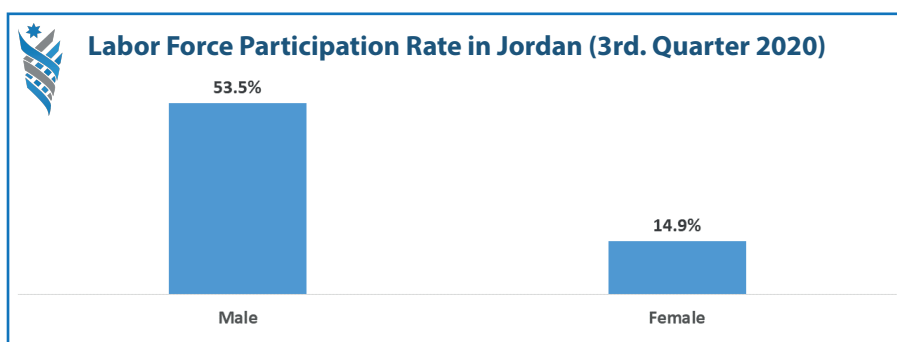
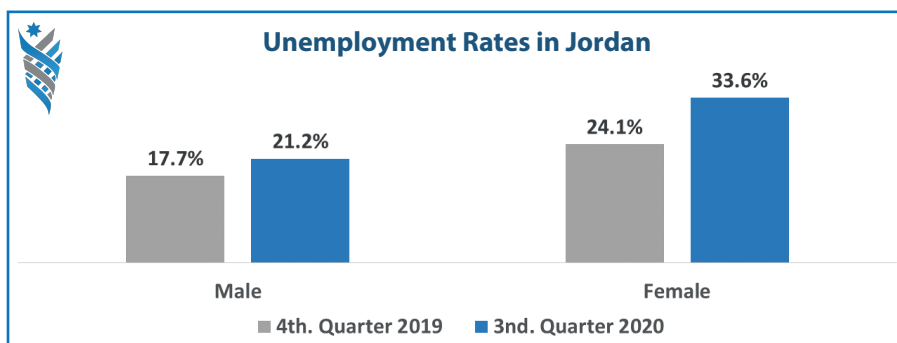


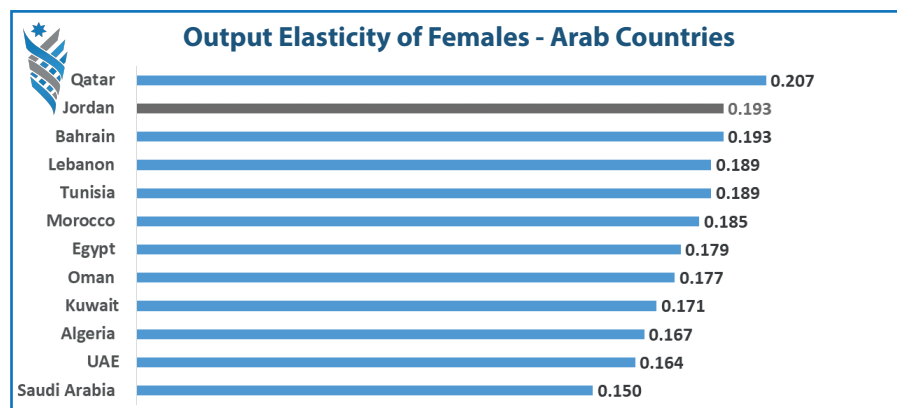
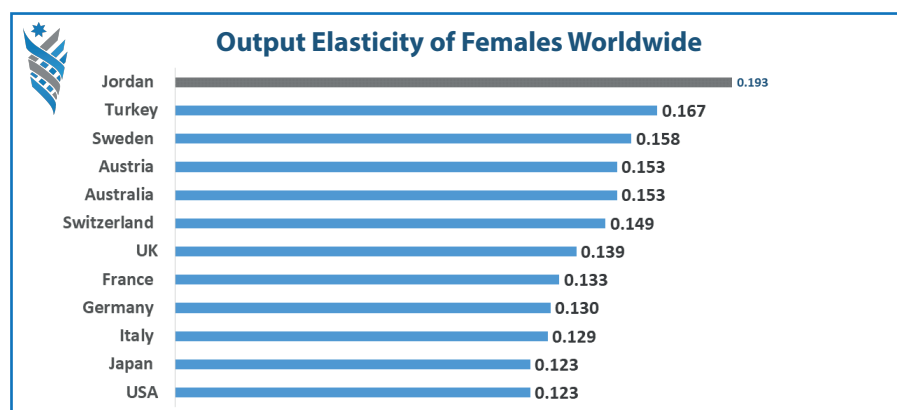
## COVID- 19 & Gender Equality: What is at Stake?

COVID-19 is a tragedy. Whilst extremely difficult to predict, the resultant job losses and bankruptcies are likely to put immense financial (and other) strains on people, businesses, and governments. Within this context, it is unfortunate to note that while male unemployment has increased from 17.7% (4th quarter 2019) to 21.2% (3rd quarter 2020), female unemployment rate has increased by 9.5 percentage points (24.1% to 33.6%). On top of this, the female participation rate (14.9%) is much lower than males (53.5%).



Source: Department Of Statistics, Labour Force

Relative to the above-mentioned observations, it is interesting to note that the ILO, in its 2019 Report ([Women in Business and Management / The Business Case for Change](#)), analyzed 186 countries (2017-1991) to measure the “output elasticity of female employment”. Based on the reported results, it is encouraging to note that Jordan has one of the highest output elasticities (0.193+). This implies that every %1 increase in female employment is associated with, on average, GDP growth of %0.193.



Source: International Labour Organization, Women in Business and Management Report

### IN A NUTSHELL

Notwithstanding the fact that the female unemployment rate has always been high, the fact that this rate has reached a “new height” (%33.6), this exceptionally rate should not be the new normal after COVID19-. All relevant stakeholders should give the issue of female employment their utmost priority, and hence, realize the benefit in the form of higher economic growth.