

financial & private sector development

Gender and the Business Environment: New World Bank Group Datasets

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Overview

- Doing Business Gender Law Library
 - What is it?
 - What type of information does it contain?
 - The web interface
 - Some early insights on legal clusters
- Enterprise Surveys
 - What are they?
 - Gender and the enterprise surveys
- Research potential

Gender Law Library

- The Gender Law Library:
 - Identifies national laws that affect women's economic status
 - Facilitates comparative analysis of legislation
 - Highlights potential areas for reform to enhance opportunities for women
 - Potential to serve as a basis for developing gender indicators

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Information Contained in the Gender Law Library

Topics include:

- Property Rights
- Enforcing Contracts
- Inheritance Provisions
- Work Hour Limits
- Non-Discrimination
- International Treaties

Sources of Information

- Legal databases
- Doing Business contributors
- Academic libraries
- Government sources
- World Bank networks
- Private Law Firms

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www.doingbusiness.org/genderlawlibrary

Gender Law Library
The Doing Business Gender Law Library is a collection of national legal provisions impacting women's economic status in 181 economies. The database facilitates comparative analysis of legislation, serves as a resource for research, and contributes to reforms that can enhance women's full economic participation. We update the collection regularly but do not guarantee that laws are the most recent version, nor is the library exhaustive. Translations are not official unless indicated. Contact us with comments and contributions.

More Information
▶ Acknowledgements and Sources
▶ Frequently Asked Questions
▶ Your Input

Doing Business
Starting a Business (38)
Getting Credit (61)
Property Rights (129)
Enforcing Contracts (50)
Paying Taxes (18)
Employing Women (634)

Types of Provisions
Gender Equality
Non-Discrimination (357)
Affirmative Action (27)
Family and Inheritance Law
Marriage and Divorce (208)
Inheritance (47)
Labor Law
Maternity (361)
Child Care (224)
Industry Prohibitions (56)
Work-Hour Limits (69)
Retirement (23)
Equal Pay (46)
Sexual Harassment (22)

Query Options: [Reset]

▶ View the entire library by clicking here, or a subset of laws and regulations by clicking on the menus provided.
▶ To limit the results set to specific countries, regions, or income level, use the menu below.

Include all economies in this region:
 Eastern Europe & Central Asia Middle East & North Africa Latin America & Caribbean
 South Asia Sub-Saharan Africa East Asia & Pacific

Include all economies in this income grouping:
 Low income Lower middle income Upper middle income
 High income OECD

Select economy: Show All
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

6 DB categories

Searchable by Economy

15 areas of law

Regional “Hot Topics” (emerging clusters)

- Sub-Saharan Africa
 - The majority of African countries embody the principle of equality between the sexes through their Constitutions or through their accession to International Treaties
 - However, Marriage, Family, or Civil Codes in several African countries explicitly set out the Husband as the head of the family unit
 - This distinction can potentially lead to differential treatment for married women in arenas such as taxation, employment, and property rights

Emerging Legal Clusters (cont.)

- Middle East and North Africa
 - Several countries in the region have been identified as having laws that state the husband must provide the cost of maintaining his wife.
 - The same countries also have laws stating that the Wife can deal freely with her personal property
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 - Many countries in the region have some form of work hour restrictions for women in certain circumstances
 - This is particularly the case with night work restrictions on pregnant women or women working in heavy industry and construction
 - Differential retirement ages are also common in the region

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Enterprise Surveys

- Firm-level data based on surveys covering almost 85,000 firms in 106 countries
- Standardized surveys introduced in 2005, facilitating cross-country and (in time) time series analysis
- In addition to use for research, enterprise surveys have served as a key input to World Bank policy dialogue, through Investment Climate Assessments
 - Findings on “key constraints” faced by businesses form a useful complement to objective indicators like *Doing Business*

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Gender and the Enterprise Surveys

- Enterprise Surveys collect data on:
 - Female participation in firm ownership
 - Number of full-time workers who are female
 - Number of women in senior positions
- Used to generate gender indicators:
 - <http://www.enterprisesurveys.org/ExploreTopics/?topicid=6>
- Data can also be used to:
 - Identify constraints that pose greater obstacles for female entrepreneurs
 - Examine how regulatory reforms might differentially affect
 - women-owned businesses
 - sectors where women more likely to be employed

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Now we have the data, what might we ask?

- Cross country analysis, using the enterprise surveys
 - Are perceptions of obstacles different for male and female owned enterprises?
 - Does complying with regulations take longer for female entrepreneurs or in sectors where female employment is concentrated?
 - Do woman-owned businesses disproportionately rely on intermediaries to access markets?
 - Are women business owners more likely to use proxies to deal with government authorities?
 - Are there differences in how female entrepreneurs use working and investment capital?
 - Does access to finance constrain female entrepreneurs to smaller firms or less capital intensive sectors?

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Working across the enterprise surveys, the law library and DB...

- How and when do regulatory reforms have differential impacts on women and men?
 - Because a reform that looks “gender blind” tackles barriers particularly binding for women entrepreneurs, or because a reform that looks “gender blind” has less impact on women given other barriers
 - Ripe for analysis: reforms in obtaining credit, registering property, starting a business and employment in Eastern Europe (DB data on reforms available annually; enterprise survey gender data collected in 2005 and 2008)
- At the country level, what is the impact of sub-national customary law (holding constant statutory law) on women entrepreneurs?
 - Ripe for analysis: Nigeria

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For More Information

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- Enterprise surveys
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