Foundational Well-being: End Gender-Based Violence and Elevate Human Capital

Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever partnered women ages 15-49)

Baseline Value: NA, Year: NA, Peer Comparison: 18.0, Year: 2018, Compared to: >10% Higher Value

Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)

Baseline Value: 34.4, Year: 2009, Peer Comparison: 28.0, Year: 2019

Learning poverty: Share of children at the end-of-primary age below minimum reading proficiency (%)

Baseline Value: Female 49.2, Year: 2011, Male 38.2, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: Female 79.9, Year: 2017, Male 69.6, Year: 2017

Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)

Baseline Value: Female 43.3, Year: 2011, Male 46.4, Year: 2021

Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%)

Baseline Value: 35.2, Year: 2011, Male 51.3, Year: 2022

Contraceptive prevalence, any modern method (% of married women 15-49)

Baseline Value: 33.7, Year: 2009, Peer Comparison: 46.0, Year: 2019

Economic Participation: Expand and Enable Economic Opportunities

Labor force participation rate (% 15+)

Baseline Value: Female 37.4, Year: 2011, Male 71.6, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: Female 37.6, Year: 2022, Male 70.4, Year: 2022

Wage and salaried workers (% of employment)

Baseline Value: Female 25.1, Year: 2011, Male 45.5, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: Female 32.1, Year: 2022, Male 48.6, Year: 2022

Employment in agriculture (% of employment)

Baseline Value: Female 12.5, Year: 2011, Male 26.3, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: Female 10.9, Year: 2022, Male 20.1, Year: 2022

Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)

Baseline Value: Female NA, Year: NA, Male NA, Year: NA, Peer Comparison: Female NA, Year: NA, Male NA, Year: NA

Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)

Baseline Value: 84.0, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: 76.2, Year: 2022

Women who do not own land (% of women 15-49)

Baseline Value: NA, Year: NA, Peer Comparison: NA, Year: NA

Men who do not own land (% of men)

Baseline Value: NA, Year: NA, Peer Comparison: NA, Year: NA

Financial institution account (% 15+)

Baseline Value: Female 33.8, Year: 2011, Male 45.9, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: Female 33.8, Year: 2022, Male 55.6, Year: 2022

Used a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills (% 15+)


Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)

Baseline Value: NA, Year: NA, Peer Comparison: NA, Year: NA

Leadership: Engage Women as Leaders

Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)

Baseline Value: NA, Year: NA, Peer Comparison: NA, Year: NA

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)

Baseline Value: 18.2, Year: 2011, Peer Comparison: 14.5, Year: 2022

Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%)

Baseline Value: 38.5, Year: 2010, Peer Comparison: 36.4, Year: 2022

Women participating in decisions related to health care, purchases, and visiting family (% of women age 15-49)

Baseline Value: 46.9, Year: 2009, Peer Comparison: NA, Year: NA

Note: The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region includes 48 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Sao Tome and Principe 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 Sao Tome and Principe 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.
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. Sao Tome and Principe scores 83 out of 100, while the regional average across Sub-Saharan Africa is 74.

A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Sao Tome and Principe

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.

Unpacking the Numbers in Sao Tome and Principe

1 in 20

5.4 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 15 (2019)

18 percent

18 percent of women were subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months (2018)

5.9 times

Men hold 5.9 times as many seats in the national parliament as women (2022)

67 in 100

67 in 100 women ages 15 to 49 are in positions of vulnerable employment (2022)

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 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.