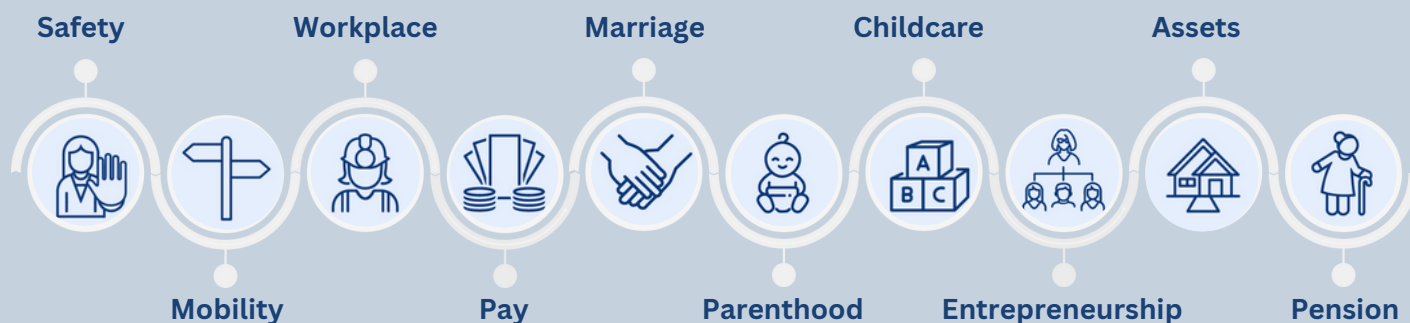




Women, Business and the Law (WBL) is a World Bank Group flagship project designed to improve women's labor force participation and entrepreneurship, driving job creation, productivity, and economic growth. By publishing data on laws and policy mechanisms in 190 economies, WBL identifies barriers and enablers to women's economic opportunities, guiding reforms for more dynamic and resilient economies around the world. Structured around the life cycle of a working woman, the dataset presents ten indicators:



To present a fuller picture of the enabling environment for women, **Women, Business and the Law 2024** analyzes de jure laws “on the books”, examines the existence of policy and institutional frameworks supporting the de facto implementation of the law, and gauges experts’ opinions on the outcome of the law for women.

Women in Latin America & the Caribbean region have just 69% of the legal rights afforded to men. Only 39% of mechanisms are in place to support the implementation of laws. Experts in the region perceive that 62% of women enjoy equal rights with men, pointing to real-world implementation issues.

Reform Highlights from October 2022 - October 2023

- ✓ In April 2023, **Belize** allowed women to apply for a passport in the same way as a man.
- ✓ In November 2022, **Suriname** implemented two reforms, including legislation protecting women from sexual harassment in the workplace, with criminal penalties.

[Click here](#) for a full list of reforms

Regional Performance Legal Frameworks

Top Performers



Peru (85.0)
Costa Rica, Ecuador,
El Salvador, and
Mexico (82.5)

Most Room for Improvement



Antigua and Barbuda,
Haiti, and St. Vincent
and the Grenadines
(52.5)



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WBL 2.0 Economy
Snapshots



Recent Publications



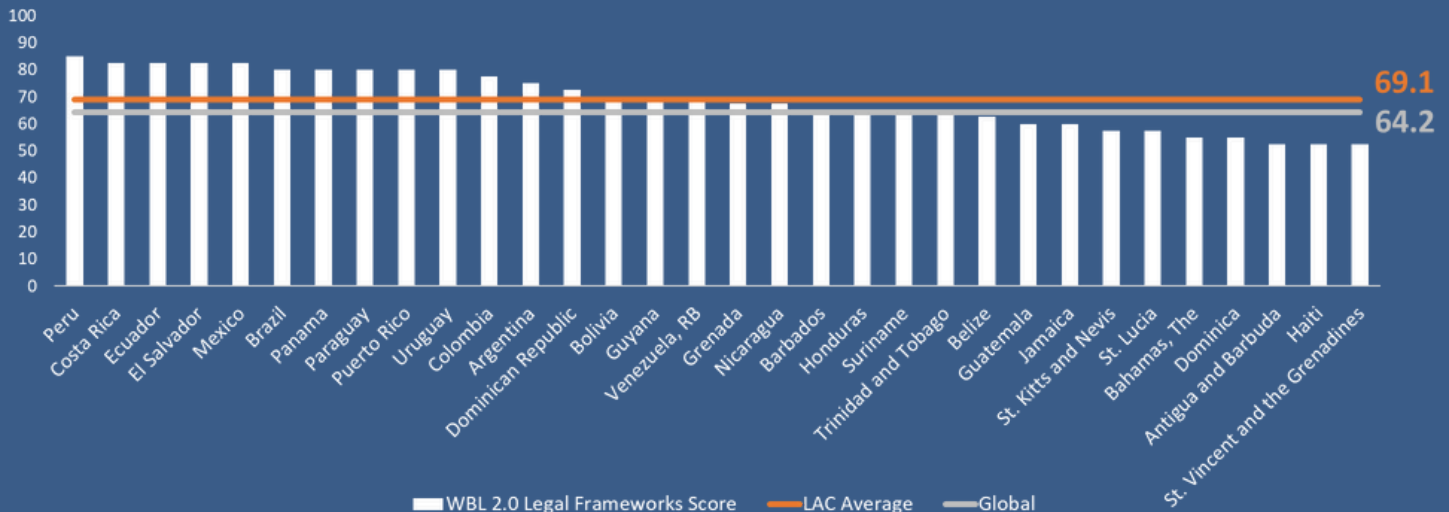
Regional Profile: Toward Availability, Public Finance, and Quality of Childcare Services in Latin America and the Caribbean



Blog: Empowering Caribbean women: The key to unleashing economic potential



Legal Frameworks scores for Latin America & the Caribbean - WBL 2024 index



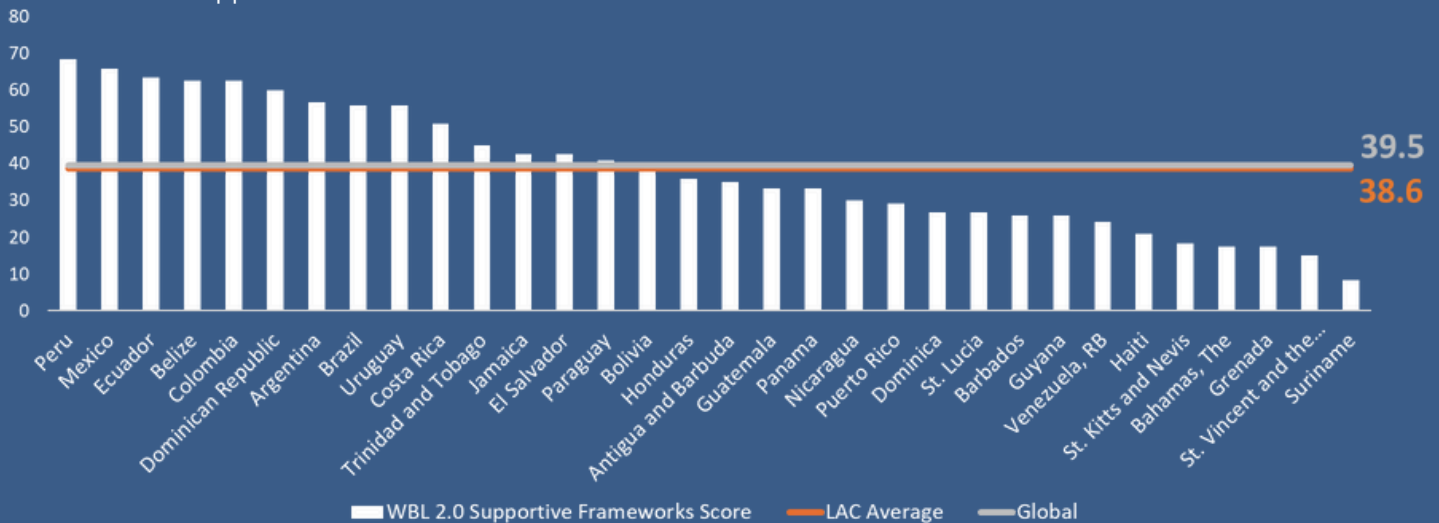
Legal Frameworks

- LAC's regional average (69.1) is almost five points higher than the global average (64.2), but no economy in the region achieves a perfect score of 100.
- Assets, Mobility, and Marriage have an average regional score above 80.
- Challenges remain in the area of Entrepreneurship. No economy in the region scores 100 on this indicator.

Supportive Frameworks

- LAC's regional average (38.6) is slightly lower than the global average (39.5).
- Economies in the LAC region perform relatively well in the Mobility (63.5) and Marriage (64.6) indicators.
- In contrast, larger implementation gaps are observed under Workplace (18.8) and Childcare (21.1).

Supportive Frameworks scores for Latin America & the Caribbean - WBL 2024 index



Expert Opinions

- LAC's regional average (61.8) is almost four points lower than the global average (65.7).
- Experts perceive women's rights to be advanced in Mobility (92.3), Assets (89.1), and Marriage (84.7).
- Opinions on Safety (19.8) and Childcare (30.2) indicate that women's rights are not perceived, in practice, in these areas.

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