



# SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Sao Tome and Principe 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          |      |      |
|  |        | Value               | Year |     |      |      | Value           | Year | SSA  |
| HUMAN ENDOWMENTS   |        |                     |      |     |      |      |                 |      |      |
| Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling   | Female | NA                  | NA   | --- | NA   | NA   | NA              | NA   | NA   |
|  | Male   | NA                  | NA   | --- | NA   | NA   | NA              | NA   | NA   |
| Literacy rate (% 15+)  | Female | 60.1                | 2008 | ↗   | 89.5 | 2018 | 59.4            | NA   | 83.3 |
|  | Male   | 80.3                | 2008 | ↗   | 96.2 | 2018 | 72.5            | NA   | 90.1 |
| Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)  | Female | 29.2                | 2010 | ↗   | 80.6 | 2017 | 41.3            | NA   | 77.3 |
|  | Male   | 31.0                | 2010 | ↗   | 66.6 | 2017 | 46.0            | NA   | 76.7 |
| Fertility rate, total (births per woman)   |        | 4.73                | 2010 | ↘   | 4.21 | 2020 | 4.56            | NA   | 2.39 |
| Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)   |        | 103                 | 2010 | ↘   | 90.8 | 2020 | 98.0            | NA   | 41.0 |
| Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)  |        | 140                 | 2010 | →   | 130  | 2017 | 534             | NA   | 211  |
| Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)                                     |        | 72.4                | 2009 | ↗   | 83.6 | 2014 | 54.3            | NA   | NA   |
| Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)  |        | 37.6                | 2009 | ↘   | 27.1 | 2019 | 22.6            | NA   | NA   |
| Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)             | Female | 21.5                | 2010 | →   | 20.4 | 2019 | 20.1            | NA   | 14.8 |
|  | Male   | 21.4                | 2010 | →   | 21.7 | 2019 | 22.7            | NA   | 21.7 |
| ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY   |        |                     |      |     |      |      |                 |      |      |
| Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)   | Female | 37.8                | 2010 | →   | 37.1 | 2021 | 60.2            | NA   | 46.3 |
|  | Male   | 72.0                | 2010 | →   | 69.9 | 2021 | 71.7            | NA   | 71.7 |
| Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)  | Female | 33.1                | 2010 | ↗   | 43.1 | 2019 | 18.8            | NA   | 54.6 |
|  | Male   | 33.4                | 2010 | ↗   | 43.1 | 2019 | 30.4            | NA   | 53.0 |
| Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)  | Female | 12.8                | 2010 | ↘   | 8.56 | 2019 | 52.6            | NA   | 25.3 |
|  | Male   | 29.9                | 2010 | ↘   | 24.3 | 2019 | 53.2            | NA   | 27.6 |
| Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)  | Female | NA                  | NA   | --- | NA   | NA   | NA              | NA   | NA   |
|  | Male   | NA                  | NA   | --- | NA   | NA   | NA              | NA   | NA   |
| Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)   |        | 86.6                | 2010 | →   | 81.0 | 2020 | 82.6            | NA   | 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 | 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)  |        | NA                  | NA   | --- | NA   | NA   | 28.0            | NA   | 33.1 |
| VOICE AND AGENCY   |        |                     |      |     |      |      |                 |      |      |
| Firms with female top manager (% of firms)   |        | NA                  | NA   | --- | NA   | NA   | 16.2            | NA   | 17.8 |
| Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)  |        | 18.2                | 2010 | ↗   | 23.6 | 2021 | 25.9            | NA   | 26.1 |
| Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)  |        | 34.4                | 2009 | ↘   | 28.0 | 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) |        | 26.3                | 2009 | --- | NA   | NA   | NA              | NA   | NA   |
| Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)                                    |        | 19.5                | 2009 | →   | 19.1 | 2014 | NA              | NA   | NA   |

**Note:** The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region includes 48 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Sao Tome and Principe 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 Sao Tome and Principe 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.

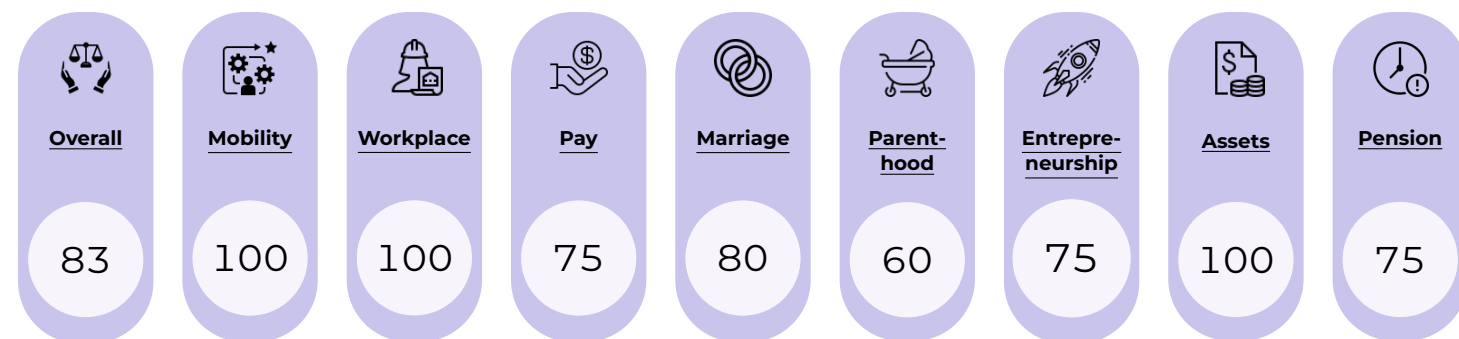




# SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE GENDER LANDSCAPE

## Women, Business and the Law in Sao Tome and Principe

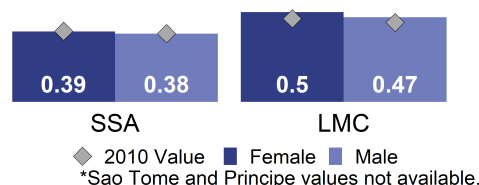
**Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022** presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Sao Tome and Principe scores 83 out of 100**, while the regional average across Sub-Saharan Africa is 80.



## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Sao Tome and Principe

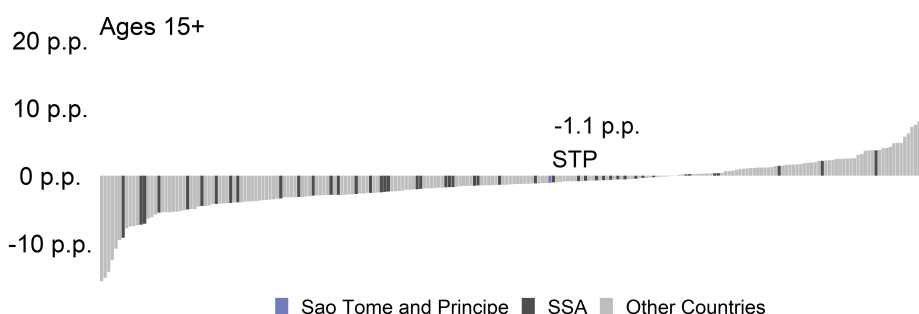
### Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



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.

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



## Unpacking the Numbers in Sao Tome and Principe

### 19 percent

A girl has a 19 percent chance of not completing lower secondary school **(2017)**

### 7 in 25

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

### 27 percent

27 percent of married women ages 15 to 49 report not having access to contraceptives **(2019)**

### 3.2 times

Men hold 3.2 times as many seats in the national parliament as women **(2021)**

### 14 in 25

14 in 25 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.

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



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Accelerate Equality  
Gender Equality and Development