In Small Island Developing States 2008

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Doing Business Indicators

2007
- Starting a business
- Dealing with licenses
- Employing workers
- Registering property
- Getting credit
- Protecting investors
- Paying taxes
- Trading across borders
- Enforcing contracts
- Closing a business

2008
- Update of 2007
- 180 countries
- Launch of Opportunities for women
- Doing Business Reform Unit

2009
- Transparency
- Infrastructure
- Research program on opportunities for women
Reforms by Doing Business

Inspired and Informed

- Africa: 14
- East Asia: 4
- East Europe: 10
- Latin America: 14
- Middle East: 7
- OECD: 2
- South Asia: 4

53 completed reforms

Ongoing Reforms

- Africa: 22
- East Europe: 5
- East Asia: 6
- Latin America: 14
- Middle East: 10
- OECD: 2
- South Asia: 1

60 ongoing reforms
More Reforms - Higher Equity Returns

3-year shareholder returns

Number of reforms, 2003-2006
...and Higher Shares of Female Entrepreneurs and Women in the Labor Force

Source: Doing Business database, Enterprise Surveys, WDI

Female Entrepreneurs (% of entrepreneurs)

Female Unemployment (% of male unemployment)

Countries ranked by ease of doing business, quintiles

Source: Doing Business database, Enterprise Surveys, WDI
Enterprise Survey Data: % of Firms With Female Participation in Ownership

Top 10 Countries: Firms with Female Participation in Ownership

1. Costa Rica (65.26%)
2. Portugal (50.76%)
3. Paraguay (44.76%)
4. Ghana (44.01%)
5. Colombia (43.04%)
6. Cape Verde (42.71%)
7. Latvia (42.28%)
8. Ireland (41.59%)
9. Uruguay (41.56%)
10. Nicaragua (41.41%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>St.Lucia</td>
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<td>Palau</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
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<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
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<td>Marshall Islands</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
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<td>Comoros</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>St.Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>São Tomé and Principe</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ease of Hiring Workers (0 = most flexible)

- Sub-Saharan Africa: 41.7
- Latin America & Caribbean: 36.9
- E. Europe & Central Asia: 36.3
- Middle East & North Africa: 25.8
- OECD: 25.2
- South Asia: 23.6
- East Asia & Pacific: 19.2

Employing Workers Top 10
1. United States
2. Singapore
3. Marshall Islands
4. Georgia
5. Brunei
6. Tonga
7. Maldives
8. Australia
9. Palau
10. Denmark

SIDS: flexible labor regulations
Easier Entry Regulations, Lower Taxes, Faster Property Transfers among the Most Popular Reforms in the World 2006-07 – Few reforms in SIDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of positive reforms in SIDS</th>
<th>Number of positive reforms</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Paying taxes</td>
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<td>Registering property</td>
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<td>Trading across borders</td>
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<td>Getting credit</td>
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<td>Dealing with licenses</td>
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<td>Enforcing contracts</td>
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<td>Closing a business</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Protecting investors</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employing workers</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Number of positive reforms
SIDS countries need to prioritize reforms

Examples of short-term reforms: these require mainly administrative changes.

• Starting a Business*
• Registering Property*
• Dealing with Licenses
• Trading across Borders

* an MCC requirement

Examples of some medium to long term reforms: these require substantive restructuring, particularly legislative reform and institutional changes.

• Employing Workers
• Getting Credit
• Enforcing Contracts
• Closing a Business
• Protecting Investors
• Paying Taxes
Gain momentum - some results show quickly

Increase in new business registration after reform (%)

Source: Doing Business database
Tonga - top reformer in Contract enforcement

- **Introduced case management:**
  - 90% of all cases —criminal, commercial and land— transferred from paper to computer.
  - 472 cases that had been dormant for years were uncovered and dropped.
  - All cases are monitored daily.
  - Time to enforce contracts dropped from 510 to 350 days.

- **Introduced simplified rules for small claims**

- **Introduced mediation**
The hypothetical country “SIDS Union” is #2 globally

- Entry in **Mauritius** (#8)
- Licensing (construction) in **St. Vincent and the Grenadines** (#1)
- Employing workers in **Marshall Islands** (#1)
- Registering property in **Palau** (#14)
- Getting credit in **Singapore** (#7)
- Protecting investors in **Trinidad and Tobago** (#15)
- Paying taxes in **Maldives** (#1)
- Trade in **Singapore** (#1)
- Enforcing contracts in **Singapore** (#4)
- Closing a business in **Jamaica** (#22)

Source: *Doing Business* database (using top performing SIDS countries for each indicator)
Doing Business website has many resources
www.doingbusiness.org

The Doing Business project...
provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 178 countries. The team works closely with thousands of professionals around the world.

Doing Business is a guide...
for evaluating regulations that directly impact economic growth, downloading underlying laws, making cross-country comparisons, and identifying good practice reforms.

Current Features

Highlights from Doing Business 2008: As countries reform their business regulation, more businesses are starting up. Eastern Europe has witnessed a boom in new business entry that rivals the rapid growth in East Asia in the past. Large emerging markets such as India, China, Egypt, Turkey, and Indonesia, are reforming fast and investors are taking notice. This year Egypt is the top reforming country worldwide, while Singapore is #1 on the ease of doing business for the second consecutive year. Download the overview (PDF, 2.1MB).

Top Reformers in 2006/07: This year Egypt tops the list of reformers that are making it easier to do business. Egypt’s reforms went deep with reforms in 5 of the 10 areas studied by Doing Business, and it greatly improved its position in the global rankings as a result. Besides Egypt, the other top 10 reformers are, in order, Croatia, Ghana, FYR Macedonia, Georgia, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, China, and Bulgaria.