

LESOTHO GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Lesotho 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				SSA	LMC	World	
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS										
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	5.64	2010	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
	Male	5.11	2010	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	85.0	2009	→	84.9	2014	59.4	NA	83.3	
	Male	65.5	2009	→	67.7	2014	72.5	NA	90.1	
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	53.0	2010	↗	58.5	2018	41.3	NA	77.3	
	Male	37.5	2010	↗	41.4	2018	46.0	NA	76.7	
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		3.30	2010	→	3.07	2020	4.56	NA	2.39	
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		88.2	2010	→	92.3	2020	98.0	NA	41.0	
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		594	2010	→	544	2017	534	NA	211	
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		70.4	2009	→	76.6	2018	54.3	NA	NA	
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)		23.3	2010	↘	16.0	2018	22.6	NA	NA	
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	36.8	2010	→	37.5	2019	20.1	NA	14.8	
	Male	50.4	2010	→	49.4	2019	22.7	NA	21.7	
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY										
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	59.5	2010	→	56.1	2021	60.2	NA	46.3	
	Male	75.1	2010	→	71.3	2021	71.7	NA	71.7	
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	36.7	2010	↗	44.0	2019	18.8	NA	54.6	
	Male	53.5	2010	↗	59.6	2019	30.4	NA	53.0	
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	47.7	2010	↘	39.8	2019	52.6	NA	25.3	
	Male	53.2	2010	↘	47.7	2019	53.2	NA	27.6	
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	43.5	2019	NA	NA	NA	
	Male	NA	NA	---	41.2	2019	NA	NA	NA	
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		65.5	2010	↘	59.2	2020	82.6	NA	54.6	
Women who own land both alone and jointly (% of women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	1.10	2014	NA	NA	NA	
Men who own land alone (% of men)		NA	NA	---	11.4	2014	NA	NA	NA	
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	33.0	2017	NA	51.7	63.7	
	Male	NA	NA	---	33.7	2017	NA	60.6	70.6	
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	3.64	2017	NA	6.81	5.26	
	Male	NA	NA	---	3.00	2017	NA	9.00	7.57	
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		18.4	2009	↗	39.1	2016	28.0	NA	33.1	
VOICE AND AGENCY										
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		21.6	2009	↗	36.2	2016	16.2	NA	17.8	
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		24.2	2010	→	23.3	2021	25.9	NA	26.1	
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		18.8	2009	↘	16.4	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	
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		37.1	2009	↘	33.3	2014	NA	NA	NA	

Note: The Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region includes 48 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Lesotho 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](#).

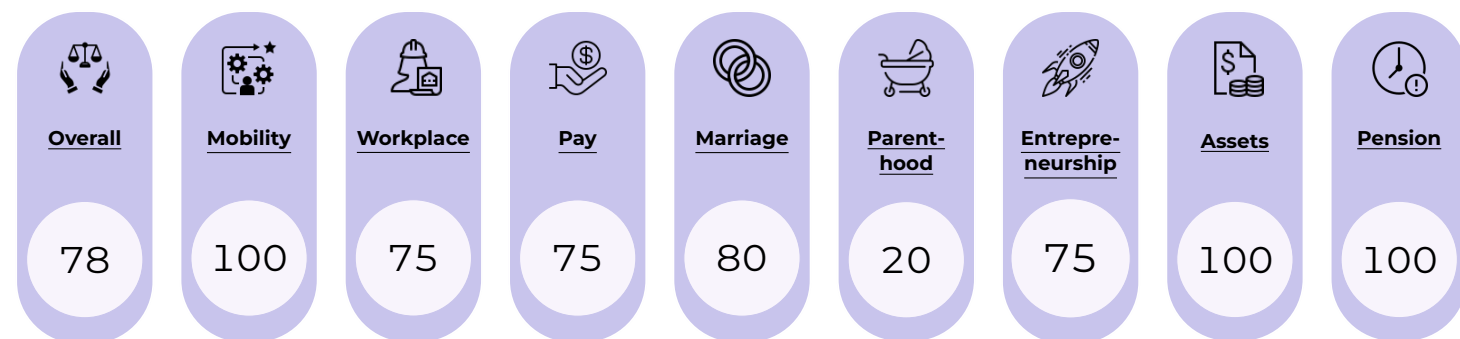
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Lesotho performs relative to the region, income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

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. **Lesotho scores 78 out of 100**, while the regional average across Sub-Saharan Africa is 80.

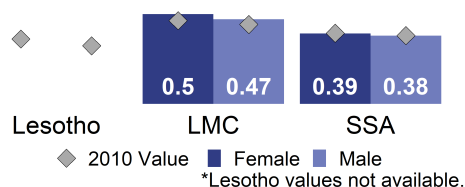


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Lesotho

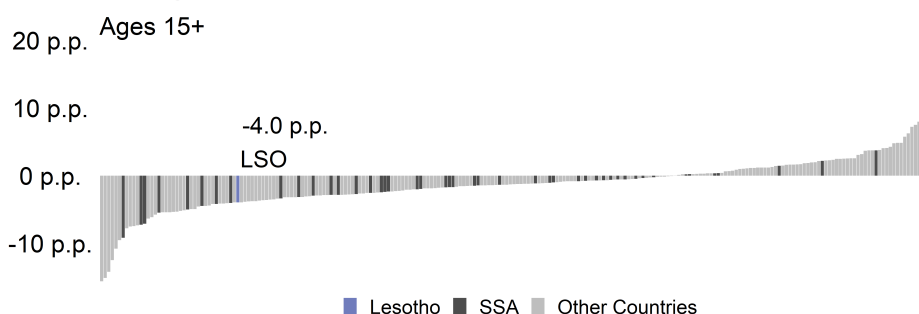
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment,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

42 percent

A girl has a 42 percent chance of not completing lower secondary school **(2018)**

19 in 100

19 percent of women 15 to 19 years old have had children or already pregnant **(2014)**

16 percent

16 percent of married women ages 15 to 49 report not having access to contraceptives **(2018)**

7 in 25

28 percent of women are not able to visit family, relatives and friends on her own decision **(2014)**

90 in 91

99 percent of women do not have any land, both solely and jointly, registered under their name **(2014)**

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.

