





# IRAQ GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Iraq 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. Iraq is a Fragile, Conflict, or Violence (FCV) impacted country in medium-intensity conflict.

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	MNA	UMC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	NA	NA	---	4.37	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	3.79	2020	NA	NA	NA
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	64.2	2000	↗	79.9	2017	73.2	NA	83.3
	Male	84.1	2000	→	91.2	2017	85.6	NA	90.1
Primary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	57.0	2007	---	NA	NA	91.8	NA	89.9
	Male	76.5	2007	---	NA	NA	94.9	NA	90.3
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		4.34	2010	↘	3.54	2020	2.74	NA	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		77.2	2010	→	71.8	2020	39.0	NA	41.0
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		NA	NA	---	67.9	2018	NA	NA	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	22.5	2010	↘	20.0	2019	17.4	NA	14.8
	Male	30.3	2010	↘	27.5	2019	22.9	NA	21.7
Prevalence of HIV (% 15-24)	Female	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	0.10	NA	0.40
	Male	NA	NA	---	NA	NA	0.10	NA	0.20
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	11.9	2010	→	11.1	2021	18.6	NA	46.3
	Male	70.8	2010	→	71.8	2021	70.0	NA	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	61.8	2010	↗	96.3	2019	73.8	NA	54.6
	Male	71.0	2010	→	75.2	2019	69.8	NA	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	18.8	2010	↘	15.1	2019	15.7	NA	25.3
	Male	23.8	2010	↘	18.7	2019	14.4	NA	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	70.5	2007	→	65.5	2012	43.9	NA	NA
	Male	21.6	2007	↘	16.9	2012	17.0	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		82.4	2010	↘	69.9	2020	55.5	NA	54.6
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	18.5	2017	NA	69.0	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	22.1	2017	NA	76.6	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	6.68	2017	NA	4.29	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	13.9	2017	NA	6.78	7.57
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	6.80	2011	19.0	NA	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	2.30	2011	6.50	NA	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		25.2	2010	↗	28.9	2021	17.0	NA	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		17.0	2006	↗	27.9	2018	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	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Note:** The Middle East and North Africa (MNA) region includes 21 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Iraq 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](#).

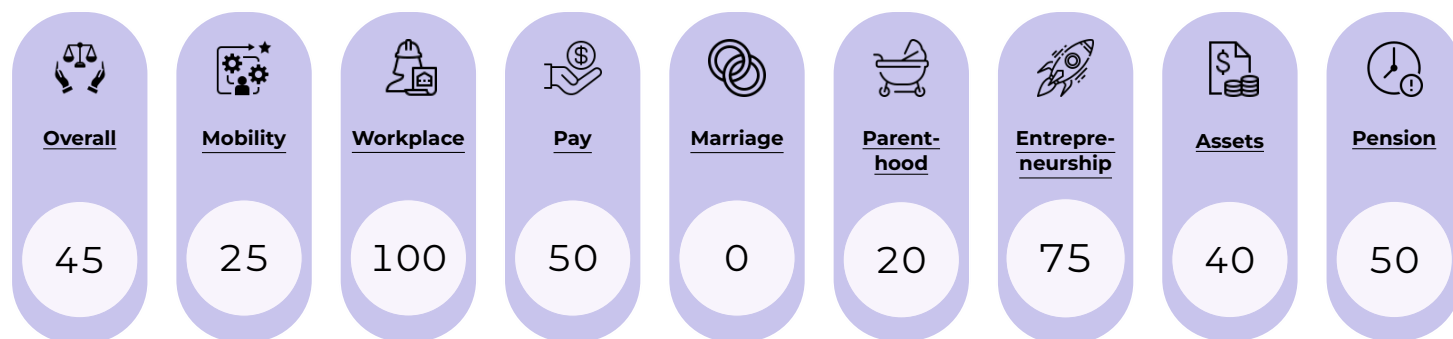
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Iraq performs relative to the region, income group, 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 Iraq

**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. **Iraq scores 45 out of 100**, while the regional average across Middle East and North Africa is 80.

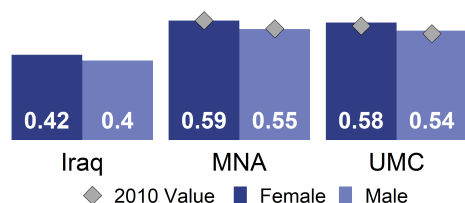


## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Iraq

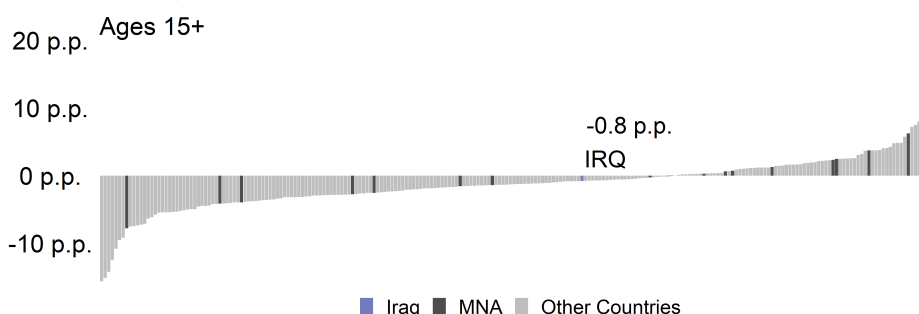
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment,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

### 42 percent

A girl born today will be 42 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

### 7 in 25

28 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 **(2018)**

### 7.4 percent

7.4 percent of women ages 15 to 49 experienced female genital mutilation in their lifetimes **(2018)**

### 2.5 times

Men hold 2.5 times as many seats in the national parliament as women **(2021)**

### 1.7 times

A man is 1.7 times as likely to have used the internet to pay bills or to buy something online in the past year **(2017)**

## 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.

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

