sick and old people, voluntary community work, subsistence agriculture, helping in family businesses, building the family house, maintenance work, transport services, etc. All of these activities have one thing in common — they could, at least in theory, be replaced by market goods and paid services.³

The volume of unpaid work could be in terms of the output units or time units spent in producing the output. Similarly, the wage rate (price for a unit of work) could be in terms of the wage paid by output units or by time spent. The measurement depends upon the prevailing practices in the economy of a country. The common approaches used in the valuation are the output approach and the input approach.⁴

¹ [E/ESCWA/ECW/2017/Technical Paper.6](#).

² Rana Hendy, “A quarter century of changes in labor force participation,” Working Paper No. 973 (Cairo, Economic Research Forum, 2015).

³ Joke Swibel, “Unpaid work and policy-making towards a broader prospective of work and employment”, Discussion Paper, Department of Economic and Social Affairs”, DESA Discussion Paper No. 4 (New York, United Nations, 1999).

⁴ Nancy Folbre, “Valuing non-market work” (New York, United Nations Development Programme, 2015).