






BENIN GENDER LANDSCAPE

Gender data helps to inform smart development policy. This briefing provides key indicators for Benin which help in monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. The arrows indicate longer term progress on outcomes from a base year, while the color coded elements compare the latest gender data in Benin with its regional peers.

Click the measures below to explore the [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#).

| Compared to: | Base Year | Region |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| >10% Higher Value | ↗ |  |
| Equal/No Change | → |  |
| >10% Lower Value | ↘ |  |
| No Data | --- | |

| | | Country Performance | | | | | Peer Comparison | | |
|--|--------|---------------------|------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------------|-------|------|
| | | Baseline | | Latest | | Latest | | | |
| | | Value | Year | Value | Year | SSA | LMC | World | |
| HUMAN ENDOWMENTS | | | | | | | | | |
| Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling | Female | 4.49 | 2010 | ↗ | 5.42 | 2020 | NA | NA | NA |
| | Male | 5.44 | 2010 | → | 5.90 | 2020 | NA | NA | NA |
| Literacy rate (% 15+) | Female | 18.4 | 2006 | ↗ | 35.0 | 2021 | 60.9 | 72.9 | 83.5 |
| | Male | 40.6 | 2006 | ↗ | 56.9 | 2021 | 73.8 | 84.5 | 90.2 |
| Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group) | Female | 28.5 | 2011 | ↗ | 34.9 | 2021 | 43.0 | 77.3 | 78.0 |
| | Male | 46.1 | 2011 | ↘ | 38.7 | 2021 | 46.1 | 74.6 | 77.0 |
| Fertility rate, total (births per woman) | | 5.37 | 2011 | → | 4.97 | 2021 | 4.60 | 2.63 | 2.27 |
| Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19) | | 93.7 | 2011 | → | 92.3 | 2021 | 100.0 | 44.5 | 42.5 |
| Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births) | | 615 | 2011 | ↘ | 523 | 2020 | 536 | 255 | 223 |
| Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women) | | 60.5 | 2006 | ↘ | 52.1 | 2018 | 53.8 | 59.5 | 65.4 |
| Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49) | | 27.3 | 2006 | ↗ | 32.3 | 2018 | 21.5 | 13.5 | NA |
| Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%) | Female | 21.8 | 2011 | → | 21.0 | 2019 | 20.1 | 18.9 | 14.8 |
| | Male | 26.9 | 2011 | → | 24.5 | 2019 | 22.8 | 25.0 | 21.7 |
| ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate) | Female | 69.6 | 2011 | ↘ | 56.3 | 2022 | 60.9 | 33.4 | 47.3 |
| | Male | 74.3 | 2011 | → | 69.0 | 2022 | 72.7 | 73.3 | 72.5 |
| Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate) | Female | 4.61 | 2011 | → | 4.49 | 2021 | 17.4 | 30.9 | 54.3 |
| | Male | 15.2 | 2011 | → | 15.7 | 2021 | 28.7 | 36.3 | 52.9 |
| Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate) | Female | 36.1 | 2011 | ↘ | 13.1 | 2021 | 51.6 | 44.5 | 25.3 |
| | Male | 50.8 | 2011 | ↘ | 40.5 | 2021 | 51.5 | 35.6 | 27.2 |
| Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population) | Female | 23.2 | 2011 | ↗ | 40.7 | 2018 | NA | 41.7 | NA |
| | Male | 10.9 | 2011 | ↗ | 29.0 | 2018 | NA | 14.3 | NA |
| Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population) | | 87.7 | 2011 | → | 83.5 | 2022 | 82.1 | 56.5 | 55.2 |
| Women who own land both alone and jointly (% of women 15-49) | | NA | NA | --- | 1.00 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |
| Men who own land alone (% of men) | | NA | NA | --- | 30.8 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |
| Financial institution account (% 15+) | Female | 9.81 | 2011 | ↗ | 17.5 | 2021 | 33.8 | 55.6 | 71.9 |
| | Male | 11.2 | 2011 | ↗ | 30.6 | 2021 | 45.9 | 61.3 | 76.0 |
| Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+) | Female | NA | NA | --- | 13.3 | 2017 | 10.8 | 7.17 | 5.27 |
| | Male | NA | NA | --- | 16.1 | 2017 | 12.4 | 9.36 | 7.58 |
| Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms) | | 45.4 | 2009 | ↘ | 36.7 | 2016 | 28.1 | 32.5 | 33.3 |
| VOICE AND AGENCY | | | | | | | | | |
| Firms with female top manager (% of firms) | | 26.9 | 2009 | → | 25.9 | 2016 | 16.2 | 19.2 | 17.9 |
| Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%) | | 8.43 | 2011 | ↘ | 7.41 | 2022 | 26.3 | 21.8 | 26.5 |
| Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24) | | 34.4 | 2006 | ↘ | 30.6 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |
| Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49) | | NA | NA | --- | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %) | | 46.5 | 2006 | ↘ | 31.8 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |

Note: The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region includes 48 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Benin is a lower middle income (LMC) country, which includes 54 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,136 to \$4,465 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#). Data is as of September 14, 2023.

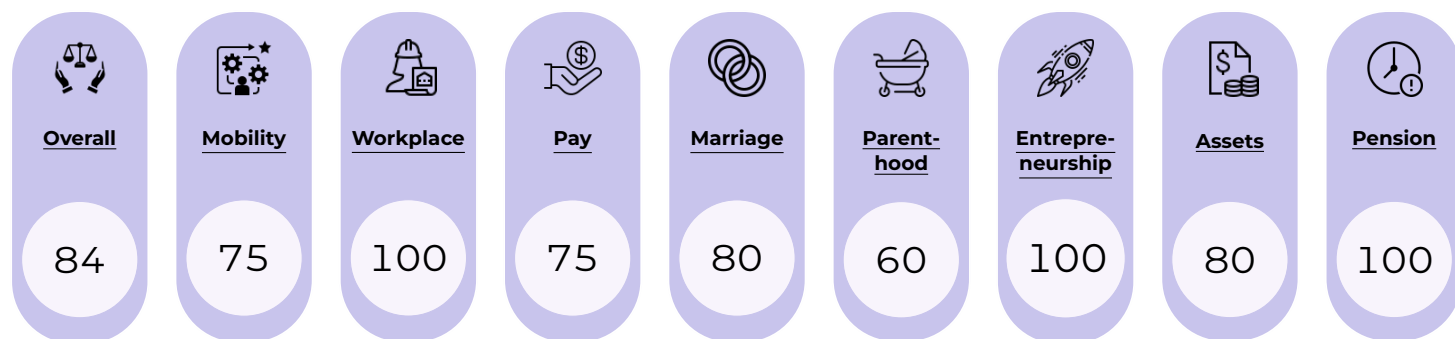
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2011. Latest Value shows the latest available value from 2012 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer Comparison shows how Benin performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Color coding represents values 10 percent above or below its peers in the region.



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Women, Business and the Law in Benin

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Benin scores 84 out of 100**, while the regional average across Sub-Saharan Africa is 73.



A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Benin

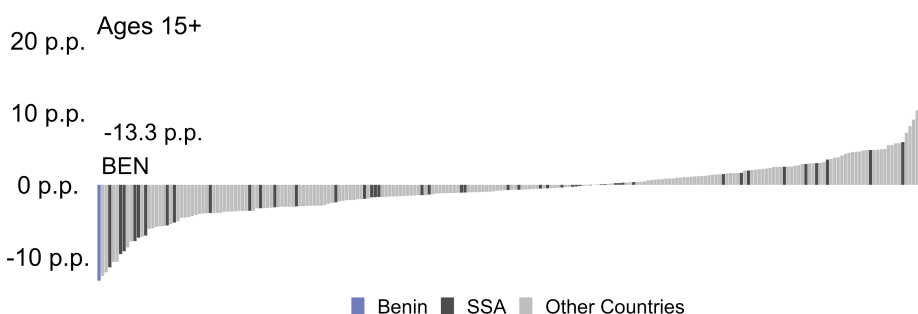
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)



Unpacking the Numbers in Benin

40 percent

A girl born today will be 40 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

1 in 5

20 percent of women 15 to 19 years old have had children or are currently pregnant **(2018)**

9.2 percent

9.2 percent of women ages 15 to 49 experienced female genital mutilation in their lifetime **(2014)**

17 in 50

34 percent of women do not make sole or joint decisions to visit family and friends **(2018)**

1 in 100

1 percent of women own more than one plot of land **(2018)**

LEARN MORE

The World Bank in Gender: This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.

Women, Business and the Law: This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.

World Bank Gender Strategy (2024-30): This page summarizes research and evidence feeding into WBG's new gender strategy.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

AFR Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.



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