WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2023

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The eight *Women, Business and the Law* indicators

- **Mobility**
  - Examines constraints on freedom of movement

- **Pay**
  - Measures laws and regulations affecting women’s pay

- **Parenthood**
  - Examines laws affecting women’s work after having children

- **Assets**
  - Considers gender differences in property and inheritance

- **Workplace**
  - Analyzes laws affecting women’s decisions to work

- **Marriage**
  - Assesses legal constraints related to marriage

- **Entrepreneurship**
  - Analyzes constraints on women’s starting and running businesses

- **Pension**
  - Assesses laws affecting the size of a woman’s pension
With greater equality of opportunity, more women work and start businesses.

- More women working
- Higher wages
- More business
- Stronger economy
GLOBALLY, WOMEN HAVE JUST 3/4 OF THE LEGAL RIGHTS AFFORDED TO MEN

The global average score is 77.1 out of 100

Nearly 2.4 billion women out of working age still do not have the same legal rights as men
More than half of all reforms captured were implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa region by seven economies.
THE LARGEST GAPS ARE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA AND IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
The global average of the Women, Business and the Law score has improved by about two-thirds as a result of more than 2,000 reforms expanding women’s legal rights.

Only 14 economies have reached legal gender parity in 2022, progress has been uneven across regions and over time.

Progress across the areas measured has been uneven, with most reforms in Workplace and Parenthood.
Economies historically larger legal gender gaps are catching up, especially since 2000.

The catch-up effect has been happening across indicators, but the pace of progress has been uneven.
Drivers of Legal Reforms: Lessons from Case Studies

International legal mandates
Technical assistance
Civil society activism
Multi-stakeholder coalitions
Research and data

Legal reforms to protect women at home and at work in São Tomé and Príncipe

São Tomé and Príncipe: 2008 Law on Domestic and Family Violence
Learn more and take action at wbl.worldbank.org

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