

# PARAGUAY COUNTRY GENDER SCORECARD

December 2021



**WORLD BANK GROUP**  
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](mailto:erubiano@worldbank.org)) and Diana Galeano ([dgaleano@worldbank.org](mailto:dgaleano@worldbank.org)).

# PARAGUAY



- **Paraguay has made important strides towards gender equality in the last years. However, significant gaps persist in the areas of health, education, economic opportunity, and voice and agency.**
- **The labor force participation of Paraguayan women has increased over the past two decades and it is now above the regional average.** About 60% of women were in the workforce in 2019 compared to 85% of men. In contrast, the regional average was 52% for women and 77% for men.
- **Despite this progress, nearly 40% of women work in vulnerable forms of employment,** a rate that is above the regional average. In fact, by May 2020, a few months into the COVID-19 pandemic, 20% of women had reportedly lost their job, compared to only 7% of men<sup>1</sup>, revealing specific vulnerabilities that affect women amid a crisis.
- **In terms of health, maternal mortality rates have decreased steadily during the last decades but remain significantly higher than those in peer countries in LAC.** Maternal mortality diminished from 194 to 129 deaths per 100,000 births between 2000 and 2017, mostly due to improved access to healthcare. For instance, 98% of births in 2018 were attended by skilled staff, a 12- point increase from the average recorded in 2002.
- **In contrast, contraceptive prevalence has seen a steady decline.** The share of women aged 15-49 who reported using any contraceptive method dropped from 73% in 2004 to 68% in 2016. Similarly, adolescent pregnancy, particularly in rural areas, remains above the regional average at 70 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19.
- **Paraguayan women continue to be systematically underrepresented in politics.** In 2020, women held only 16% of the seats in Congress. While this is a significant increase compared to the proportion recorded in 2000 (less than 3%), it is still well below the regional average (33%).

1. Results from the World Bank's High Frequency Phone Survey (HFS), 2020. Available at: <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/157471606746438035/HFS-Paraguay-Presentacion>

# Country Performance<sup>2</sup>



Human Endowments	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
School enrollment, secondary, female (% net)	53.2	2001	n.a.	n.a.	79.1	2018	83.9	2018
School enrollment, secondary, male (% net)	50.2	2001	n.a.	n.a.	76.0	2018	80.7	2018
Lower secondary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)	72.1	2001	n.a.	n.a.	82.0	2019	88.2	2019
Lower secondary completion rate, male (% of relevant age group)	68.4	2001	n.a.	n.a.	77.3	2019	86.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, female (% gross)	18.5	2000	n.a.	n.a.	59.7	2019	58.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, male (% gross)	13.4	2000	n.a.	n.a.	45.9	2019	48.6	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) <sup>3</sup>	32.3	2001	27.3	2017	27.4	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, males (% of male youth population)	11.1	2001	9.6	2017	14.6	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled est. per 100,000 births)	194.0	2000	129.0	2017	74.0	2017	41.0	2017
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	85.8	2002	97.7	2018	93.8	2018	98.4	2018
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)	0.3	2000	0.1	2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Prevalence of HIV, male (% ages 15-24)	0.5	2000	0.2	2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Contraceptive prevalence, any methods (% of women ages 15-49)	72.8	2004	68.4	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+) ◊	52.5	2000	60.0	2019	52.5	2019	56.0	2019
Labor force participation, male (% of male population 15+) ◊	86.4	2000	85.0	2019	76.7	2019	74.8	2019
Account at a financial institution, female (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	46.0	2017	52.0	2017	69.3	2017
Account at a financial institution, male (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	51.2	2017	58.6	2017	77.0	2017
Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment) ◊	54.3	2000	39.7	2019	33.8	2019	38.1	2019
Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment) ◊	51.4	2000	35.2	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)	17.9	2004	21.6	2016	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women, ages 15-19)	87.0	2000	69.9	2019	61.2	2019	29.5	2019
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2.5	2000	16.3	2020	32.8	2020	26.5	2020
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)	n.a.	n.a.	19.6	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.	n.a.	n.a.	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

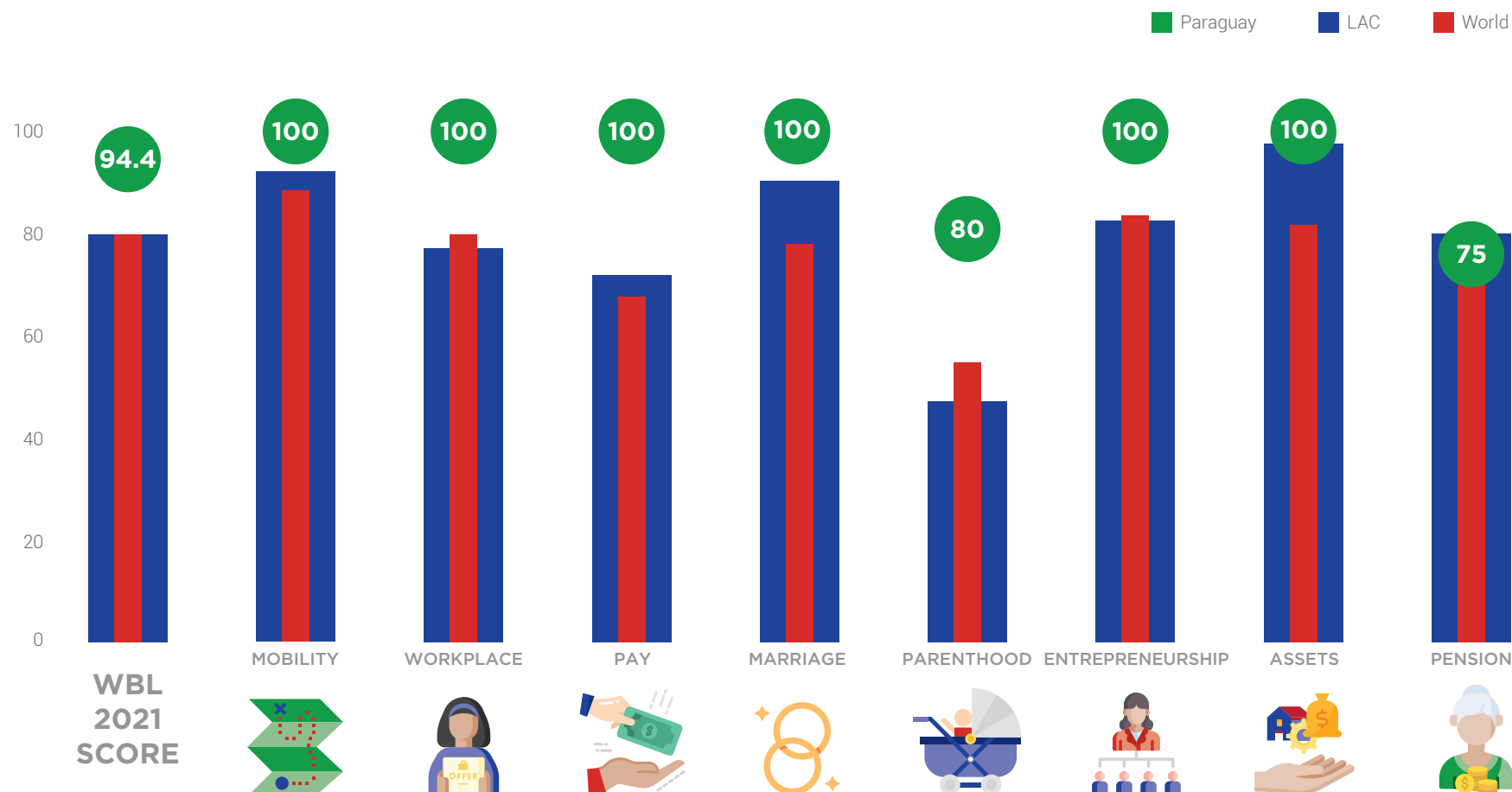
2. The scorecard shows the latest country data available and comparisons of country performance with the LAC region and the country's income-level group in the same or similar year. The country performance is scored relative to the comparison groups using a Traffic Light System: **green** ● if the country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

3. 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 index<sup>4</sup> score presents the share of good laws in the economy and it is structured around a woman's working life









## Paraguay - Latin America & Caribbean - World Comparison (2021)



4. 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
<b>MOBILITY</b> 	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	
<b>WORKPLACE</b> 	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	
<b>PAY</b> 	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	
<b>MARRIAGE</b> 	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	
<b>PARENTHOOD</b> 	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?	<b>No</b>	
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	
<b>ENTREPRENEURSHIP</b> 	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	
<b>ASSETS</b> 	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	
<b>PENSION</b> 	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	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?	<b>No</b>	
		<b>WBL 2021 Index Score</b>	<b>94.4</b>

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

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

### Gender strategic framework

- [Paraguay Gender Diagnostic \(2020\)](#)
- [Paraguay Country Partnership Framework FY19-23](#)

### Country-specific data and analysis

- [Stubborn Gender Gaps in Paraguay's Labor Market – Working Paper \(2019\)](#)
- [Paraguay Country Profile – Gender Equality Observatory, ECLAC](#)
- [Paraguay Fact Sheet – UN WOMEN](#)

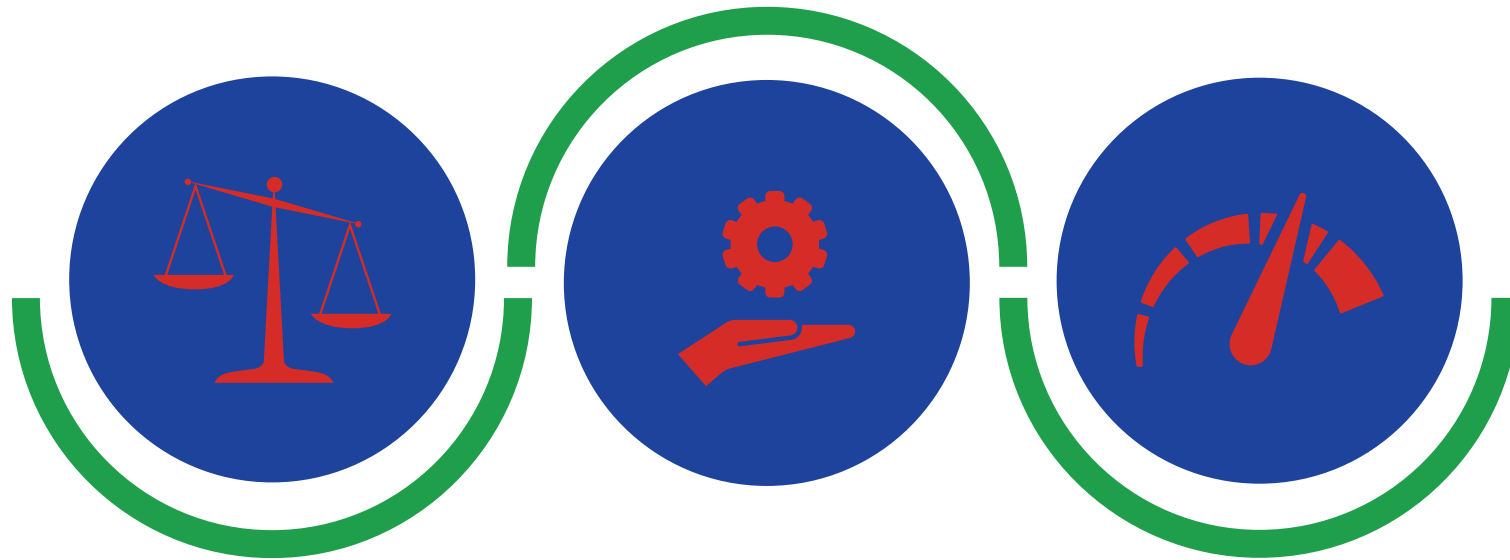
### Evidence on what works to close gender gaps

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

# IN ACTION: Integrating Gender into Project Design

Paraguay Public Health  
Sector Strengthening  
(P167996)

Objective: To (i) strengthen the public primary health care micro-networks, (ii) expand access to quality primary health care services for the population covered by the MSPBS, and (iii) strengthen the national health system to respond to the emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## GAPS

- Utilization of key ambulatory health services is lower among men than women.
- Share of the burden of disease due to cardiovascular diseases is higher for men (13.5%) than for women (11.7%). This is also the case for HIV and STDs (4.8% vs. 3.7%, respectively).

## ACTIONS

- Increase access to Family Care Health Centers to improve the utilization of key preventative health services by men.
- Support better Primary Health Care for early diagnosis and treatment of hypertension and other health conditions through improved care integration.

## INDICATORS

- Share of men with hypertension correctly diagnosed (Target: 40%).
- Percentage of men aged 15 or older voluntarily screened for HIV