



DATA UPDATE – Women, Business and the Law 2023

Iraq

Central Bank of Iraq

Women, Business and the Law – Iraq

1. Entrepreneurship

Comment received from Government:

On March 10th, 2022 the Central Bank of Iraq issued Circular No. 23/422 prohibiting gender-based discrimination in access to financial services including credit and loans. The circular is officially published on the Central Bank's website <https://cbi.iq/static/uploads/up/file-165624183820764.pdf>

This is a legally binding circular to all commercial banks and financial institutions as the Central Bank of Iraq is mandated to regulate the banking and financial sector. See chapter 1 of the Law on Central Bank <https://cbi.iq/static/uploads/up/file-158270647972226.pdf>

CBI is currently working on setting up indicators to track implementation of the circular which will be mandated to all commercial banks and financial institutions. The indicators will be published in an official circular upon completion.

Question impacted: Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?

Suggested data modification: Answer should be updated from No to Yes

Date of entry into force: 10/03/2022

Legal basis: Circular No. 23/422 <https://cbi.iq/static/uploads/up/file-165624183820764.pdf>

Response from *Women, Business and the Law* team:

The *Women, Business and the Law* team takes note of the issuance of the Central Bank of Iraq's Circular No. 23/2022. The team understands that Circular No. 23/2022 now prohibits discrimination in access to credit based on gender. The updated analysis will be reflected in the upcoming *Women, Business and the Law* report.

Communications

For questions on this note, please contact:

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