

## Government Focal Points for *Women, Business, and the Law* Project (World Bank)

### Overview

The World Bank Group's *Women, Business and the Law (WBL)* is a global benchmarking project that provides comprehensive and comparable data on laws, policies, and the perceptions of their enforcement, to assess how they affect women's economic opportunities and private sector development in 190 economies. An index, structured around ten topics encompassing various stages of a woman's working life, allows benchmarking across covered economies. The ten topics are: Safety, Mobility, Work, Pay, Marriage, Parenthood, Childcare, Entrepreneurship, Assets, and Pension.

Data are collected through questionnaires administered to experts from the private and public sector on three topics: family law and access to finance, labor law and childcare services, and violence against women legislation.

### Engagement with government focal points

To streamline the collection of data from the public sector, at the beginning of the WBL data collection cycle (March/April), the WBL Team identifies government "Focal Points" in coordination with the Executive Directors. Focal Points are appointed among government officials from agencies or ministries that have competence over WBL topics. This partnership ensures the highest standards of data accuracy and transparency.

Focal Points are invited to coordinate completion of the three WBL topic questionnaires by engaging relevant ministries or public institutions, as appropriate. Generally, the representatives of the following ministers or agencies can be involved in questionnaire completion:

- Family law and access to finance: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Family Affairs, Ministry of Social Development, Department of Civil Affairs, etc.
- Labor law and childcare services: Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Social Protection, Department of Workforce Development.
- Violence against women (VAW) legislation: Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Gender Equality, Ministry of Justice, Department of Social Services.

WBL topic questionnaires distributed during data collection to government representatives include questions on legal and policy frameworks and do not include questions on the perception of enforcement questions. Government representatives are invited to complete the questionnaires within the timeframe aligned with the general data collection timeline.

Focal Points will be responsible for facilitating coordination across institutions, liaising with the WBL team, and ensuring questionnaire submission. WBL will use the responses from government representatives for data validation purposes only. The contributions from relevant line ministries or agencies will be acknowledged on the WBL website:

<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/partners/governments>

## Government Engagement with the *Women, Business and the Law* Team

Governments have several opportunities to engage with the *Women, Business and the Law* team.

- 1) Focal Points are invited to **participate in events**, networking opportunities, workshops, webinars, and potential speaking engagements focusing on how enhancing women's economic opportunities can drive global economic growth and prosperity. The *Women, Business and the Law* team welcomes the opportunity to engage with government representatives at the IMF/World Bank Annual/Spring Meetings and throughout the year.
- 2) *Women, Business and the Law* invites Focal Points to attend the **methodology workshops** organized by the WBL team on an annual basis. The workshops are designed to enhance understanding of WBL indicators and improve the ability to apply WBL methodologies and scoring in various contexts. Workshops are held in hybrid format (in-person at the World Bank Headquarters and virtual). Further information regarding the workshops will be published on the WBL [website](#). Additional regional and country-specific workshops may also be organized upon request from governments and World Bank Group colleagues.
- 3) Focal Points may request **bilateral meetings on data and methodology** by completing an online [form](#). Bilateral meetings may include:
  - *Introductory Bilateral Meeting*: Designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the project and facilitate in-depth discussions on project-specific matters, such as fundraising initiatives and the organization or participation in events.
  - *Technical Bilateral Meeting*: Designed to focus on methodological questions and the presentation of economy or region-specific data queries.
  - *In-depth Methodology Workshops*: Designed to provide in-depth methodology training for governments.