

## Government Focal Points for *Women, Business, and the Law* Project (World Bank)

### Overview

The World Bank Group's *Women, Business and the Law* (WBL) project provides unique and comparable data on laws, policies, and the perceptions of their enforcement, to measure how they affect women's economic opportunities and private sector development in 190 economies. An index, structured around ten topics encompassing various stages of a woman's working life, allows benchmarking across covered economies. The ten topics are: Safety, Mobility, Work, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Childcare, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.

Data are collected through questionnaires administered to experts from the private and public sector on three topics: family law and access to finance, labor law and childcare services, and violence against women legislation.

To streamline the collection of data from the public sector, at the beginning of the WBL data collection cycle (April 2025), the WBL Team identifies government "Focal Points" in coordination with the Executive Directors. Focal Points are chosen among government officials from agencies or ministries handling WBL topics.

The Focal Points are invited to nominate government representatives to complete the three WBL topic questionnaires. Generally, the appropriate government experts are from the following ministries or departments:

- Family law and access to finance: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Development, Department of Civil Affairs, etc.
- Labor law and childcare services: Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Social Protection, Department of Workforce Development.
- Violence against women (VAW) legislation: Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Gender Equality, Ministry of Justice, Department of Social Services.

WBL topic questionnaires sent to government representatives include questions on legal and policy frameworks and do not include questions on the perception of their enforcement. Government representatives are invited to complete the questionnaires within the indicated timeline.

Focal Points will be responsible for **coordinating responses to and submission of WBL questionnaires**. WBL will use the responses from government representatives for data validation purposes only. The contributions from relevant line ministries or agencies will be acknowledged on the WBL [website](#).

Focal Points have several **opportunities to engage with the WBL team**. First, they are invited to **participate in events**, networking opportunities, workshops, webinars, and potential speaking engagements focusing on how enhancing women's economic opportunities can drive global economic growth and prosperity.

Second, Focal Points may request bilateral meetings on data and methodology by completing an online [form](#). Bilateral meetings may include:

- Bilateral Overview Meeting designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the project and facilitate in-depth discussions on project-specific matters, such as fundraising initiatives and the organization or participation in events.
- Bilateral Meeting on Methodology and Data Queries designed to focus on methodological questions and the presentation of economy or region-specific data queries. No presentation of the methodology will take place during these sessions.
- Bilateral Methodology Workshop designed to provide in-depth methodology training for governments. This workshop must be funded by the relevant CMUs, advisory teams, or other WB Colleagues.

Third, Focal Points will be invited to attend **methodology workshops** conducted by the WBL team to enhance understanding of WBL indicators and improve the ability to apply WBL methodologies and scoring in various contexts. Workshops will generally be held in hybrid format (in-person at the World Bank Headquarters and virtual). The first workshop is scheduled for **May 19-21, 2025**, and conducted in English with simultaneous translations into Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Further information regarding the workshops will be published on the WBL [website](#). Additional regional and country-specific workshops may also be organized upon request from governments and WBG colleagues.