



# MAURITANIA GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Mauritania on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains, minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

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           |      |      |
| <b>Foundational Well-being: End Gender-Based Violence and Elevate Human Capital</b>   |                     |      |        |             |             |      |                 |      |      |
| Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever partnered women ages 15-49) | NA                  | NA   | ---    | <b>NA</b>   | NA          | 20.3 | 16.9            | NA   |      |
| Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)   | 37.2                | 2001 | →      | <b>36.6</b> | 2021        | NA   | NA              | NA   |      |
| Learning poverty: Share of children at the end-of-primary age below minimum reading proficiency (%)                           | Female              | NA   | NA     | ---         | <b>NA</b>   | NA   | 85.9            | 57.9 | 50.0 |
|   | Male                | NA   | NA     | ---         | <b>NA</b>   | NA   | 86.8            | 61.3 | 53.7 |
| Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)   | Female              | 14.0 | 2009   | ↗           | <b>41.7</b> | 2019 | 43.3            | 73.9 | 77.0 |
|   | Male                | 17.6 | 2009   | ↗           | <b>45.7</b> | 2019 | 46.4            | 72.3 | 76.3 |
| Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%)  | NA                  | NA   | ---    | <b>28.9</b> | 2017        | NA   | NA              | NA   |      |
| Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)  | 90.7                | 2011 | ↘      | <b>78.0</b> | 2021        | 100  | 44.5            | 42.5 |      |
| Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)   | 566                 | 2011 | ↘      | <b>464</b>  | 2020        | 536  | 255             | 223  |      |
| Contraceptive prevalence, any modern method (% of married women 15-49)  | 10.0                | 2011 | ↗      | <b>12.8</b> | 2021        | 28.6 | 47.2            | 55.7 |      |
| Fraction of children under 5 not stunted  | Female              | 0.72 | 2010   | ↗           | <b>0.80</b> | 2020 | NA              | NA   | NA   |
|   | Male                | 0.69 | 2010   | →           | <b>0.74</b> | 2020 | NA              | NA   | NA   |
| Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)                  | Female              | 18.4 | 2011   | →           | <b>18.0</b> | 2019 | 20.1            | 18.9 | 14.8 |
|   | Male                | 13.0 | 2011   | →           | <b>13.9</b> | 2019 | 22.8            | 25.0 | 21.7 |
| <b>Economic Participation: Expand and Enable Economic Opportunities</b>   |                     |      |        |             |             |      |                 |      |      |
| Labor force participation rate (% 15+)  | Female              | 27.4 | 2011   | →           | <b>26.2</b> | 2022 | 60.5            | 35.2 | 47.8 |
|   | Male                | 61.4 | 2011   | →           | <b>57.2</b> | 2022 | 72.8            | 74.3 | 72.9 |
| Wage and salaried workers (% of employment)   | Female              | 29.9 | 2011   | ↘           | <b>18.5</b> | 2022 | 17.9            | 28.6 | 53.1 |
|   | Male                | 49.9 | 2011   | ↘           | <b>30.9</b> | 2022 | 25.9            | 34.9 | 51.3 |
| Employment in agriculture (% of employment)   | Female              | 27.5 | 2011   | →           | <b>29.3</b> | 2022 | 51.6            | 46.8 | 25.6 |
|   | Male                | 41.7 | 2011   | ↘           | <b>34.8</b> | 2022 | 51.8            | 34.9 | 26.9 |
| Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)   | Female              | NA   | NA     | ---         | <b>54.8</b> | 2019 | NA              | 36.8 | NA   |
|   | Male                | NA   | NA     | ---         | <b>32.0</b> | 2019 | NA              | 11.1 | NA   |
| Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)  | 89.4                | 2011 | →      | <b>81.3</b> | 2022        | 82.1 | 56.5            | 55.2 |      |
| Women who do not own land (% of women 15-49)  | NA                  | NA   | ---    | <b>94.2</b> | 2021        | NA   | NA              | NA   |      |
| Men who do not own land (% of men)  | NA                  | NA   | ---    | <b>77.4</b> | 2021        | NA   | NA              | NA   |      |
| Financial institution account (% 15+)   | Female              | 12.1 | 2011   | →           | <b>13.1</b> | 2022 | 33.8            | 55.6 | 71.9 |
|   | Male                | 23.3 | 2011   | ↗           | <b>28.4</b> | 2022 | 45.9            | 61.3 | 76.0 |
| Used a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills (% 15+)  | Female              | NA   | NA     | ---         | <b>6.38</b> | 2022 | 14.1            | 8.43 | 31.8 |
|   | Male                | NA   | NA     | ---         | <b>12.1</b> | 2022 | 19.4            | 14.8 | 37.0 |
| Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)  | NA                  | NA   | ---    | <b>NA</b>   | NA          | NA   | NA              | NA   |      |
| <b>Leadership: Engage Women as Leaders</b>  |                     |      |        |             |             |      |                 |      |      |
| Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)   | 17.3                | 2006 | ↘      | <b>15.0</b> | 2014        | 28.1 | 32.5            | 33.3 |      |
| Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)   | 22.1                | 2011 | →      | <b>20.3</b> | 2022        | 26.3 | 21.8            | 26.5 |      |
| Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%)  | 23.1                | 2010 | ↘      | <b>13.6</b> | 2022        | 23.9 | 18.0            | 22.8 |      |
| Women participating in decisions related to health care, purchases, and visiting family (% of women age 15-49)                | NA                  | NA   | ---    | <b>55.1</b> | 2021        | NA   | NA              | NA   |      |

Note: The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region includes 48 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Mauritania 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 March 17, 2024.

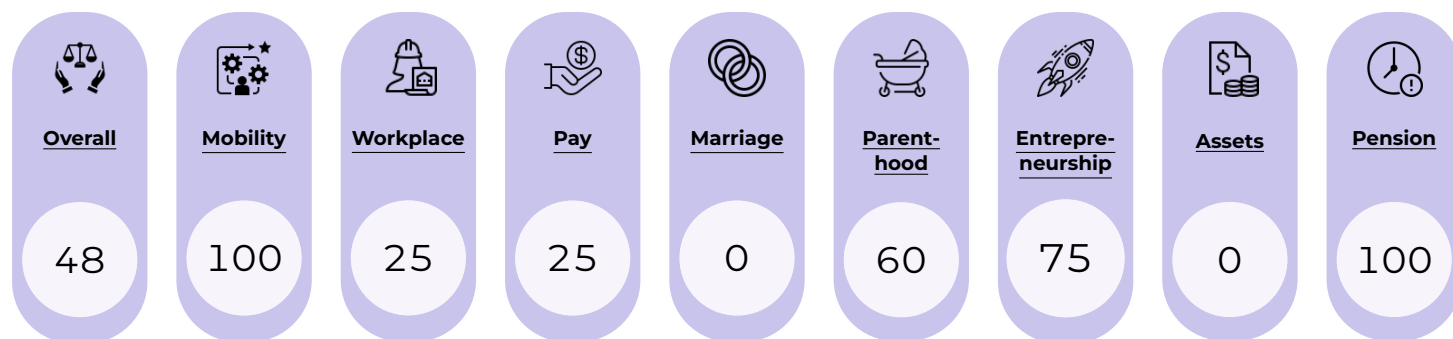
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2011. Latest Value shows the latest available value from 2012 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer Comparison shows how Mauritania performs relative to its peers in the region, 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 Mauritania

**Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2023** presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Mauritania scores 48 out of 100**, while the regional average across Sub-Saharan Africa is 74.



## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Mauritania

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.

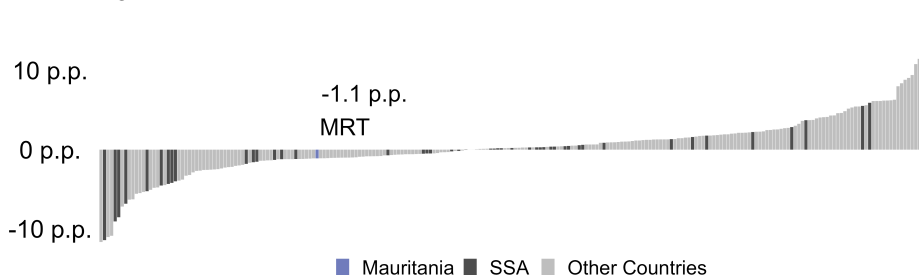
### Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



### Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2012-2022 (p.p.)

Ages 15+



## Unpacking the Numbers in Mauritania

**39 percent**

A girl born today will be 39 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

**9 in 50**

18 percent of women 15 to 19 years old have had children or are currently pregnant **(2021)**

**64 percent**

64 percent of women ages 15 to 49 experienced female genital mutilation in their lifetime **(2021)**

**27 in 100**

27 percent of surveyed women find it justifiable for a man to beat his wife for any reason **(2021)**

**47 in 50**

94 percent of women do not own any land registered under their name **(2021)**

## 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 (2024-2030):** The new Strategy puts forward the bold ambition to accelerate gender equality for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future.

**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.

