



WBL Methodology Workshop



Tracking laws and reforms

Shaping women's economic opportunities globally for +15 years

ORIGIN STORY

Demand from IFC and World Bank teams for data on women's legal rights—to uncover barriers to women's entrepreneurship and access to credit—led to the creation of Women, Business and the Law (WBL) in 2008.

WBL TODAY

FLAGSHIP REPORT: Annual flagship report benchmarks 190 economies across 10 topics—now includes safety, childcare, and implementation of laws (2024)

Legal Database: Tracks legal changes since 1970 with a global historical database on the evolution of women's economic rights

Research: How do legal reforms happen, what drives them, and what is their impact?

Dissemination: Share data and insights widely to boost real-world impact



**WBL's New
Methodology
Handbook**

Informed 50+ WB operations since 2015

EVIDENCE BASED REFORMS

In 2024, WBL data supported:

7 Newly Approved Lending Operations

2 Operational Advisory Services

MENA Regional Gender Action Plan

E.G.: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

WBL findings influenced reforms to allow married women to register businesses and access loans independently.



GLOBAL INFLUENCE

+1.2M Report Downloads (2010-24)

In 2024:

+20,000 Stakeholders Engaged

+1,700 Media Citations (Reuters, BBC, The Guardian +)

+100 International Events

E.G.: AZERBAIJAN

WBL findings helped repeal restrictions for women to work in +670 jobs.

Engagement with governments

01

Completion of topic questionnaires

02

Methodology workshops and webinars

03

Joint dissemination events

04

Bilateral meetings

What's next for *Women, Business and the Law*

Expanding the dataset



Implementation



Subnational WBL

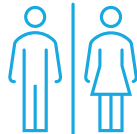


De facto data on outcomes



Women's Health

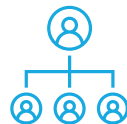
Building more evidence



Social Norms



Climate



Entrepreneurship



Taxes & Trade

Growing engagement



Global



Regional



Country Workshops



Thematic

Increasing partnerships for greater impact

Partnerships turn data into outcomes

Partnerships Research Stream's

Subnational Data: ECA GIL and WBL will collaborate to collect subnational data (based on Nigeria experience).

Joint Research Initiatives: AFR GIL and WBL jointly produce new knowledge to inform policy reforms within the region.

Regional and Country-Specific Deep Dives: WBL offers cross-support for in-depth country analyses and regional gender action plans, identifying reform entry points.

Gallup Survey Insights: Integrating opinion data from 3 countries to inform policies.



Complete list of WBL's global partners:
https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/engagement_global

We must act together to empower women worldwide



READ AND SHARE THE REPORT

Visit wbl.worldbank.org to read – and share – the *Women, Business and the Law 2024* report, data and insights.

USE THE DATA

Researchers, think tanks, and development partners can use the data to identify key gaps and areas of opportunity for reforms and to advance the gender equality research agenda.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Governments can lead by example by reforming discriminatory laws, establishing specialized departments and ministries, collecting sex-disaggregated data to inform policy design, investing in gender mainstreaming at all levels, and promoting gender diversity in leadership.

BE THE VOICE OF CHANGE

Everyone can advocate for gender equality and reforms of laws, policies and practices by using data and evidence.

Learn more & take action @ WBL.WORLDBANK.ORG



Key Resources for Partners

[Economy scores snapshots](#)

[Reforms database](#) and historic overview 1971-2024

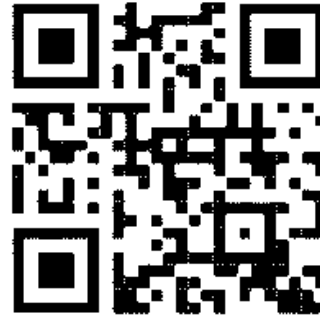
[Blogs and country case studies](#)
(DRC, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo)

[Regional profiles and economic research](#)





WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW



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Government of Iceland
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

 **Norway**

Gates Foundation

