



BANGLADESH GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Bangladesh 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 | SAS | LMC | World |
| HUMAN ENDOWMENTS | | | | | | | | | |
| Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling | Female Male | NA NA | NA NA | --- --- | NA NA | NA NA | NA NA | NA NA | NA NA |
| Literacy rate (% 15+) | Female Male | 43.7 49.8 | 2007 2007 | ↗ ↗ | 72.0 77.8 | 2020 2020 | 65.6 81.3 | 70.0 82.9 | 83.3 90.1 |
| Fertility rate, total (births per woman) | | 2.32 | 2010 | ↘ | 1.99 | 2020 | 2.34 | 2.67 | 2.39 |
| Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19) | | 90.8 | 2010 | ↘ | 81.0 | 2020 | 22.4 | 41.4 | 41.0 |
| Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births) | | 258 | 2010 | ↘ | 173 | 2017 | 163 | 253 | 211 |
| Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women) | | 23.4 | 2010 | ↗ | 36.9 | 2019 | 49.3 | 59.1 | NA |
| Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49) | | 16.8 | 2007 | ↘ | 13.7 | 2019 | 13.8 | 14.6 | NA |
| Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%) | Female Male | 17.7 24.9 | 2010 2010 | → ↘ | 16.2 21.2 | 2019 2019 | 19.6 25.0 | 19.1 25.3 | 14.8 21.7 |
| ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate) | Female Male | 30.5 83.3 | 2010 2010 | ↗ → | 34.9 78.8 | 2021 2021 | 22.0 71.8 | 33.6 72.0 | 46.3 71.7 |
| Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate) | Female Male | 16.4 45.0 | 2010 2010 | ↗ → | 34.0 43.6 | 2019 2019 | 25.7 29.2 | 33.5 38.0 | 54.6 53.0 |
| Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate) | Female Male | 65.6 41.0 | 2010 2010 | ↘ ↘ | 57.6 30.1 | 2019 2019 | 56.9 37.5 | 41.9 36.0 | 25.3 27.6 |
| Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population) | Female Male | 44.9 14.5 | 2010 2010 | → ↘ | 44.5 9.81 | 2017 2017 | 45.4 14.1 | 40.4 14.5 | NA NA |
| Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population) | | 58.1 | 2010 | ↘ | 47.0 | 2020 | 51.2 | 55.9 | 54.6 |
| Women who own land both alone and jointly (% of women 15-49) | | NA | NA | --- | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Men who own land alone (% of men) | | NA | NA | --- | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Financial institution account (% 15+) | Female Male | NA NA | NA NA | --- --- | 31.9 50.2 | 2017 2017 | 63.7 72.9 | 51.7 60.6 | 63.7 70.6 |
| Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+) | Female Male | NA NA | NA NA | --- --- | 4.53 7.42 | 2017 2017 | 5.37 7.94 | 6.81 9.00 | 5.26 7.57 |
| Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%) | | 10.00 | 2010 | ↗ | 11.5 | 2017 | NA | NA | NA |
| Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms) | | 16.1 | 2007 | ↘ | 12.7 | 2013 | 18.4 | 33.9 | 33.1 |
| VOICE AND AGENCY | | | | | | | | | |
| Firms with female top manager (% of firms) | | 1.30 | 2007 | ↗ | 4.80 | 2013 | 11.0 | 20.0 | 17.8 |
| Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%) | | 18.6 | 2010 | ↗ | 20.9 | 2021 | 19.0 | 21.5 | 26.1 |
| Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24) | | 66.2 | 2007 | ↘ | 51.4 | 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) | | NA | NA | --- | 28.8 | 2015 | NA | NA | NA |
| Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %) | | 31.0 | 2007 | ↘ | 20.1 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |
| Women participating in the three decisions (own health care, major household purchases, and visiting family, % of women 15-49) | | 38.0 | 2007 | ↗ | 59.4 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |

Note: The South Asia (SAS) region includes 8 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Bangladesh 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](#). Data is as of June 24, 2022.

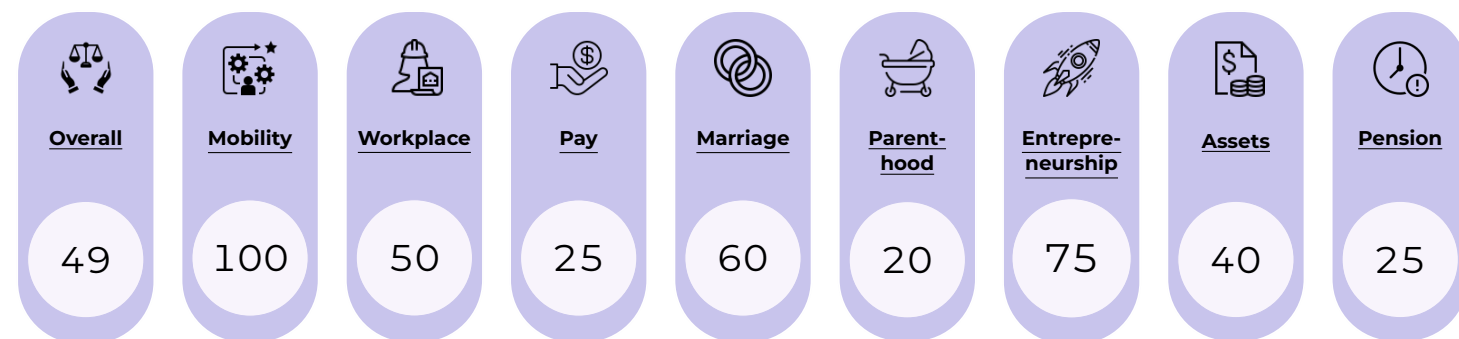
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available value from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer Comparison shows how Bangladesh performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Color coding represents values 10 percent above or below its peers in the region.



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Women, Business and the Law in Bangladesh

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. **Bangladesh scores 49 out of 100**, while the regional average across South Asia is 80.

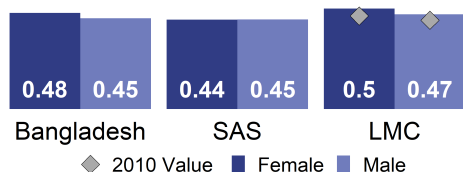


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Bangladesh

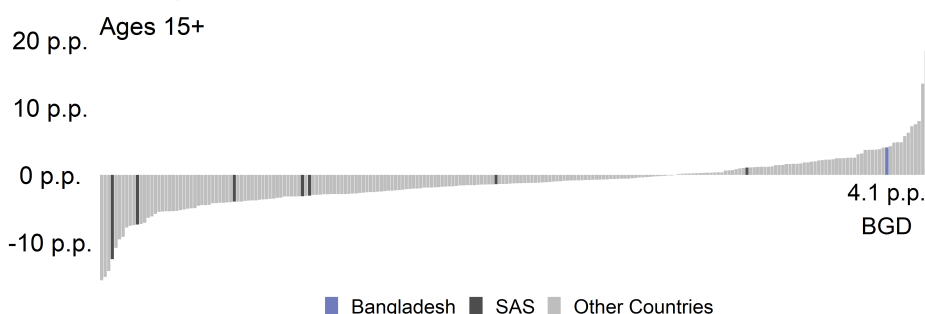
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment,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

26 percent

A girl has a 26 percent chance of not completing lower secondary school **(2017)**

7 in 25

28 percent of women 15 to 19 years old have had children or already pregnant **(2018)**

29 percent

29 percent of women were subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months **(2015)**

13 in 50

26 percent of women are not able to visit family, relatives and friends on her own decision **(2018)**

1.5 times

A man is 1.5 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.

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

