

COLOMBIA COUNTRY GENDER SCORECARD

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Poverty & Equity

The Regional Gender Coordination and the LAC Gender Innovation Lab (both in LAC Poverty and Equity) prepared this scorecard. For more information, please contact Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich (erubiano@worldbank.org) and Diana Galeano (dgaleano@worldbank.org).

COLOMBIA



- Colombia has made progress towards gender equality in health and education over the past decades, but significant challenges remain in access to economic opportunities.** Maternal mortality has dropped substantially, from 118 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 64 in 2015. This is largely explained by improvements in access to prenatal care and skilled facility-based delivery. Adolescent fertility dropped from 80 to 50 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years old over the same period.¹ Gender gaps in education have also narrowed, but differences to the detriment of boys are observed at different levels.
- Despite improvements in educational attainment, Colombian women do not have the same access to economic opportunities as men.** With only 56% of women in the workforce (compared to 80% of men in 2019), Colombia still trails some countries of the region in
- terms of female labor force participation. This is partly due to the disproportionate responsibility they have for unpaid domestic and care work.² When women do participate, their jobs tend to be of low quality and poorly paid. Importantly, Indigenous and Afro descendant women often face the greatest disadvantages, weighed upon by the double constraints of ethnicity, race, and gender.
- The COVID-19 shock hit the economy hard and wiped off a decade of gains in poverty reduction, with potential negative consequences on inequity going forward.** Female labor force participation between May and July 2021 was 48.5%, compared to 72.3% for men. In addition, the average unemployment rate over the same period was 19% for women and 11.8% for men.³
- The poor agency of Colombian women is manifested in the high incidence of intimate partner violence and early marriage, as well as their low representation in spaces of decision making.** Almost one in three women (30%) reported experiencing intimate partner violence. Around 5% of Colombian girls are married before they turn 15 years old and 23% before they are 18 years old (2015). Finally, despite the existing 30% quota in candidates' lists, fewer than one in five (18%) members of parliament were women in 2020, one of the lowest shares in the region.
- The six decades of armed conflict in Colombia has affected men and women in several ways.** Men constitute most combatants and civilians who have been injured and disabled.⁴ Women and girls, on the other hand, are more likely to be victims of sexual violence and forced labor. They often assume the role of household heads and they tend to be the caregivers for family members disabled by war.⁵ Rural women are particularly vulnerable, as they have limited access to, and control over, land and other assets⁶. This situation is aggravated by the dynamics of conflict-induced displacement.

1. Olivieri, S. and M. Muller. 2019. Gender Equality in Colombia: Country Gender Assessment. Washington, D.C.: WBG.

2. World Bank's Gender Data Portal based International Labour Organization (ILO), ILOSTAT database.

3. https://www.dane.gov.co/files/investigaciones/boletines/ech/ech_genero/boletin_GEIH_sexo_may21_jul21.pdf

4. Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz. (2020). Estadísticas de Asistencia Integral a las Víctimas de MAP y MUSE. Oficina Del Alto Comisionado Para La Paz.

5. Bouvier, V. (2016). Gender and The Role of Women in Colombia's Peace Process [Background Paper prepared for the United Nations Global Study on 15 Years of Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)]. United States Institute of Peace and UN Women.

6. Olivieri, S. and M. Muller. 2019. Gender Equality in Colombia: Country Gender Assessment. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

Country Performance⁷



Human Endowments	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
School enrollment, secondary, female (% net)	67.1	2005	80.2 ●	2018	79.1	2018	83.9	2018
School enrollment, secondary, male (% net)	60.4	2005	74.9 ●	2018	76.0	2018	80.7	2018
Lower secondary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)	64.5	2001	80.2 ●	2018	82.0	2019	88.2	2019
Lower secondary completion rate, male (% of relevant age group)	55.9	2001	71.5 ●	2018	77.3	2019	86.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, female (% gross)	25.3	2000	59.7 ●	2018	59.7	2019	58.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, male (% gross)	23.7	2000	51.1 ●	2018	45.9	2019	48.6	2019
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes (%)	36.8	2002	33.4	2018	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, females (% of female youth population) ⁸	39.8	2002	32.4	2019	27.4	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, males (% of male youth population)	19.7	2002	15.6	2019	14.6	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled est. per 100,000 births)	94.0	2000	83.0 ●	2017	74.0	2017	41.0	2017
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	86.1	2000	99.1 ●	2019	93.8	2018	98.4	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)	76.9	2000	81.0	2016	n.a.	n.a.	78.7	2017
Economic Opportunity	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
Labor force participation, female (% of female population 15+) ◇	53.6	2000	56.2 ●	2019	52.5	2019	56.0	2019
Labor force participation, male (% of male population 15+) ◇	83.2	2000	80.1 ●	2019	76.7	2019	74.8	2019
Account at a financial institution, female (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	42.5 ●	2017	52.0	2017	69.3	2017
Account at a financial institution, male (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	49.4 ●	2017	58.6	2017	77.0	2017
Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment) ◇	47.3	2000	46.1 ●	2019	33.8	2019	38.1	2019
Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment) ◇	47.9	2000	45.8 ●	2019	33.4	2019	35.6	2019
Voice and Agency	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)	21.4	2000	23.4	2015	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women, ages 15-19)	97.7	2000	64.3 ●	2019	61.2	2019	29.5	2019
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	11.8	2000	18.3 ●	2020	32.8	2020	26.5	2020
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)	n.a.	n.a.	18.9 ●	2017	20.1	2020	19.1	2020
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of women 15-49)	n.a.	n.a.	18.4	2015	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

UMC = In FY21, upper-middle-income countries are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,046 and \$12,535 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method)

◇ Modeled ILO estimate

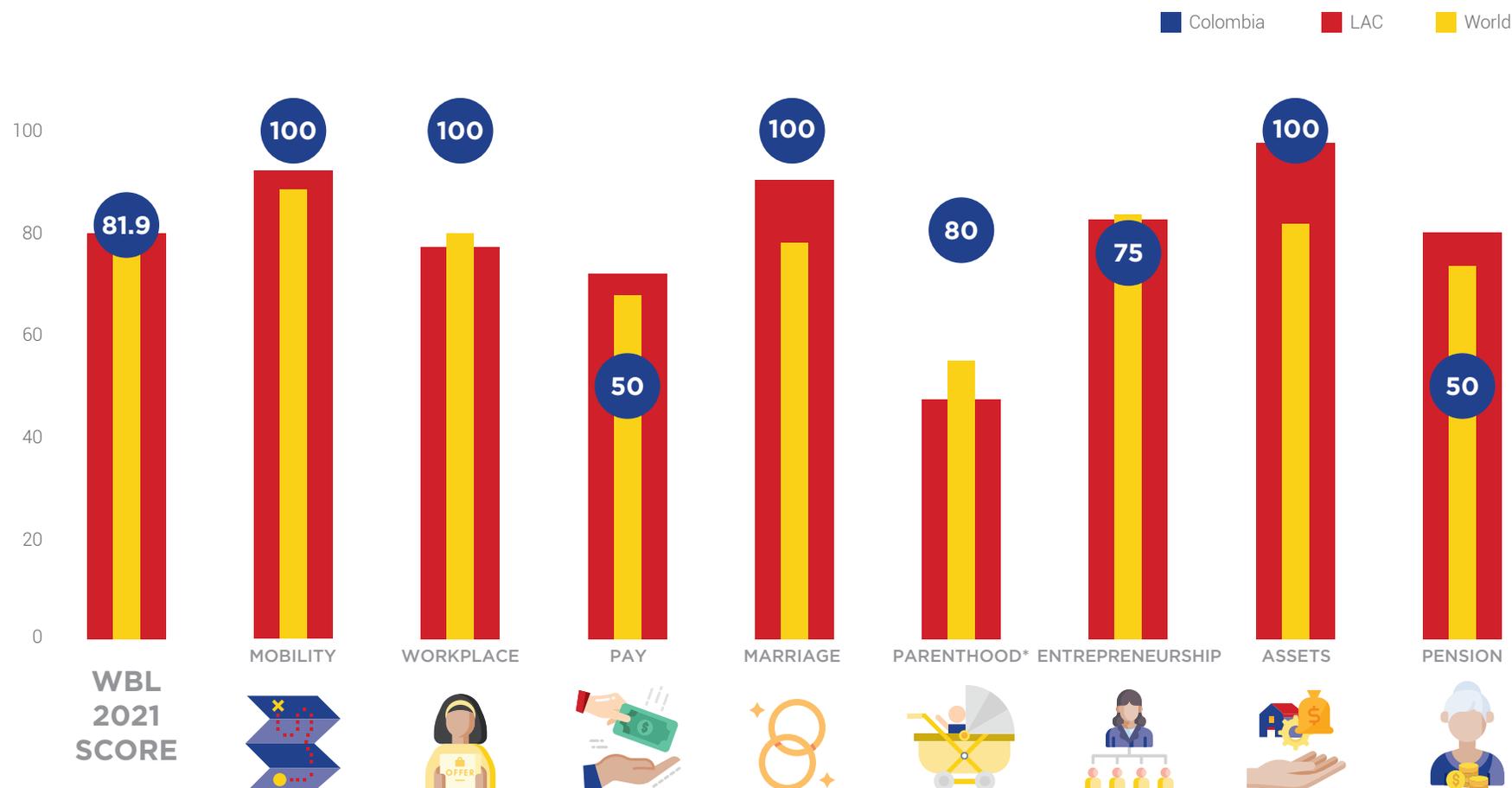
7. The scorecard shows the latest country data available and comparisons of country performance with the LAC region and the country's income-level group in the same or similar year. The country performance is scored relative to the comparison groups using a Traffic Light System: **green** ● if the country 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).

8. 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 index⁹ score presents the share of good laws in the economy and it is structured around a woman's working life

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



* The score does not consider the extension of paid paternity leave or the introduction of shared parental leave of six weeks (July 2021).

9. 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	100
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	
	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?	No	50
	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?	No	
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?	Yes	80
	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?	No	75
	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	50
	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?	No	
WBL 2021 Index Score			81.9

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

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

Gender strategic framework

- [Colombia Gender Assessment \(2019\)](#)
- [Colombia Country Partnership Framework FY16-21](#)

Country-specific data and analysis

- [Labor Market by Sex - National Administrative Department of Statistics](#)
- [Colombia Women's Observatory](#)
- [Colombia Fact Sheet – UN WOMEN](#)

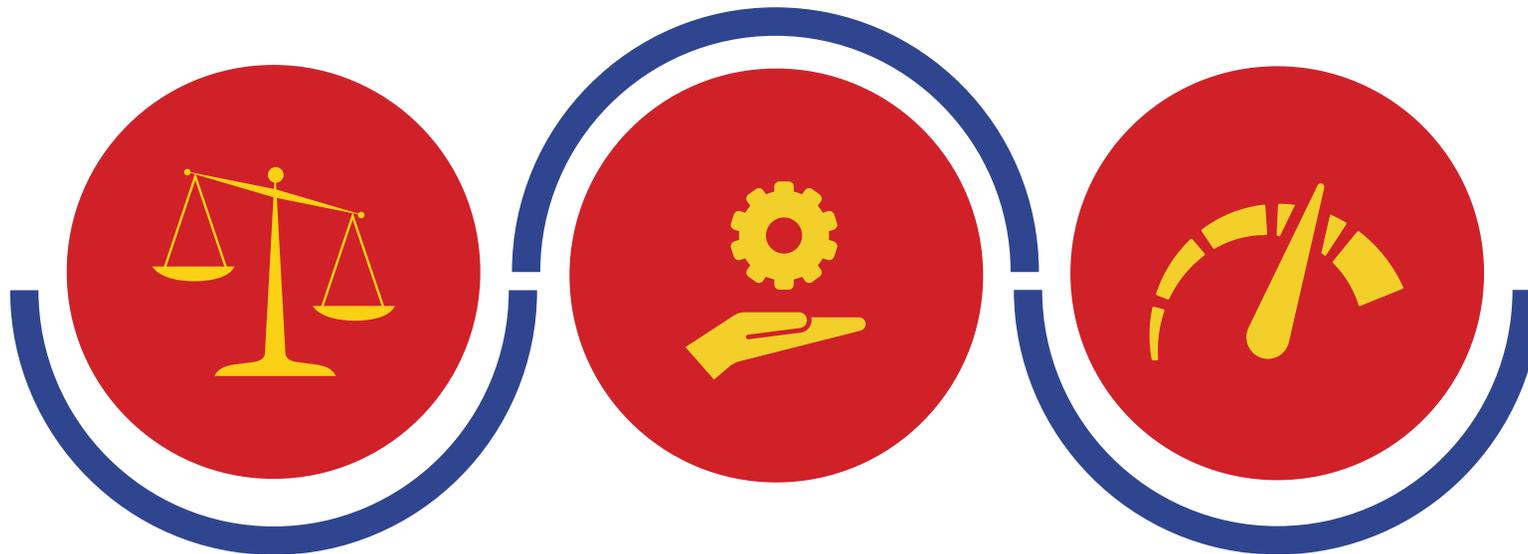
Evidence on what works to close gender gaps

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

IN ACTION: Integrating Gender into Project Design

Resilient and Inclusive
Housing Project in
Colombia (P172535)

Objective: To improve the quality of housing and public space for vulnerable households, including migrants from Venezuela, in selected municipalities.



GAPS

- On average, women allocate 34.1 hours per week to unpaid care and domestic work, compared to 18.4 hours among men.
- Poor housing conditions and unpaid work limit women's participation in employment.

ACTIONS

- Increase access to child-care and in-home technology such as washing machines.

INDICATORS

- Percentage of women with increased availability to seek and/or participate in paid work and entrepreneurship activities.