



# Women in the Middle East



It's no secret the Middle East is a challenging place for working women. The Arab world is home to eight of 10 countries with the lowest percentage of female workers across the globe, and only 3.5% of Arab women have their own businesses—about one-fourth the rate internationally.

GE is working to change that. We believe women in the Middle East are a highly educated, energized and untapped talent source, especially in countries like Saudi Arabia, where they make up more than half (55%) of the nation's university graduates, yet comprise just 16% of the Saudi workforce.

GE is dedicated to promoting diversity in the workplace, and 30% of GE's leadership team in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey are women. Here's what else we're doing to promote female leadership:

- In 2013, GE (with Tata Consultancy Services and Saudi Aramco) launched Saudi Arabia's first all-female business processing center. Established in Riyadh, the country's capital and financial hub, this pioneering center opened with 300 female hires. By 2016, that number had expanded to 1,000 — and is growing. The Center supports GE Global Operations in delivering over 20 vital business operations, including Finance and Accounting, Human Resource Outsourcing, Supply Chain Management, Information Technology and Enterprise Data Management, in more than 50 GE locations world-wide.
- In January 2016, GE and Masdar opened the “Women in Innovation” leadership-training program at the [GE Ecomagination Innovation Center in Masdar City](#). The training will focus on nurturing the skills that will help UAE women pursue careers and entrepreneurial opportunities in the renewable energy sector, which may create 24.4 million jobs by 2030.
- GE promotes diversity in the Middle East and globally through the [Women's Network](#); 70,000 member group dedicated to enhancing women's professional growth industry-wide. Engagement initiatives include STEM day camps for junior high school girls and scholarships for female undergraduate students in fields like engineering, tech and finance.
- In accordance with GE's code of ethics, [The Spirit & The Letter](#) requirements, we will work tirelessly to create more opportunities for women all over the world. Learn more about our Diversity efforts [here](#).

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*GE recognizes that women in the Middle East are a highly educated, energized and untapped talent resource.*

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