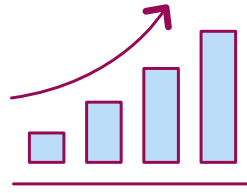


IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

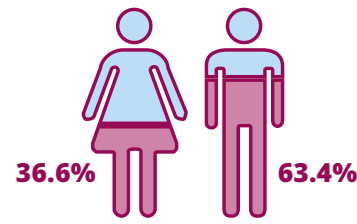
MAKING DECENT WORK A REALITY for domestic workers in the Middle East

There are estimated to be
6.6 MILLION
men and women
performing domestic work
in the Arab States,
constituting **12.3 per cent of**
all workers in the region.



Compared with other regions, this represents
the largest share of domestic work in total
employment globally.²

Men domestic workers comprise
63.4 per cent
of all domestic workers
while women make up
36.6 per cent



However, as a share of overall female
employment, domestic work is very significant –

nearly one third of all women in
employment are domestic workers.

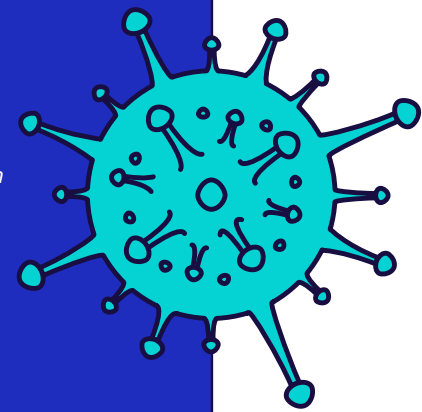


The vast majority of
domestic workers in the
Arab States are migrant
domestic workers, especially
in the Gulf Cooperation
Council countries (GCC).

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a
major decrease in the number of
domestic workers in a regular
situation in Lebanon and Jordan.

(suggesting either a decrease in workers and their departure
from the country or an increase in the number of workers with
irregular status).

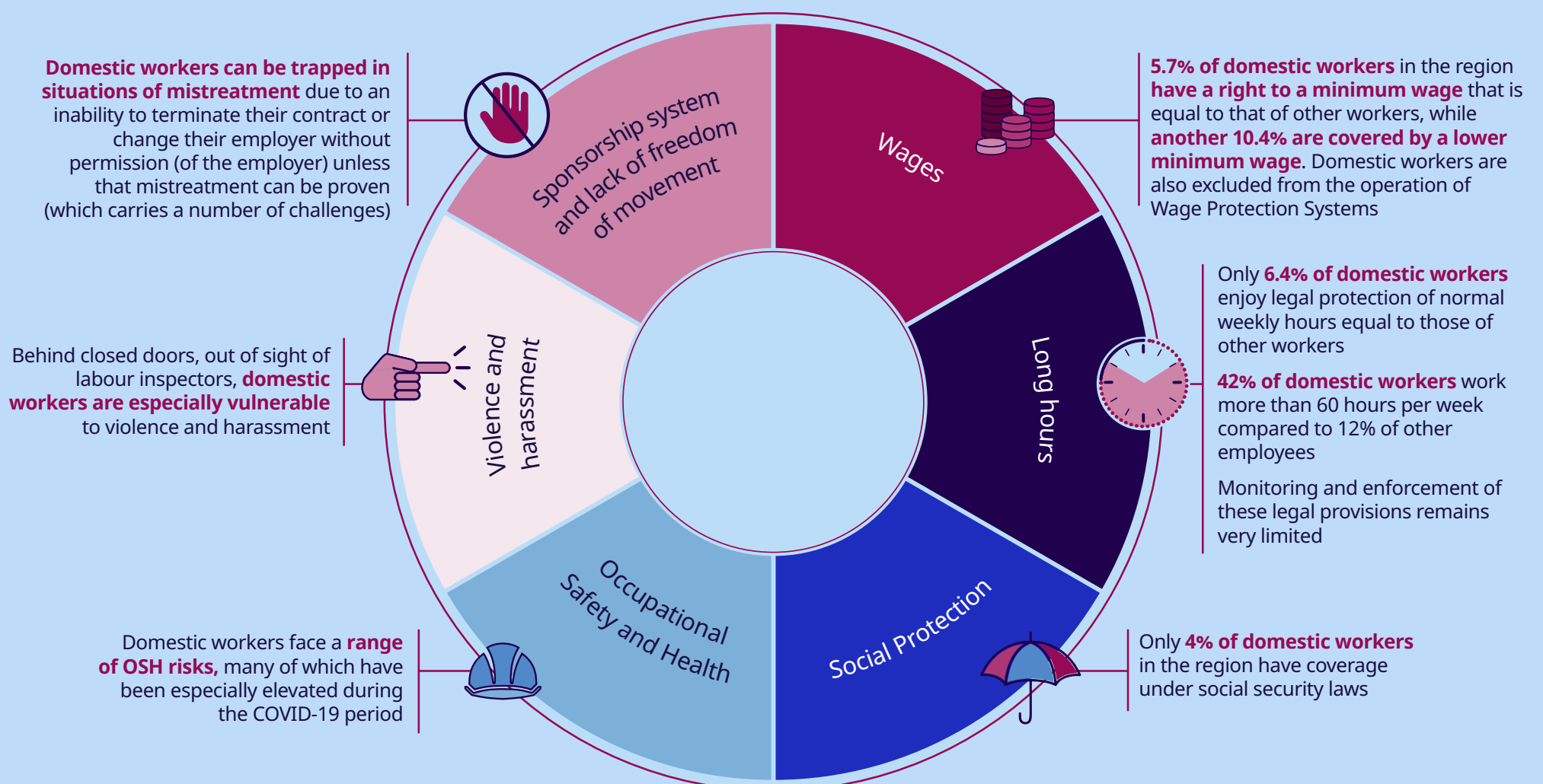
But in many GCC countries,
the decrease has been small,
indicating the indispensability
of domestic workers.



Ten years after the adoption of the **ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)**, many domestic workers in the Arab States have acquired the legal right to a **weekly day of rest, some limits on normal working hours** (or at least a minimum period of rest each day) and **paid annual leave**, though on terms less favourable than other workers in the labour market.

Very few domestic workers in the region are, however, legally entitled to a **minimum wage, social security** and **other protections** offered to workers under the Labour Law.

Combined with poor enforcement of existing protections, this leads to numerous challenges:



Ten years after all Arab States voted in favour of the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention (though none have ratified to date), **now** is the time to ensure that domestic workers are afforded adequate labour and social security protection, on par with all other workers, and that robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms allow domestic workers actual enjoyment of their rights.

¹ Data based on the Making decent work a reality for domestic workers: Progress and prospects ten years after the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),

² This estimate includes live-in and live-out domestic workers employed directly by a household(s), domestic workers employed through a service provider; and also includes domestic workers who provide direct and indirect care services.