

# Sudan

*Women, Business and the Law 2023* (WBL2023) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Khartoum). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Sudan scores 29.4 out of 100**. The overall score for Sudan is lower than the regional average observed across Sub-Saharan Africa (72.6). Within the Sub-Saharan Africa region, the maximum score observed is 95 (Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon).

## Sudan - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2023



## Relative Strengths

When it comes to laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Sudan gets a perfect score.

## Areas for Improvement

However, when it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, laws affecting women's work after having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, and gender differences in property and inheritance, Sudan could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Sudan is on the indicator measuring constraints on freedom of movement (the WBL2023 Mobility indicator). To improve on the Mobility indicator, Sudan may wish to consider allowing women to choose where to live in the same way as men, allowing a married woman to leave the home without her husband's permission, allowing women to apply for a passport in the same way as men, and allowing women to travel abroad in the same way as men.

## Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2021 – October 1st, 2022).



Further data details for Sudan are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreconomies/sudan/2023>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	No	Muslim Personal Status Act of 1991, Arts. 75(a) and 78
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	No	Muslim Personal Status Act of 1991, Art. 75(b)
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	No	Passports and Immigration Act, Art. 7; Passport Application Form
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	No	Muslim Personal Status Act of 1991, Art. 75(e)
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	No	Muslim Personal Status Act of 1991, Art. 75(d)
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	No	<i>Criminal:</i> No applicable provisions could be located <i>Civil:</i> No applicable provisions could be located
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	No	Labour Code, Art. 20
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	No	Labour Code, Art. 19
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	Labour Code, Art. 19
Marriage	Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	No	Muslim Personal Status Act of 1991, Arts. 91-95
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	No	Civil Registration Act 2001, Art. 3
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	No	Muslim Personal Status Act of 1991, Arts. 132 and 174
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	No	Muslim Personal Status Law of 1991, Art. 207
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	Labour Code, Art. 46
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	Labour Code, Art. 46
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Labour Code, Art. 46(2)
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Assets	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Muslim Personal Status Law, Art. 51(3); Civil Transactions Law of 1984, Art. 22(1)
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	No	Muslim Personal Status Law of 1991, Arts. 359 and 378-380
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	No	Muslim Personal Status Law of 1991, Arts. 356 and 357
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Muslim Personal Status Law of 1991, Arts. 5(1) and 51(3)
Pension	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	No	Muslim Personal Status Law of 1991, Arts. 5(1)
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Pensions and Social Insurance Act, Sec. 73
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	Pensions and Social Insurance Act, Secs. 73(B) and 76(2)
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	Labour Code, Art. 50(1)(d)
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	Pensions and Social Insurance Act, Sec. 52