



# TIMOR-LESTE GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Timor-Leste 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. Timor-Leste is a Fragile, Conflict, or Violence (FCV) impacted country with high institutional and social fragility.

👉 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	LMC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS										
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	5.70	2010	↗	6.59	2020	NA	NA	NA	
	Male	5.50	2010	→	6.02	2020	NA	NA	NA	
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	53.0	2010	↗	64.2	2018	94.4	NA	83.3	
	Male	63.6	2010	↗	71.9	2018	97.4	NA	90.1	
Primary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	76.2	2010	↗	109	2019	97.8	NA	89.9	
	Male	74.0	2010	↗	101	2019	97.6	NA	90.3	
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		4.80	2010	↘	3.85	2020	1.81	NA	2.39	
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		44.7	2010	↘	29.5	2020	20.6	NA	41.0	
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		55.1	2010	↗	76.7	2016	NA	NA	NA	
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	19.3	2010	→	18.4	2019	12.5	NA	14.8	
	Male	20.5	2010	→	21.5	2019	21.2	NA	21.7	
Prevalence of HIV (% 15-24)	Female	0.10	2010	→	0.10	2020	NA	NA	0.40	
	Male	0.10	2010	→	0.10	2020	NA	NA	0.20	
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY										
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	62.0	2010	→	61.0	2021	59.0	NA	46.3	
	Male	72.8	2010	→	72.2	2021	74.8	NA	71.7	
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	21.5	2010	→	19.9	2019	54.8	NA	54.6	
	Male	34.5	2010	↗	39.9	2019	57.8	NA	53.0	
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	50.9	2010	↘	39.2	2019	22.1	NA	25.3	
	Male	50.8	2010	↘	39.4	2019	26.9	NA	27.6	
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	22.6	2010	↗	25.7	2016	NA	NA	NA	
	Male	15.6	2010	→	16.2	2016	NA	NA	NA	
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		87.2	2010	↘	69.8	2020	45.4	NA	54.6	
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	51.7	63.7	
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	60.6	70.6	
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	6.81	5.26	
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	9.00	7.57	
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		42.9	2009	↗	64.4	2015	47.4	NA	33.1	
VOICE AND AGENCY										
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	27.0	2015	32.8	NA	17.8	
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		29.2	2010	↗	38.5	2021	21.4	NA	26.1	
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		18.9	2010	↘	14.9	2016	NA	NA	NA	
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	34.6	2016	NA	NA	NA	

**Note:** The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region includes 38 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Timor-Leste is a lower middle income (LMC) country, which includes 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,046 to \$4,095 (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 Timor-Leste 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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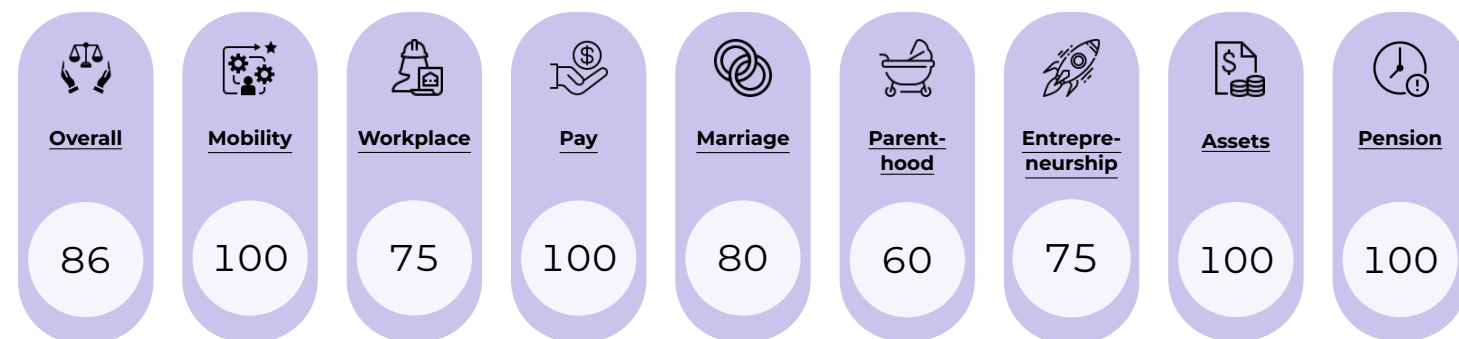
Accelerate Equality  
Gender Equality and Development



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## Women, Business and the Law in Timor-Leste

**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. **Timor-Leste scores 86 out of 100**, while the regional average across East Asia and Pacific is 80.

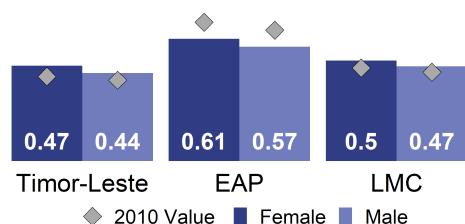


## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Timor-Leste

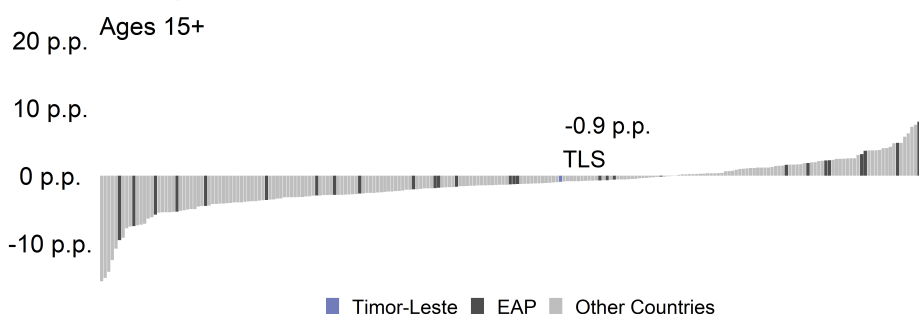
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment,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

### 47 percent

A girl born today will be 47 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

### 3 in 20

15 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 **(2016)**

### 4.7 percent

4.7 percent of women report having ever experienced any form of sexual violence **(2016)**

### 3 in 50

6.2 percent of women are not able to visit family, relatives and friends on her own decision **(2016)**

### 42 in 43

98 percent of women do not have any land, both solely and jointly, registered under their name **(2016)**

## 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.

