

TONGA GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Tonga 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	EAP	UMC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	NA	NA	---	7.56	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	6.78	2020	NA	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	73.8	2004	↗	91.3	2020	93.1	NA	77.3
	Male	83.3	2004	↘	62.7	2020	90.3	NA	76.7
Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		3.91	2010	↘	3.48	2020	1.81	NA	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		17.6	2010	↘	13.7	2020	20.6	NA	41.0
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		57.0	2010	→	52.0	2017	69.0	NA	211
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		NA	NA	---	70.4	2012	NA	NA	NA
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	25.2	2012	4.68	NA	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	20.7	2010	→	20.2	2019	12.5	NA	14.8
	Male	32.0	2010	→	29.5	2019	21.2	NA	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	40.3	2010	→	37.3	2021	59.0	NA	46.3
	Male	62.1	2010	↘	55.3	2021	74.8	NA	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	43.5	2010	↗	50.8	2019	54.8	NA	54.6
	Male	48.2	2010	↗	53.6	2019	57.8	NA	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	2.44	2010	↘	1.52	2019	22.1	NA	25.3
	Male	39.4	2010	↘	30.7	2019	26.9	NA	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	31.5	2018	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	29.0	2018	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (% of 24 hour day)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		75.8	2010	↘	68.6	2020	45.4	NA	54.6
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	69.0	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	76.6	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	4.29	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	6.78	7.57
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		NA	NA	---	40.3	2018	NA	NA	NA
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		65.3	2009	---	NA	NA	47.4	NA	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	32.8	NA	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		0.00	2010	→	0.00	2021	21.4	NA	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		NA	NA	---	10.1	2019	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		18.9	2009	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region includes 38 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Tonga is an upper middle income (UMC) country, which includes 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$4,096 to \$12,695 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#).

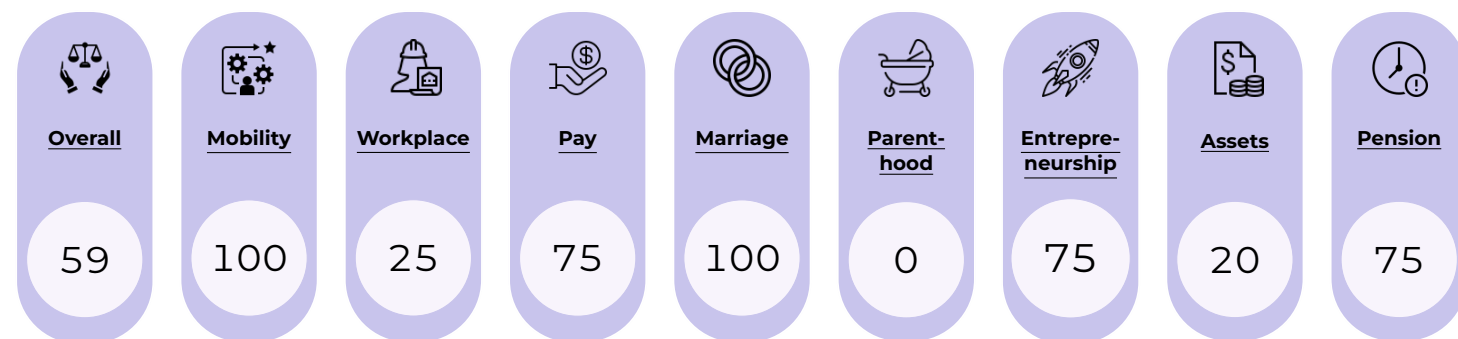
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Tonga performs relative to the region, income group, and the world. Lighter and darker shades represent values 10 percent above and below regional peer values, respectively.



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Women, Business and the Law in Tonga

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Tonga scores 59 out of 100**, while the regional average across East Asia and Pacific is 80.

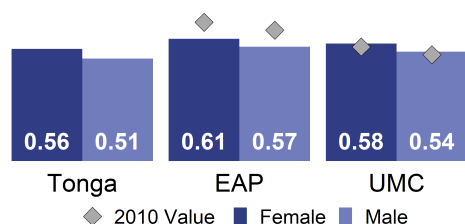


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Tonga

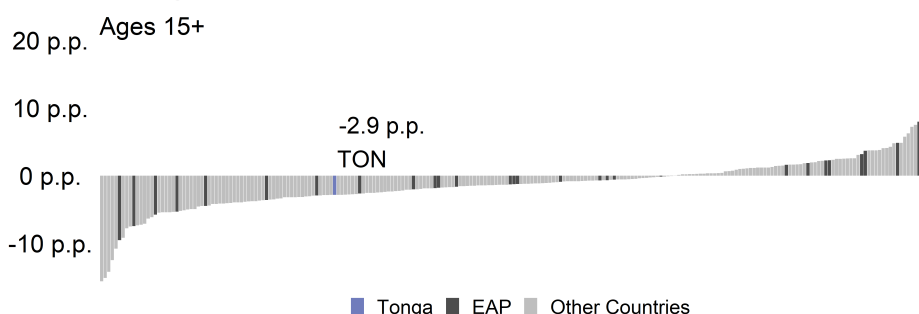
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)



Unpacking the Numbers in Tonga

56 percent

A girl born today will be 56 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

1 in 10

10 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 **(2019)**

25 percent

25 percent of married women ages 15 to 49 report not having access to contraceptives **(2012)**

0.5 percent

0.5 percent of women in Tonga are not able to read **(2018)**

49 in 100

49 in 100 women ages 15 to 49 are in positions of vulnerable employment **(2019)**

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 Group Gender Strategy (FY16-FY23): This 2015 report outlines the World Bank Group's strategy to promote gender equality.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

EAP Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.

