



# MALAYSIA GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Malaysia on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains and minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Click the links 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	---	

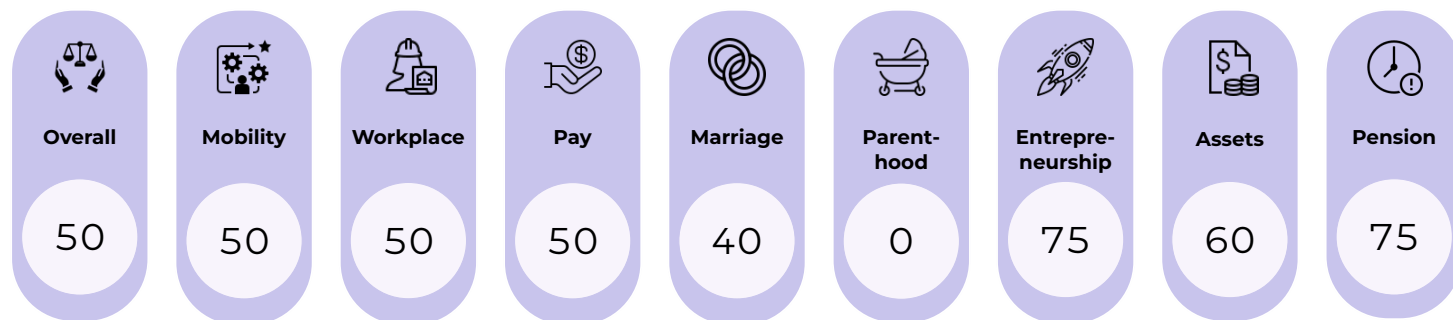
		Country Performance				Peer Comparison		
		Baseline		Latest		Latest		
		Value	Year	Value	Year	EAP	UMC	World
<b>HUMAN ENDOWMENTS</b>								
Learning-Adjusted Years of School	Female	8.59	2010	→	9.18	2020	NA	NA
	Male	7.99	2010	→	8.61	2020	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant age group)	Female	86.9	2010	→	87.6	2019	93.1	77.3
	Male	82.6	2010	→	82.4	2019	90.3	76.7
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes, tertiary (%)		42.3	2010	↘	34.2	2018	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		2.15	2010	→	1.96	2020	1.81	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)		13.0	2010	→	13.6	2020	20.6	41.0
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women ages 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	4.68	4.39
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		86.5	2003	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		30.0	2010	→	29.0	2017	69.0	41.0
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	15.3	2010	→	14.9	2019	12.5	12.2
	Male	22.2	2010	→	21.8	2019	21.2	21.1
<b>ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY</b>								
Labor force participation rate (% age 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	43.5	2010	↗	51.2	2021	59.0	55.5
	Male	76.2	2010	→	77.6	2021	74.8	72.9
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	78.6	2010	↘	71.2	2019	54.8	60.2
	Male	72.8	2010	→	73.4	2019	57.8	60.8
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	8.43	2010	↘	5.89	2019	22.1	17.8
	Male	15.9	2010	↘	13.0	2019	26.9	23.5
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	14.8	2020	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	12.6	2020	NA	NA
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (% of 24 hour day)	Female	19.1	2003	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Male	5.97	2003	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		49.0	2010	↘	44.2	2020	45.4	45.5
Financial institution account (% age 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	82.1	2017	NA	69.0
	Male	NA	NA	---	87.9	2017	NA	76.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% age 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	4.39	2017	NA	4.29
	Male	NA	NA	---	5.69	2017	NA	6.78
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		13.1	2007	↗	25.4	2015	47.4	34.2
<b>VOICE AND AGENCY</b>								
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		8.70	2007	↗	26.3	2015	32.8	19.1
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		9.91	2010	↗	14.9	2021	21.4	27.1
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women ages 15-49)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	NA	NA

**Note:** Data retrieved from World Bank Gender Data Portal. The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region includes 38 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Malaysia 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 definitions can be found on the Gender Data Portal. Country Baseline provides a reference value between 1990 and 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. Baseline comparisons are represented by an arrow icon that points to increases or decreases greater than 10 percent relative to the base year. Comparison to the regional average shows how Malaysia performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Darker and lighter shades represent values 10 percent or below or above its peers in the region, respectively.



## Women, Business and the Law in Malaysia

**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. **Malaysia scores 50 out of 100**, while the regional average across East Asia and Pacific is 80.4.

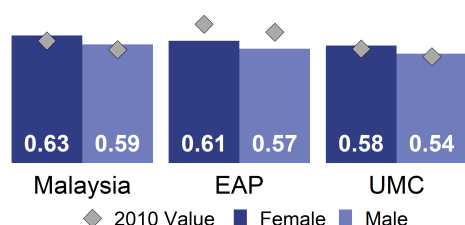


## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Malaysia

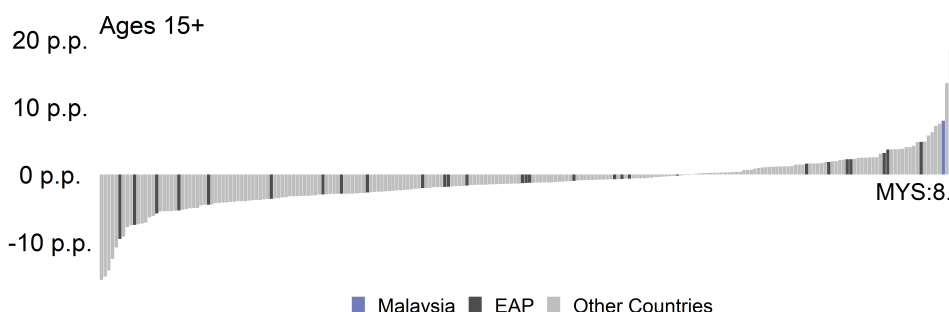
Despite some progress, gender gaps persist, gender-based violence and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls remain sticky, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic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

#### 63 percent

A girl born today will be 63 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment (2020)

#### 26.4 points

Men and women have a 26.4 percentage point gap in labor force participation (2021)

#### 48 percent

48 percent of married women ages 15 to 49 do not report having access to contraceptives (2014)

#### 6 times

Men hold 6 times as many seats in the national parliament as women (2021)

#### 1.3 times

A man is 1.3 times as likely as a woman to have borrowed money to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (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 page shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.
- **IFC Work in Gender:** This page provides an overview of the work by IFC to promote gender equality in its global partnerships.
- **EAP Gender Innovation Lab:** This page features policy research by the GILs, identifies priority gender gaps and tests innovative solutions in the EAP region.

