

Social Institutions and Gender Index

Mali

SIGI Country Profile

6 October 2025

SIGI Country Profiles are produced by the OECD Development Centre. Commended and supported by Italy's G7 presidency, these SIGI Country Profiles for Africa focus on violence against women and women's economic empowerment.

The information and analysis contained in this profile are based on data from the fifth edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) published in March 2023. The cut-off date for legal data is 31 August 2022; the cut-off date for quantitative data is 1 January 2023.

Suggested citation: OECD Development Centre (2023), "Mali SIGI Country Profile", *SIGI 2023 Country Profiles*, OECD, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>

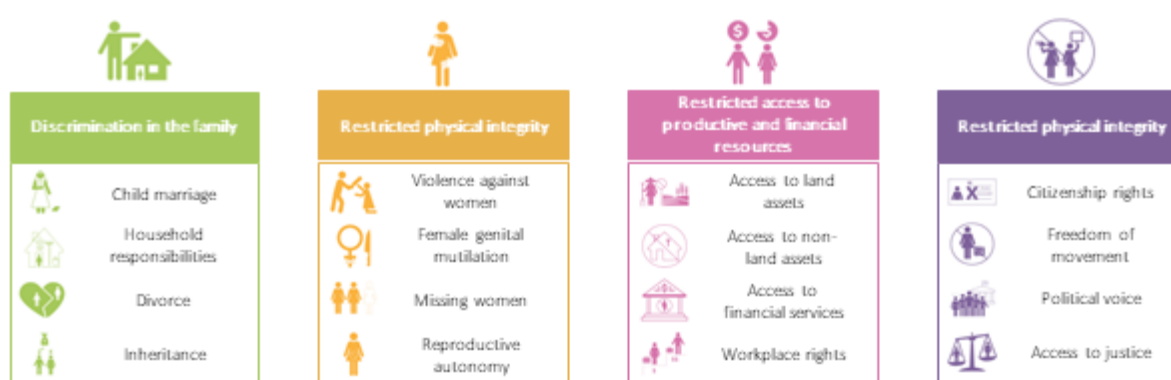
Foreword

The SIGI 2023 profile for Mali provides a comprehensive overview of the state of gender equality in the country with a focus on violence against women and women's economic empowerment, as measured by the OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The fifth edition of the SIGI, released in 2023, assesses 140 countries based on the level of gender-based discrimination in their social institutions. These discriminatory social institutions encompass both formal and informal laws, as well as social norms and practices that restrict women's and girls' access to rights, justice, empowerment opportunities and resources, thereby undermining their agency and authority.

Specifically, the SIGI measures gender-based discrimination across four dimensions covering the major socio-economic areas that affect women and girls throughout their lifetime:

- The **“Discrimination in the family”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women's decision-making power and weaken their status in the household and the family.
- The **“Restricted physical integrity”** dimension captures social institutions that increase women's and girls' vulnerability to multiple forms of violence and limit their control over their reproductive autonomy.
- The **“Restricted access to productive and financial resources”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women's economic opportunities and rights.
- The **“Restricted civil liberties”** dimension captures social institutions restricting women's access to, and participation and voice in, the public and political spheres.

Figure 1. Conceptual framework of the fifth edition of the SIGI

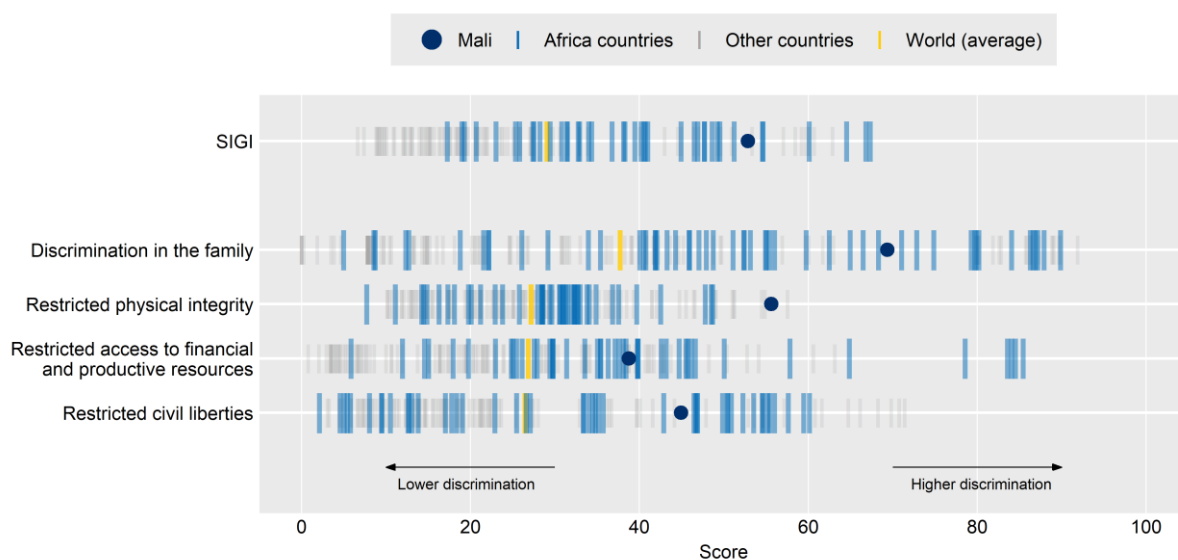


Each dimension builds on four indicators which, in turn, build on one to three variables depending on data availability (Figure 1). When there are no data gaps, each indicator includes one legal variable, one attitudinal variable and one practice variable. Levels of discrimination in the SIGI and its dimensions are assessed based on scores as follow: very low [0-20]; low [20-30]; medium [30-40]; high [40-50]; and very high [50-100].

The state of gender equality in Mali

Overall, Mali was among those countries classified as having very high levels of gender discrimination based on the SIGI 2023 score (53). For comparison, the average score in the Africa region is 40 while the global average is 29. Across the SIGI's four dimensions, the SIGI score shows lower discrimination in "Restricted access to productive and financial resources" (39) and "Restricted civil liberties" (45) and higher levels of discrimination in "Restricted physical integrity" (56) and "Discrimination in the family" (69).

Figure 2. SIGI and dimension scores for Mali, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Africa region covers Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Source: OECD (2023), "Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)", *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Positive highlights and significant challenges

Positive highlights

- The statutory legal framework grants women and men the same rights in those covering access to financial assets and freedom of movement.
- Mali enforces a 30% minimum gender quota for elected and appointed positions—reinforced by the 2022 Electoral Law. In addition, the country is implementing and reviewing the 3rd National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019–2023, extended to 2025), and have adopted a 2019–2030 national strategy to end gender-based violence, including FGM/C.

Significant challenges

- Discrimination in the family remains widespread in both law and practice. Legal frameworks on child marriage, household responsibilities, and divorce are not gender equal. The girl child marriage rate is double the regional average and women bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work. They spend 11.5 hours daily on such tasks —nearly three times the regional average—while data on men's contributions are lacking.
- Women's physical integrity is severely undermined by both legal gaps and entrenched social norms. Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is not specifically prohibited, although affecting 89% of women aged 15–49. Moreover, 83% of women who are aware of FGM/C believe the practice should continue. Acceptance of domestic violence is also alarmingly high, with 74% of women justifying wife-beating under certain circumstances.
- Barriers to women's economic and civic participation persist. Discriminatory attitudes dominate public opinion, with 62% believing men should be prioritised for jobs when opportunities are scarce, 83% viewing men as better business leaders and 79% believe men make better political leaders — all above regional levels. Legal frameworks on workplace and citizenship rights contain gender discriminatory provisions.

Summary of results for Mali

Discrimination in the family	Unit	Value	Regional Value
Laws on child marriage	Score	100	50.9
Girl child marriage rate ¹	%	42.1	18.7
Boy child marriage rate ¹	%	1.1	1.8
Laws on household responsibilities	Score	75	52.3
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that 'if a woman earns more than her husband, it is a problem'	%	-	53.1
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that 'when a mother works 'for' pay, the children will suffer'	%	-	54.6
Female-to-male ratio of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work	Ratio	11.5	4.1
Number of hours spent by men on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	-	1.1
Number of hours spent by women on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	-	4.4
Laws on divorce	Score	75	57.9
Laws on inheritance	Score	50	51.9
Restricted physical integrity	Unit	Value	Regional Value
Laws on violence against women	Score	75	53.7
Share of women who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances	%	74	37.2
Lifetime intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	29	32.8
12-month intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	16.7	17
Laws on female genital mutilation	Score	100	28.7
Share of the female population who has heard about female genital mutilation and think the practice should continue	%	82.5	26.7
Prevalence of female genital mutilation (% of women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM)	%	88.6	40.5
Boy-to-girl ratio at birth (natural = 105) ³	Ratio	102.3	102.7
Laws on reproductive autonomy	Score	50	58.8
Unmet needs for family planning ⁴	%	23.9	19.7
Restricted access to productive and financial resources	Unit	Value	Regional Value
Laws on land assets	Score	25	36.1
Share of women among landowners	%	41.2	38.1
Laws on non-land assets	Score	25	29.2
Share of women among house owners	%	37.5	40.3
Laws on financial assets	Score	0	16.2
Share of women among bank account owners	%	49.3	41.6
Laws on workplace rights	Score	100	73.1
Share of the population declaring that 'when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women'	%	62.4	55.4
Share of the population declaring that 'men make better business executives than women do'	%	82.8	55.7
Share of women among managers	%	17.4	32.8
Share of firms with a woman as top manager	%	11.6	13.8
Restricted civil liberties	Unit	Value	Regional Value
Laws on citizenship rights	Score	100	42.1
Laws on political voice	Score	25	25
Share of the population declaring that 'men make better political leaders than women do'	%	79	62.4
Share of women in Parliament (lower chamber)	%	28.6	25.4
Laws on freedom of movement	Score	0	17.6
Share of women among those who declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live	%	49.3	56.8
Laws on access to justice	Score	25	23.1
Share of women among those who declare not having confidence in the judicial system and courts of their country	%	47.5	47.3

Note: Scores of legal variables range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination.

¹ % of girls/boys aged 15-19 years who have been or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union.

² % of ever-partnered women and girls who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime/over the previous 12 months. Population base for lifetime IPV: 15-49 years. Population base for 12-month IPV: 15 years and older.

³ A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105 implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

⁴ % of married or in-union women of reproductive age who want to either stop or delay childbearing but are not using any contraception method.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), "Gender, Institutions and Development Database", <https://doi.org/10.1787/7b0af638-en>.

Social and institutional determinants of violence against women and girls

Violence against women is a global pandemic, with disastrous effects on girls' and women's health and well-being. Moreover, violence against women is rarely an isolated incidence, but often part of patterns of abuse sustained by deeply entrenched but harmful social norms and gender stereotypes.¹ As such, it is more than an interpersonal issue - it is a wider societal problem with consequences on countries' development and welfare.

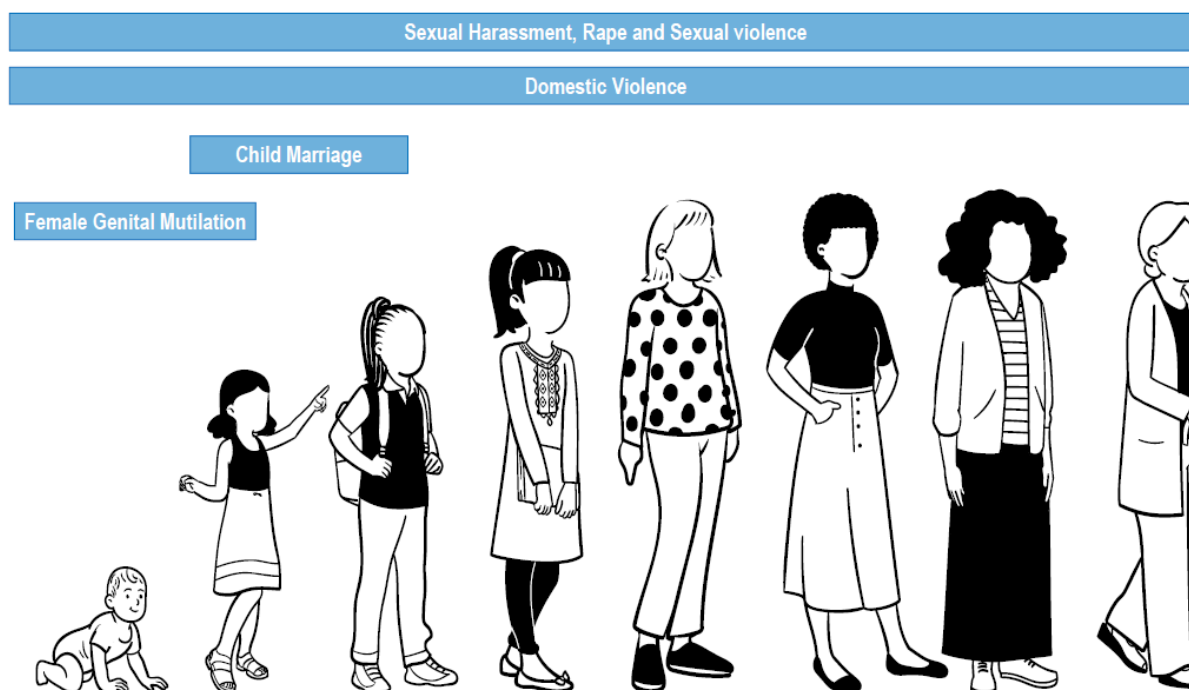
The United Nations define violence against women as wide range of harmful acts that are rooted in unequal power relations between men and women and that result in - or are likely to result in - physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women.² At the global level, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and particularly the General recommendation No. 35 of 2017 recognise the importance of ending gender-based violence against women. In Africa, the Maputo Protocol³ calls on state parties to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and adopt the needed measures to end and prevent violence against women. The SIGI adopts a life-cycle approach to violence against women and girls covering several types of violence (see Figure 3). This section assesses how social norms and legal frameworks determine girls' and women's risk of being subjected to any of these types of violence.

¹ OECD (2023), Breaking the Cycle of Gender-based Violence: Translating Evidence into Action for Victim/Survivor-centred Governance, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/b133e75c-en>.

² United Nations (1993), Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, United Nations, New York, https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocitycrimes/Doc.21_declaration%20elimination%20vaw.pdf.

³ African Union (2003), Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, Maputo, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WG/ProtocolontheRightsofWomen.pdf>.

Figure 3. Violence against women and girls is a lifelong continuum



Source: Authors' own elaboration based on OECD (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Violence against women

Practices and social norms related to violence against women

Violence against women remains a major concern in Mali. Based on the latest available data in 2023, 29% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former partner at least once during their lifetime, and 17% of women aged more than 15 have experienced such violence at least once over the last 12 months.⁴

These levels of intimate-partner violence are rooted in its widespread social acceptance. Based on the latest available data in 2023, 74% of women aged 15-49 think that it is justified for a husband to hit or beat his wife under certain circumstances, such as burning the food, arguing with the spouse, going out without telling him, neglecting the children, or refusing to have sex. In comparison, 28% of women hold these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, and 37% across Africa – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning violence against women

Mali does not have a dedicated law addressing all forms of violence against women. There is no specific legislation addressing domestic violence, sexual harassment, or other forms of gender-based violence, including femicide and politically motivated violence. Article 226 of the Penal Code⁵ defines and criminalises rape as any act of sexual penetration, of any kind, committed against another person through

⁴ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.1

⁵ Republic of Mali (2001), "Penal Code".

violence, coercion, threat, or surprise. The legal definition of rape is thus not grounded on the lack of consent and requires proof of penetration. The law does not explicitly criminalise marital rape.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is there a law specifically addressing violence against women?	No	!
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator?	NA	NA
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for protection and support services for victims/survivors?	NA	NA
Does the law include reduced penalties in case of so-called "honour crimes"?	No	✓
Domestic violence		
Is domestic violence a criminal offence?	No	!
Does domestic violence legislation cover physical abuse?	No	!
Does domestic violence legislation cover sexual abuse?	No	!
Does domestic violence legislation cover psychological abuse?	No	!
Does domestic violence legislation cover economic abuse?	No	!
Are there any exceptions included in informal laws (traditional, religious, and/or customary rules/laws) that reduce penalties for domestic violence?	No	✓
Rape		
Is rape a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Is the legal definition of rape based on lack of consent?	No	!
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of physical force?	NA	NA
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of penetration?	NA	NA
Does the legal definition of rape include marital rape?	No	!
Does the law permit the reduction or removal of legal punishment if the perpetrator marries the victim?	No	✓
Sexual harassment		
Does the law prohibit sexual harassment?	No	!
Does the law on sexual harassment include criminal penalties?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in the workplace?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in educational establishments?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in public spaces?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply online / on the internet?	No	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Child marriage

Practices related to child marriage

Child marriage remains a major concern in Mali, primarily affecting girls. Based on the latest available data in 2023, 42% of girls aged 15-19 were or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union, compared to 1% of boys. In addition, 54% of women aged 20-24 were married or in a union before the age of 18,⁶ compared to a world average of 26% and an average of 31% in Africa – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning child marriage

Article 281 of the Code of Persons and the Family⁷ sets the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 years for men and 16 years for women. Individuals aged 15 and above may marry with a judicial exemption granted by the head of the administrative district for serious reasons. According to Article 284 of the Code of

⁶ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.3.1

⁷ Republic of Mali (2011), "Code of Persons and the Family".

Persons and the Family, in cases where a marriage occurs under an age exemption, parental consent is generally required. In the event of disagreement between parents, the father's consent prevails. If the father is deceased or unable to express his will, the consent of an extended consisting of family members is sufficient.

Question	Answer	Assessment
What is the legal age of marriage for men?	18	✓
What is the legal age of marriage for women?	16	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of parent and/or legal guardian?	Yes	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of judge or court?	Yes	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of another person or institution?	No	✓
Does the legal age of marriage apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that allow or encourage the early marriage of girls?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

Practices and social norms related to FGM/C

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) is traditionally concentrated in a limited number of countries that have been well-identified and documented by international organisations at the forefront of the fight against this harmful practice. Yet, evidence highlights that FGM/C takes place across all regions, among indigenous and/or diaspora communities originating from countries where FGM/C is known to be common. In some contexts, girls are taken across national borders to undergo FGM/C in a country where the legislation against the practice is either non-existent or less strict.⁸

Based on the latest available data in 2023, female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) remains present in Mali, with 89% of women aged 15-49 who have undergone the practice. Moreover, 83% of women think that the practice of FGM/C should continue.

Legal frameworks concerning FGM/C

Article 207 of the Penal Code⁹ allows to prosecute FGM/C on broad grounds, namely under acts of intentional bodily harm, including harm that results in illness, incapacity, mutilation, or loss of a body part or sense. However, the legislation does not allow to prosecute FGM/C on narrow grounds.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on broad or narrow grounds?	No	!
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds only?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow or encourage FGM/C?	Yes	!
Does the law take precedence over informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow, condone or prescribe FGM?	No	!

⁸ Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

⁹ Republic of Mali (2001), "Penal Code".

Note: The SIGI methodology assesses laws on FGM/C according to two scenarios: (1) criminalisation on narrow grounds includes laws that contain criminal penalties for acts of “female genital mutilation”, “permanent altering/removal of external genitalia”, “female circumcision”, “excision”, “infibulation” and “genital mutilation”; (2) criminalisation on broad grounds includes “mutilation”, “harming of a person’s organs”, “serious bodily injury” and “bodily injury/hurt/assault.” The presence of informal laws that allow or encourage FGM/C is proxied by the existence of nationally representative data on FGM/C or the existence of indirect estimates (usually used in countries where FGM/C is mainly practiced by diaspora communities), small-scale studies, or anecdotal evidence and media reports as reported by Equality Now, the End FGM European Network and the US End FGM/C Network in 2020.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>, and Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

Social and institutional determinants of women's economic empowerment

Women's economic empowerment is a cornerstone of gender equality and a critical driver of sustainable development. It enables women to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from economic growth, thereby reducing income inequality, boosting productivity, and fostering innovation (UN Women, 2018)¹⁰ (Equality Now, 2020)¹¹. As such, advancing women's economic empowerment is essential to realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and building resilient, inclusive societies. Beyond structural factors, social and institutional determinants hold an important sway on women's economic empowerment - including their access to resources and economic opportunities. This section offers insights to what extent social norms and legal frameworks support or restrict women's economic empowerment in Mali, providing detailed information on the following SIGI indicators: Inheritance; Access to land assets; Access to non-land assets; Access to financial services; and Workplace rights.

Inheritance

Legal frameworks concerning inheritance rights

Under Article 751 of the Code of Persons and the Family¹², succession may be governed by religious law, customary law, or the Code's statutory rules. The Code's statutory regime—gender-equal and including protections for the surviving spouse—applies only where no religion or custom is established, no declaration of preference was made, and no testament exists beyond the hereditary reserve and the surviving spouse's rights. Where religious or customary law governs, those regimes apply; consequently, the same protections do not necessarily extend to all female surviving spouses.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do daughters and sons have the same rights to inherit?	Yes	✓
Do female and male surviving spouses have the same rights to inherit?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of daughters, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of female surviving spouses, does the law apply to all groups of women?	No	!

¹⁰ UN Women (2018), Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>.

¹¹ Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

¹² Republic of Mali (2011), "Code of Persons and the Family of the Republic of Mali".

Question	Answer	Assessment
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between sons and daughters when it comes to inheritance?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between male and female surviving spouses when it comes to inheritance?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to land assets

Practices related to women's access to secure land assets

In Mali, women's land ownership remains a concern. Based on the latest available data in 2023, 31% of women are landowners, compared to 43% of men. This translates in women accounting for 41% of landowners in the country. Across Africa, an average of 43% of men and 26% of women are landowners, with women representing 38% of landowners in the region.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to land assets

While the statutory laws grant women and men equal ownership and usage rights over land assets, evidence shows that the informal laws, to which certain parts of the population adhere to, are in some cases gender discriminatory.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use land?	Yes	✓
Regarding land, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of land assets?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to non-land assets

Practices related to women's secure access to non-land assets

In Mali, women's access to non-land assets is limited. Based on the latest available data in 2023, 30% of women own a house, compared to 50% of men. This translates in women accounting for only 38% of house owners in the country.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to non-land assets

While the statutory laws governing access to non-land assets grant women and men equal rights, evidence shows that the informal laws, to which certain parts of the population adhere to, are in some cases gender discriminatory. Across Africa, an average of 45% of men and 29% of women are homeowners, with women representing 40% of homeowners in the region.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Regarding property and other non-land assets, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of non-land assets?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to financial services

Practices related to women's access to formal financial services

Gender imbalances in terms of access to financial services remain an issue in Mali, and the overall access of the population is low. Based on the latest available data in 2023, 28% of women have a bank account at a financial institution, compared to 29% of men. This translates into women accounting for 49% of bank account holders. In comparison, at the global level, 67% of women have a bank account, compared to 72% of men. Across Africa, on average, 28% of women have a bank account, compared to 39% of men, translating into women accounting for 42% of bank account holders.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to financial services

The legal frameworks governing access to financial services and assets grant women and men equal rights.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	Yes	✓
Does the law require married women to obtain the signature and authority of their husband to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	No	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to obtain credit?	Yes	✓
Regarding access to formal financial services, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to opening a bank account?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to obtaining credit?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Workplace rights

Practices and social norms related to women's workplace rights

Women remain largely excluded from positions with decision-making power in the economic sphere. As of the latest available data in 2023, women only account for 17% of employees in a managerial position,¹³ compared to a world average of 25% and an average of 33% in Africa – based on countries for which data are available. Only 12% of companies in the country are headed by women.

¹³ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.2

These gender gaps are upheld by discriminatory social norms that establish men as the main breadwinners and more fit to hold leadership positions. In Mali, 83% of the population believes that men make better business executives than women, compared to a world average of 42% and an average of 56% in Africa. Likewise, 62% of the population agrees that when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women. In comparison, 45% of the population holds these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, and 55% of the people across Africa – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women's workplace rights

Article 185 of the Labour Law¹⁴ prohibits employing women, including pregnant women, and children in work that exceeds their strength, presents danger, or is likely to harm their morality due to its nature or conditions. Article 186 of the Labour Law prohibits women and children from working at night in industrial settings. Article 179 of the Labour Law grants women the right to 14 weeks of paid maternity leave, beginning six weeks before the expected date of birth and ending eight weeks after. Articles 180 to 182 of the Labour Law further guarantee employment protection, access to medical care, and full pay during maternity leave, as well as an extension of three additional weeks in case of pregnancy-related illness. However, the law does not provide for paid paternity or parental leave.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sex?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	✓
Does the law prohibit women from entering certain professions?	Yes	!
Does the law allow women to work the same night hours as men?	No	!
Does the law mandate paid maternity leave?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid paternity leave?	No	!
Does the law mandate paid parental leave?	No	!
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓
Regarding women's legal right to take a paid job or work and/or register a business, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to entering certain professions?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

¹⁴ Republic of Mali (1992), "Labour Law".