



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Islamic Republic of Iran 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	MNA	LMC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	7.99	2010	→	8.43	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	7.91	2010	→	7.98	2020	NA	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	83.3	2010	→	88.8	2017	77.9	NA	77.3
	Male	88.3	2010	→	91.6	2017	76.5	NA	76.7
Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%)		38.3	2009	↘	31.2	2017	NA	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		1.84	2010	↗	2.14	2020	2.74	NA	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		33.4	2010	↗	40.8	2020	39.0	NA	41.0
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		22.0	2010	↘	16.0	2017	57.0	NA	211
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)		99.8	2010	---	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49)		5.70	2010	→	5.70	2011	10.1	NA	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	12.3	2010	→	12.0	2019	17.4	NA	14.8
	Male	18.7	2010	→	17.6	2019	22.9	NA	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	15.2	2010	→	14.4	2021	18.6	NA	46.3
	Male	67.7	2010	→	68.1	2021	70.0	NA	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	50.3	2010	↗	56.3	2019	73.8	NA	54.6
	Male	56.5	2010	→	52.0	2019	69.8	NA	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	28.0	2010	↘	18.8	2019	15.7	NA	25.3
	Male	17.5	2010	→	17.1	2019	14.4	NA	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	47.6	2010	↘	41.5	2020	43.9	NA	NA
	Male	22.1	2010	↘	18.3	2020	17.0	NA	NA
Received a public sector pension in the past year (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	8.49	2017	NA	5.68	9.06
	Male	NA	NA	---	15.7	2017	NA	5.01	8.62
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		41.2	2010	↗	45.6	2020	55.5	NA	54.6
Female migrants (% of international migrant stock)		43.1	2010	→	47.0	2019	45.1	NA	46.7
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	91.3	2017	NA	51.7	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	95.5	2017	NA	60.6	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	15.2	2017	NA	6.81	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	18.7	2017	NA	9.00	7.57
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	19.0	NA	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	NA	NA	6.50	NA	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		2.76	2010	↗	5.59	2021	17.0	NA	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		16.7	2010	→	17.0	2011	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%)		3.00	2010	↗	6.67	2020	14.0	NA	22.0
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. Islamic Republic of Iran 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 Islamic Republic of Iran 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.

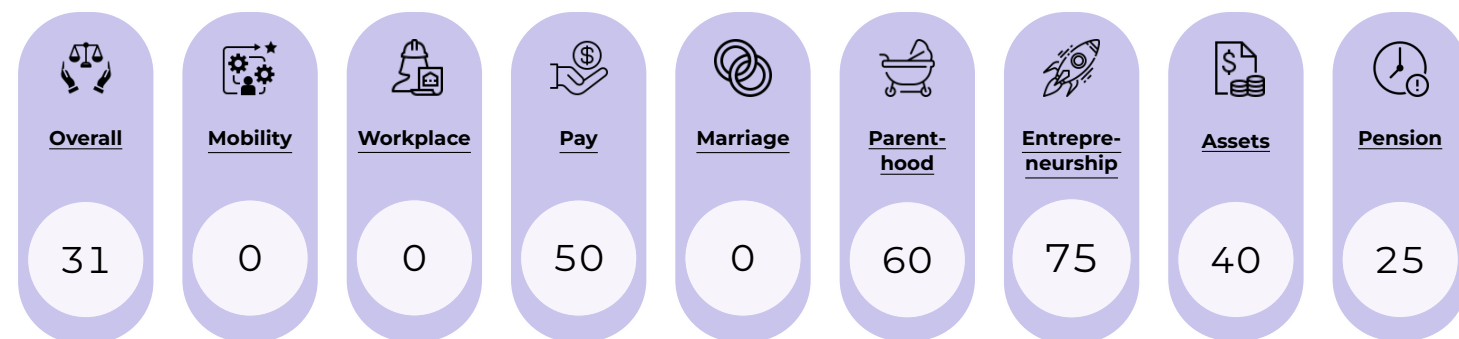




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Women, Business and the Law in Islamic Republic of Iran

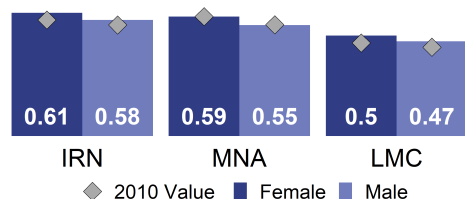
Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Islamic Republic of Iran scores 31 out of 100**, while the regional average across Middle East and North Africa is 80.



A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Islamic Republic of Iran

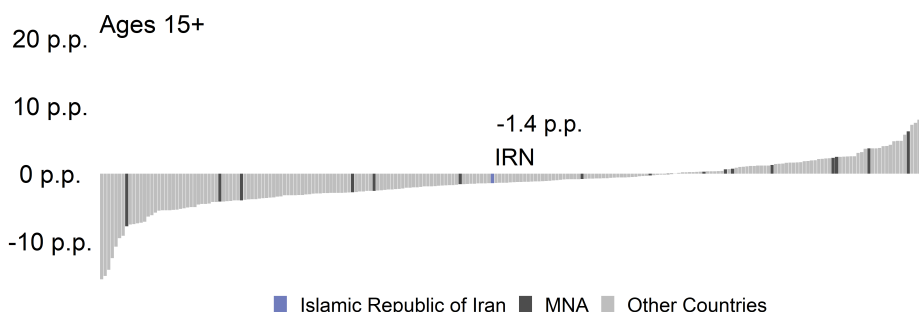
Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

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 Islamic Republic of Iran

61 percent

A girl born today will be 61 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**

17 in 100

17 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 **(2011)**

5.7 percent

5.7 percent of married women ages 15 to 49 report not having access to contraceptives **(2011)**

17 times

Men hold 17 times as many seats in the national parliament as women **(2021)**

1.3 times

A man is 1.3 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.



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Accelerate Equality
Gender Equality and Development