



WOMEN IN AFRICA
INSTITUTE

May 17th 2017 - HL

WIA DIGEST

01

AFDB'S AFRICA GENDER EQUALITY INDEX 2015

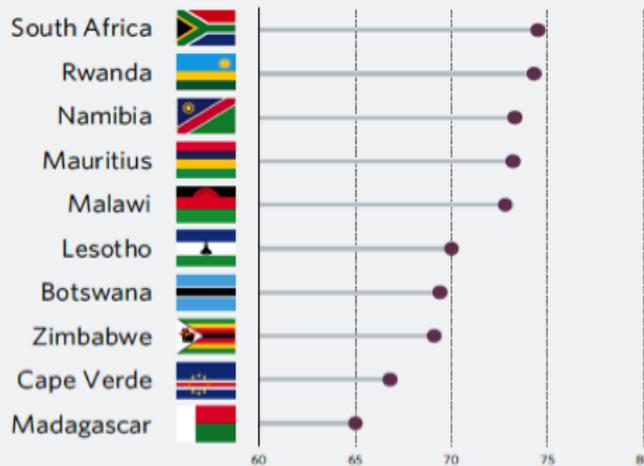
Empowering African Women: An Agenda for Action

Published by	African Development Bank	Originality	The only index on African gender on the overall continent. Action oriented: A tool not only for measurement but for promoting development.
On	May 2015	Main findings	Women face significant obstacles as producers, in human development, and as active citizens and leaders. This prevents them from making their full contribution to development. The price of these constraints is paid not just by women themselves, but by society as a whole. Africa needs dramatic breakthroughs in productivity, especially in agriculture and small business, where most Africans earn their livelihoods.
Motto	«Empowering African women is essential to enabling African societies to achieve their potential» Geraldine J. Frazer-Moleketi.	Web link to the document	https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/African_Gender_Equality_Index_2015-EN.pdf
Scope	52 countries in Africa.		
Target	African leaders, policymakers, economists and civil society, African citizens, AfDB.		
Vision	Spark dialogue and informed debate on gender equality at national and regional levels. Enrich and inform the global conversation wherever Africa's development is on the agenda.		

AN INDEX BUILT UPON THREE DIMENSIONS

Economic Empowerment - Human Development - Laws and Institutions.

TOP 10 COUNTRY PERFORMANCE: OVERALL



AN AGENDA FOR ACTION IN EIGHT BREAKTHROUGH AREAS

The vision	Breakthrough areas
African women playing an active role in Africa's development...	Enhancing African women's access to...
...as producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land ▪ Credit ▪ Infrastructure connections
...in human development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and skills ▪ Health and fertility ▪ Personal safety
...as active citizens and leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equality before the law ▪ Voice and representation

WOMEN AS PRODUCERS

African women are both economically active and highly entrepreneurial. They form the core of the agricultural labor force. Within the formal sector, women hold 4 of every 10 jobs and earn on average two-thirds the salary of their male colleagues.

However, women jobs are predominantly in low-value-added occupations that generate little economic return: Only 15% of formal-sector firms have a woman as the managing director. Women face an array of barriers that prevent them from moving into more productive pursuits: Only 15 African countries have laws against gender discrimination in hiring.

LAND:

More secure land rights can deliver both greater protection for women and greater incentive and opportunity to develop more productive agriculture.

→ In sub-Saharan Africa, customary land tenure systems widely exclude women from ownership or control of land. Women represent just 15% of landholders, ranging from under 5% in Mali to 30% in countries such as Botswana, Cape Verde and Malawi.

→ Ethiopia and Rwanda have both sought to address this problem by mandating that land be held jointly by spouses, greatly increasing women's land ownership and giving them greater inheritance rights and protection in the event of divorce.

CREDIT:

While many microcredit institutions and informal savings associations lend to women, there is a need to address women who wish to expand beyond the microenterprise level.

→ Women say lack of finance is the biggest constraint on business expansion.

→ Insecure land rights reduce women's ability to pledge the land as collateral for loans.

→ In Uganda, women own 38% of all registered enterprises but access only 9% of formal finance.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIONS:

Better connectivity leads to greater productivity.

→ Across sub-Saharan Africa very few households have access to modern fuels for cooking (in 11 countries, fewer than 1% of households), so women and girls spend long hours each day collecting firewood and other biomass.

→ In Mozambique, rural Senegal and eastern Uganda, women spend on average 15 to 17 hours each week collecting water. In the dry season, it is not uncommon for them to walk more than 10 km to find clean water. Over a year, this can represent up to two full months of labor.

→ African women have less access than men to radio, newspapers, mobile phones and the Internet. One 2010 study found that African women are 23% less likely than men to own a mobile phone.

WOMEN IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION SKILLS:

Overall, the ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary school increased from 87% in 2005 to 91% in 2012. Although there is still some way to go on secondary and vocational education.

→ On average, the male-to female earnings ratio is 2.8 among individuals with no education, but is close to parity among individuals with tertiary education.

→ 1 in 10 school-age African girls skip school during menstruation or else drop out altogether, because of the lack of sanitation. (UNICEF).

→ 9 of the world's 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are in Africa.

HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: Women have benefited from greater access to health services, but they still face many health risks.

→ Women are at greater risk of dying during childbirth in sub-Saharan Africa than in any other region of the world

→ In many African countries, fewer than 10% of women have access to contraception.

→ Africa lags behind other developing regions in bringing fertility rates under control. In 16 of 35 sub-Saharan African countries, there has been no decline in fertility over the past 30 years. Level of education is perhaps the most important predictor of fertility.

PERSONAL SAFETY:

The prevalence of intimate partner violence is at 37% across Africa and the Middle East, on a par with South Asia and parts of Latin America. Rates vary widely across countries and regions, however, peaking at 60% in Central Africa. (WHO).

WOMEN AS ACTIVE CITIZENS AND LEADERS

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW:

The Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, which has 46 signatories, is a comprehensive guarantee of the rights of women to social and political equality. But, **following traditional practices, women's participation in society and the economy continues to be mediated in important ways by their husbands and fathers.**

→ In 35 countries, married women are obliged by law to obey their husbands. There are 9 countries where a married woman cannot apply for a passport in the same way as her husband.

→ Legislative reforms can have a significant impact, like Ethiopia which, in 2000, raised the minimum marital age for women, removed the husband's ability to deny the wife permission to work outside the home, and required the consent of both spouses to manage marital property.

WOMEN AS LEADERS:

Women are more prominent in public life, but are not always given recognition elsewhere.

→ Some countries, such as Rwanda and Tanzania, have introduced constitutional requirements to include a minimum proportion of women. Rwanda is now a global leader in this area, women make up over 60% of the national parliament.

→ Even without quotas, women are taking on more leadership roles. In Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was the first woman to become president of an African nation, followed by Joyce Banda in Malawi and Catherine Samba-Panza in the Central African Republic. Today, the overall proportion of women cabinet ministers has increased from 4% to 20%, with South Africa (45%), Cape Verde (36%) and Lesotho (32%) the frontrunners.

→ However, women own only a third of all businesses across Africa, from just 4% in Eritrea to 62% in Côte d'Ivoire.