WORLD WIDE WEB
FOUNDATION

REPORT CARD

EGYPT

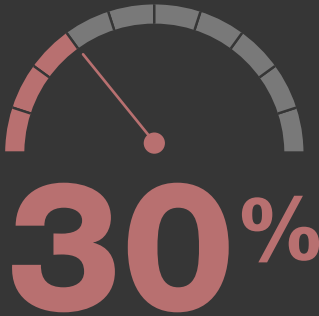**Measuring Progress, Driving Action**

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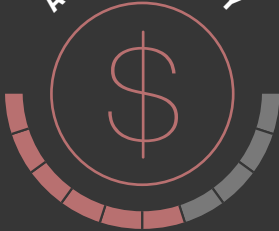
EGYPT

OVERALL SCORE:

30%

INTERNET ACCESS & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

SCORE: 3

Only 45% of women compared to 87% of men in urban poor areas in Cairo have accessed the Internet. Only 7% of women have looked for important information about their rights or voiced their opinion online.

AFFORDABILITY

SCORE: 6

Egypt met the A4AI affordability target in 2014 (1 GB for less than 2% of average monthly income), but prices crept up relative to incomes in 2015. The national ICT plan guarantees at least one public access point in 50% of localities, but public Wi-Fi hotspots aren't always functional.

DIGITAL SKILLS & EDUCATION

SCORE: 3

Half of secondary schools in Egypt are connected to the Internet. However, less than 5% of education sector workers are trained in the use of web-powered ICTs to deliver better education services to students.

RELEVANT CONTENT & SERVICES

SCORE: 1

There is no public policy to promote online sexual and reproductive health education. Despite some civil society initiatives, online information about reproductive and sexual health is very limited. Additionally, less than 1% of women have access to mobile financial services.

ONLINE SAFETY

SCORE: 1

Women in Egypt experience frequent online harassment and police and judiciary lack training on how to respond. As a result many women censor themselves with measures such as closing down their online accounts. Egypt currently lacks a data protection law.

CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: A 5 POINT ACTION PLAN

1 **COLLECT GENDER DISAGGREGATED ICT DATA TO INFORM STRATEGIES.** Monitor gender equality in the implementation of ICT strategies by collecting disaggregated ICT data.

2 **PRIORITISE FREE OR LOW COST PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS.** Prioritise free or low-cost public Internet access for school and university students. Continue to create free hotspots in public libraries, youth centers and clubs.

3 **INTEGRATE DIGITAL SKILLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULA.** Include ICT in the national primary school curriculum and ensure that teachers are well qualified to teach it.

4 **FOCUS ON RELEVANT CONTENT AND SERVICES FOR WOMEN.** Design more easily accessible, relevant and user-friendly information, products and services that help women enhance their livelihoods and participate in information seeking and exchange through ICTs.

5 **END ONLINE HARASSMENT.** Launch a campaign against online sexual harassment, including information on where and how to report digital harassment and violence. Different parties (police, legal system representatives) should be trained on how to respond to ICT-based harassment and on relevant legislation.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The United Nations recently made gender-equitable access to information and communications technologies (ICTs) central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which set the global development agenda until 2030. Why? ICTs are powerful. They can help to deliver improved healthcare, quality education for all, financial inclusion, more accountable government, and much more. In adopting the SDGs, all countries have pledged to prioritise universal Internet access, and to use ICTs to empower women.

But much hard work lies ahead if we are to translate this vision into reality. A formidable gender gap in Internet access, digital skills and online rights exists - our Women's Rights Online research shows that in many communities, women are 50% less likely than men to be online and 30-50% less likely to use the Internet for economic and political empowerment. Women face many barriers - including high costs, lack of know-how, and a scarcity of relevant and empowering content - as well as social and legal obstacles to speaking freely and privately online.

The Web Foundation and partners have prepared these gender audits to help countries assess what they need to do to overcome the gender digital divide. Tadwein Gender Research Centre has taken the lead, in consultation with other national stakeholders, on identifying concrete steps that government can take in the next year to address the challenges and gaps identified. We hope that this report card and action plan will spark debate and galvanise policy change.

A NOTE ON METHODOLOGY:

We based our scores on 14 simple indicators for which reliable empirical evidence exists, and grading was done in the second quarter of 2016. See the accompanying overview for a description of the indicators and sources used. A full methodology is available on our website.

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