

BOLIVIA COUNTRY GENDER SCORECARD

December 2021



BOLIVIA



- Bolivia has made significant strides towards gender equality, especially in terms of education and political representation.** Between 1990 and 2015, the country signed, ratified, and incorporated different international treaties to the national legislation to guarantee equality between men and women. In 2009, it approved a parity law to increase women's political representation (WB, 2018). Today, women hold 49% of the Congress seats. Gender gaps in education narrowed substantially and gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary school enrollment (World Bank's "Gender Gaps in Bolivia: an Overview, 2018": WB, 2018).
- Despite these efforts and advances towards gender equality, significant challenges persist, particularly in terms of women's health and gender-based violence.** Maternal mortality is among the highest in the region and only 72% of births are attended by a skilled health staff. Access to sexual and reproductive health is low and teenage pregnancy is higher than the regional average –a rate of 63 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Gender-based violence is persistent and affects half of the women in the country: 1 out of 2 women report having suffered physical violence from a partner (WB, 2018).
- Bolivia also lags peer nations in terms of women's labor force participation.** In 2019, only 63.7% of women worked or were actively looking for a job, compared to the 80.6% of men. Women were also disproportionately represented among the unemployed and underemployed population.
- Indigenous women often face the greatest disadvantages, weighed upon by the double constraints of ethnicity and gender.** Indigenous women have lower educational outcomes, higher maternal mortality rates, and face higher discrimination and violence. This is an important challenge, given that 50% of the population in Bolivia is Indigenous.
- The COVID-19 health and economic crises threatens to further widen these gender gaps.** The labor market impact of the crisis at its onset fell disproportionately on women, partly because they had a higher participation in sectors that are intensive in face-to-face interactions such as commerce (22% of employed women worked in this sector pre-pandemic compared to 11% of men), social and personal services (18% of women vs. 7% of men), and hotels and restaurants (11% of women vs. 2% of men). By June 2021, female under-employment remained well above its pre-pandemic level (at 11% for urban women workers compared to 5% for men workers). Similarly, women continue to be overrepresented among those who have lost jobs and have moved into informal activities. In May 2021, 20% of women reported to have lost their pre-pandemic jobs compared to 7% of men, and 11% of women formal workers became informal (8% for men) (preliminary data from the World Bank High Frequency Survey 2021, HFS).
- Recent data also show that COVID-19 is intensifying women's workload at home.** A pre-pandemic study by Canelas and Salazar (2014) showed that women in Bolivia spend 4 times more in domestic tasks than men. In 2021, women reported an increase in the amount of time dedicated to various unpaid domestic tasks: 26% in housework, 33% in childcare work, 54% in schoolwork help, and 13% in elderly care. These increases are on average 5 percentage points higher than those experienced by men (HFS). On the health side, Bolivian women have lower rates of vaccination than men (2 p.p. lower), and report higher reluctance to vaccination due to perceptions about safety: 57% of women who do not want to get vaccinated believe that the vaccine is not safe, compared to 47% of men (HFS).

Country Performance¹



Human Endowments	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	LMC	YEAR
School enrollment, secondary, female (% net)	60.8	2000	77.0 ●	2018	79.1	2018	59.7	2018
School enrollment, secondary, male (% net)	64.0	2000	76.2 ●	2018	76.0	2018	60.1	2018
Lower secondary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)	77.6	2000	83.8 ●	2018	82.0	2019	75.0	2019
Lower secondary completion rate, male (% of relevant age group)	82.8	2000	82.4 ●	2018	77.3	2019	72.6	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, female (% gross)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	59.7	2019	25.0	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, male (% gross)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45.9	2019	23.4	2019
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes (%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, females (% of female youth population) ²	2.2	2000	16.1 ●	2019	27.4	2019	42.5	2018
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, males (% of male youth population)	1.2	2000	4.3 ●	2019	14.6	2019	13.8	2018
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled est. per 100,000 births)	331.0	2000	155.0 ●	2017	74.0	2017	253.0	2017
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	67.3	2000	71.5 ●	2018	93.8	2018	75.2	2018
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)	0.1	2000	0.1	2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Prevalence of HIV, male (% ages 15-24)	0.1	2000	0.1	2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Contraceptive prevalence, any methods (% of women ages 15-49)	53.4	2000	66.5	2016	n.a.	n.a.	50.2	2017
Economic Opportunity	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	LMC	YEAR
Labor force participation, female (% of female population 15+) ◇	59.5	2000	63.7 ●	2019	52.5	2019	35.0	2019
Labor force participation, male (% of male population 15+) ◇	82.1	2000	80.6 ●	2019	76.7	2019	76.0	2019
Account at a financial institution, female (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	53.9 ●	2017	52.0	2017	53.0	2017
Account at a financial institution, male (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	55.0 ●	2017	58.6	2017	62.7	2017
Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment) ◇	73.6	2000	68.8 ●	2019	33.8	2019	65.3	2019
Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment) ◇	60.7	2000	58.9 ●	2019	33.4	2019	58.9	2019
Voice and Agency	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	LMC	YEAR
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)	25.8	2003	19.7	2016	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women, ages 15-19)	86.5	2000	62.9 ●	2019	61.2	2019	42.1	2019
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	11.5	2000	46.2 ●	2020	32.8	2020	21.8	2020
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)	n.a.	n.a.	26.3 ●	2017	20.1	2020	20.0	2020
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of women 15-49)	n.a.	n.a.	27.1	2016	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Sources: World Bank World Development Indicators, World Bank Gender Statistics, and World Health Organization. Country Baseline provides a reference point for the indicator. Circa 2000

LAC = Includes the 42 countries (all income levels) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as classified by The World Bank Group

LMC = In FY21, lower-middle-income countries are those with a GNI per capita between \$1,306 and \$4,045 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method)

◇ Modeled ILO estimate

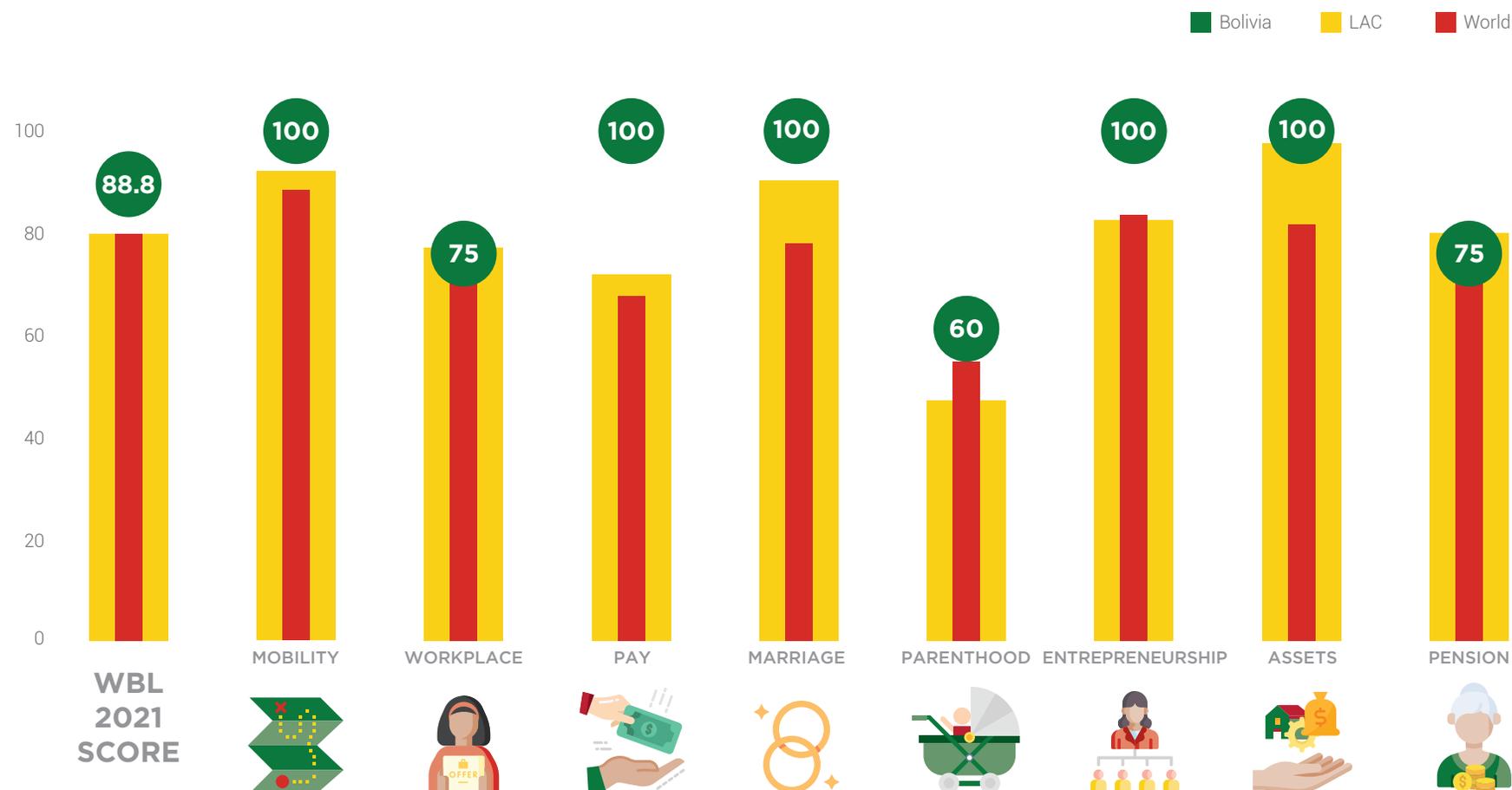
1. The scorecard shows the latest country data available and comparisons of country performance with the LAC region and the country's income-level group in the same or similar year. The country performance is scored relative to the comparison groups using a Traffic Light System: **green** ● if the country performs better than the two comparison groups (LAC and the similar-income group); **yellow** ● if the country performs better than one comparison group; **red** ● if both comparison groups perform better than the country. N/A means lack of data. No color indicates that comparisons cannot be made. This scorecard features available sex-disaggregated data (men/women).

2. Share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) is the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment, or training to the population of the corresponding age group: youth (ages 15 to 24); persons ages 15 to 29; or both age groups. When data are available for more than two age groups in a given year, one value for persons ages 15 to 29 is taken, considering that not all people complete their education by the age of 24. World Development Indicators.

Gender Equality in the Law

The Women Business and the Law index³ score presents the share of good laws in the economy and it is structured around a woman's working life

Bolivia - Latin America & Caribbean - World Comparison (2021)



3. Thirty-five data points are scored across eight indicators composed of four or five binary questions, with each indicator representing a different phase of a woman's life. Indicator-level scores are obtained by calculating the unweighted average of responses to the questions within that indicator and scaling the result to 100. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score, meaning that the country gives women and men equal legal rights in the measured areas. Source: [WBL 2021](#).

Gender Equality in the Law

In total, 35 questions are scored across the eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score.

Topic	Question	Answer	Indicator Score
MOBILITY 	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	100
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	
WORKPLACE 	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	75
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	No	
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	
PAY 	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	100
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	
MARRIAGE 	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	100
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	
PARENTHOOD 	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	60
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	
ENTREPRENEURSHIP 	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	Yes	100
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as a man?	Yes	
ASSETS 	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	100
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	
PENSION 	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	No	75
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	
WBL 2021 Index Score			88.8

Click on the links below for more information



Interventions to close Gender Gaps

Human endowments

- [Facilitating school-to-work transition](#)
- [Attracting more women into STEM fields](#)
- [Reducing boys' school dropout and helping boys at risk](#)

Economic opportunity

- [Expanding access to affordable and quality care](#)
- [Improving women's access to quality employment](#)
- [Improving the performance of women-owned firms](#)
- [Increasing women's ownership and control of productive assets](#)

Voice and agency

- [Preventing and addressing violence against women and girls](#)
- [Reducing teen pregnancy](#)

Project-Level Indicators to monitor progress in narrowing Gender Gaps

- [Illustrative progress indicators aligned with the LCR Gender Action Plan \(RGAP\) priority areas](#)

Useful resources

Legislative and regulatory framework

- [Bolivia 2-page snapshot of laws and regulations affecting women's economic opportunities \(2021\)](#)

Gender strategic framework

- [Gender Assessment - Gender Gaps in Bolivia: An Overview \(2018\)](#)
- [Bolivia Country Partnership Framework FY16-20](#)
- [Bolivia: Challenges and Constraints to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment \(2015\)](#)

Country-specific data and analysis

- [Why Rural Women Use—or Avoid—Maternal Health Services: Insights from a Qualitative Study in Bolivia - Report \(2020\)](#)
- [Bolivia Country Profile – Gender Equality Observatory, ECLAC](#)
- [Bolivia Fact Sheet – UN WOMEN](#)

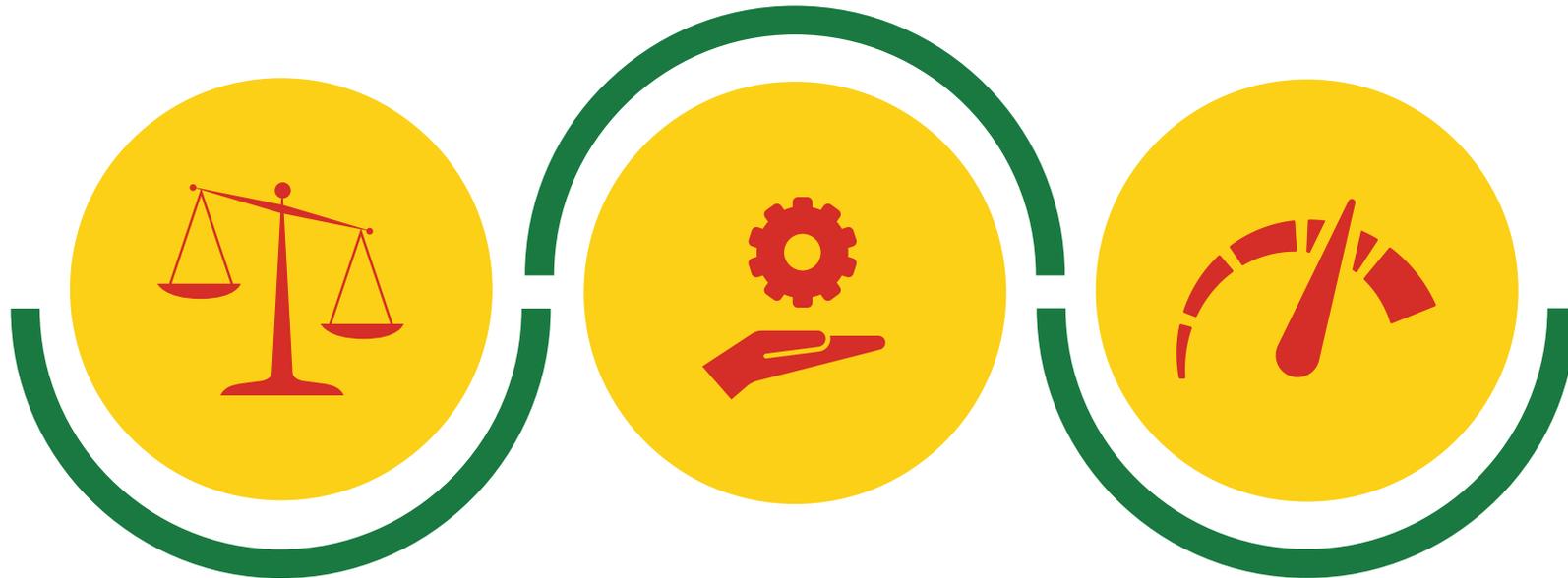
Evidence on what works to close gender gaps

- [LAC Gender Innovation Lab](#)
- [Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality](#)
- [IDB's Gender and Diversity Knowledge Initiative - GDLab](#)

IN ACTION: Integrating Gender into Project Design

Santa Cruz Road Corridor
Connector Project (San
Ignacio – San José)
(P152281)

Objective: To improve transport accessibility along the road corridor between San Ignacio de Velasco and San José de Chiquitos.



GAPS

- Labor influx may increase the risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and tuberculosis (TB) in the community.
- The lack of economic opportunity can force Ayoreo women into sex work. They may experience GBV and increase their exposure to STDs and TB.

ACTIONS

- Train all construction workers on contractor's code of conduct, GBV and STD prevention.
- Train Ayoreo volunteers to guide, report, and follow up health treatments and STD, TB prevention.

INDICATORS

- Construction workers trained on GBV and STD prevention.
- Ayoreo women and men trained on STD and TB prevention, working in their communities.