

Women's Voice, Agency and Participation

Health, Nutrition and
Population-Civil Society
Consultative Group Meeting
October 9, 2013

Director, Gender and Development
World Bank



Outline

- Motivation and approach
- Evidence, constraints & opportunities
- Moving the agenda forward
- Timeline



Motivation and approach

World Development Report 2012: Gender and Development

Progress over the past 30 years

- Gender gaps in primary schools have closed in many countries, globally more women are at university than men
- Women are living longer than men
- Over half a billion women joined the work force

These matter intrinsically.

Evidence also shows that closing gender gaps speeds up social and economic development.

Persistent inequalities, including

- No region is on track to meet MDG5, to cut maternal mortality by 3/4
- Nearly 4 million missing women, annually
- 1.2 billion women worldwide have experienced IPV or non-partner sexual violence
- 15 million 10-14 year old girls married over the last decade
- Less than 25% of parliamentarians in all regions are female and share is expanding very slowly.



Adding value

1. Deepen WDR2012 evidence base

- National and cross-country analyses of unexploited data
- Extracting lessons from systematic evaluations
- Selected case studies

2. Deliver policy relevant conclusions

- Key lessons about what works, what does not, and promising directions

3. Inform WBG and partners' operations and modalities

- Explore options to better integrate into Bank analysis, dialogue, operations and monitoring
- Identify how WBG can support other development partners in areas of strategic advantage

Focus on 'expressions' of agency...

- Freedom from the **risk of violence** (GBV)
- Control over **land and property**
- Freedom of **movement** for work and migration
- Decision making over **family formation**
- **Voice and choice** (politics, collective action and household influence)

Emerging storyline

Ch 1: Where do we stand?

- Regressive gender based norms are widespread, but can change over time
- Attitudes matter, and affect outcomes – variation within and between countries indicate scope for progressive public and collective action

Ch 2: Expansion of agency: Evidence, constraints and opportunities

- Highlight most recent evidence, e.g.
 - 30% women experienced partner violence in 30 countries

Ch 3: Taking the agenda forward: Cross-cutting issues & recommendations

- Addressing structural issues: norms, laws, collective action and social accountability
- Tackling persistent gaps, eg. Engaging boys and men, GBV, SRH, enhancing voice and agency

Ch 4: Implications for the WBG

- New ways to integrate agency into diagnostics, policies, programmes, future directions and partnerships, with a focus on indicators and monitoring

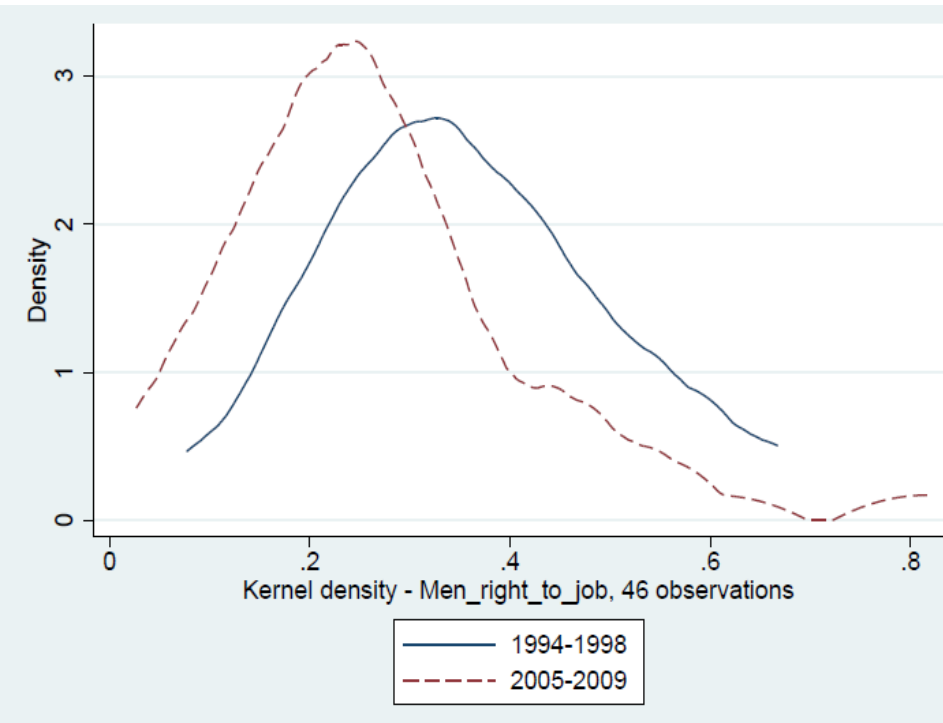
Evidence, constraints and opportunities

New empirical work

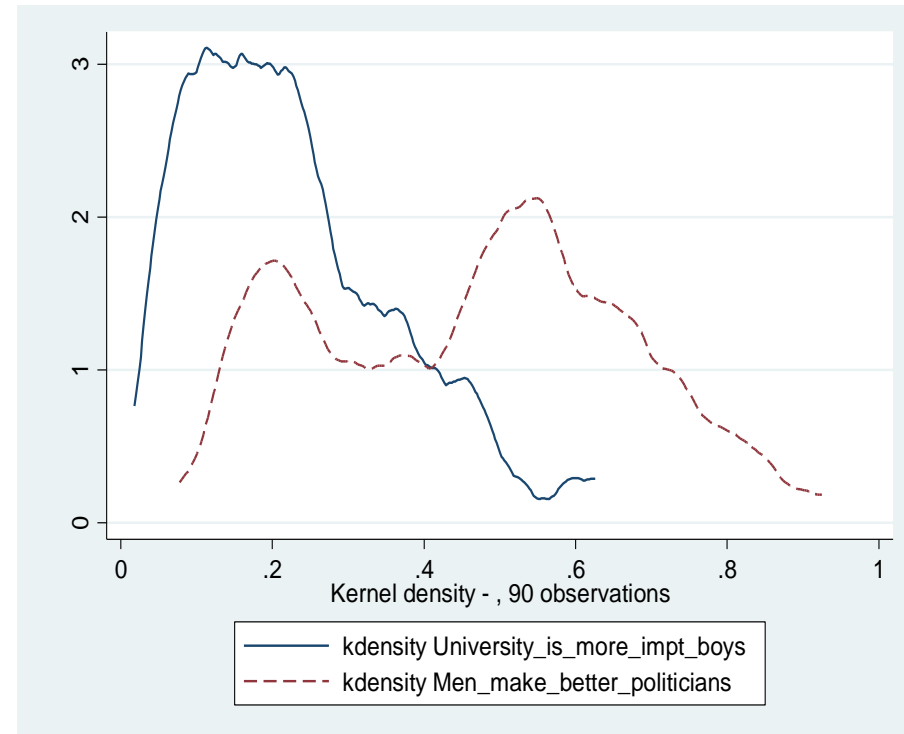
1. Male and female perceptions of gender equality and links to outcomes
 - *World Values Survey for 95+ countries, Gallup World Poll for 130+ countries*
2. 'Overlapping disadvantage' and agency-related deprivations
 - *Demographic Health Survey data for 50+ countries*
3. Inequality and outcomes among boys and girls
 - *Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Young Lives for 20+ countries*

Perceptions of agency and gender issues and change over time

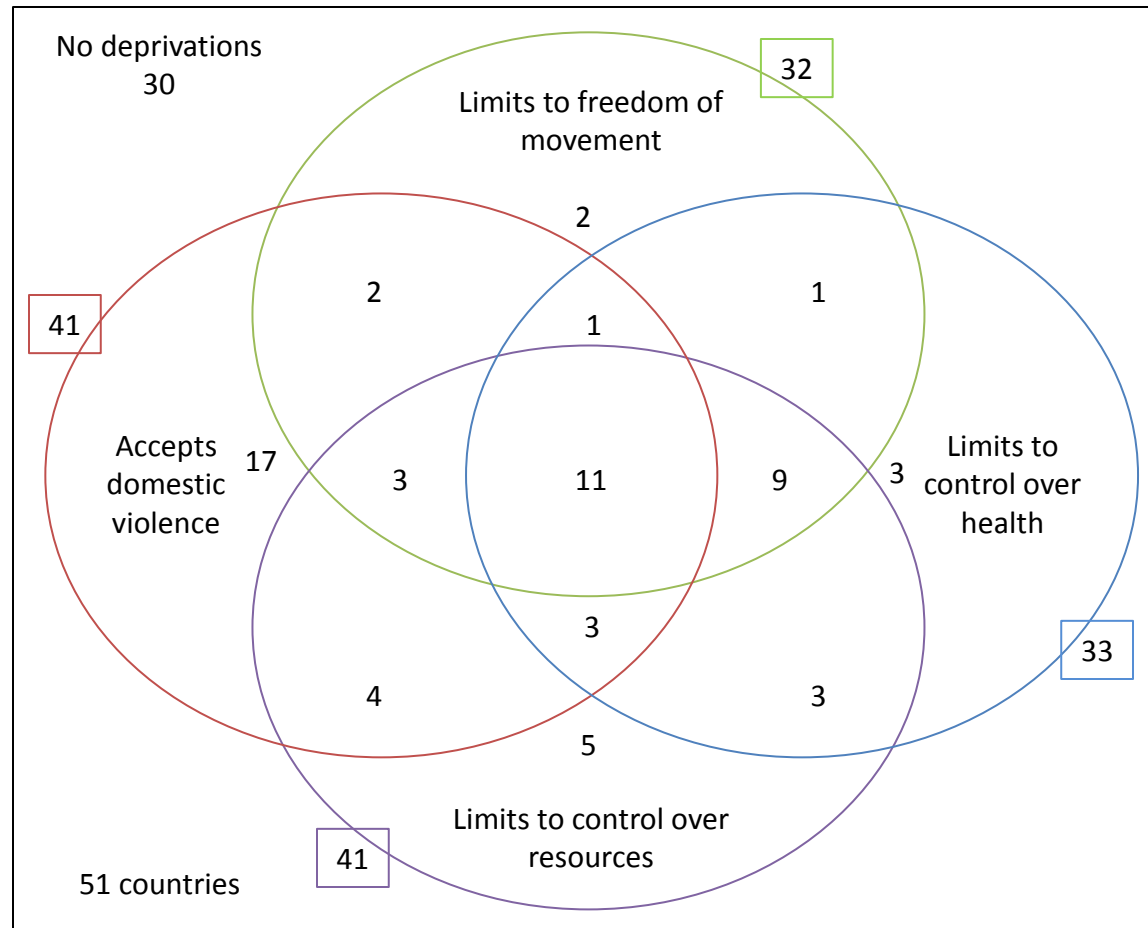
Improved attitudes toward women's right to a job among 46 countries



Better attitudes toward university for girls than women as political leaders



Many women experience overlapping deprivations in agency



Source: Demographic Health Survey

Freedom from violence

A major development issue, as well as breach of rights – major costs to individuals and economies

New evidence from Tanzania:

- Cost of partner violence in terms of productivity loss is roughly 1.4% of GDP.
- Women who are severely physically or sexually abused by a partner earn between \$11.55 and \$13.50 less weekly than never abused women with similar characteristics – equivalent to roughly 90% of average women's weekly income

Norms and attitudes are powerful influences

- Analysis of IMAGES data reflects high levels of opposition to VAW laws and gender equality in # countries. At the same time, younger men report greater support of gender equality and less tolerance for GBV than older men - a hopeful sign that norms may be shifting.

Strong laws are necessary but not sufficient

- Evaluating international conventions, national laws, and implementation challenges

Reviewing evidence of what works

- More than 80% of the evidence on what works and what doesn't to prevent GBV comes from developed countries (that comprise 6% of the world's population).
- Promising approaches tend to be multi-sectoral (include multiple components, including addressing gender norms), and longer in duration (over 6 months)

Interventions need to engage men and boys early

- Analytical work to understand roles of men and boys as perpetrators, victims, and change agents

Partners

- UN Women; ODI (case studies on GBV); GWU Global Women's Institute; Oxfam India; Promundo; ICRW; National University of Ireland (and expanding!)

Family Formation

Proposed value added

- Review evidence about how much agency women have in their reproductive health and family formation decisions, and how is this manifested in women's health outcomes.
- Identify promising interventions with implications for Bank operations
- Identify appropriate indicators for operational use

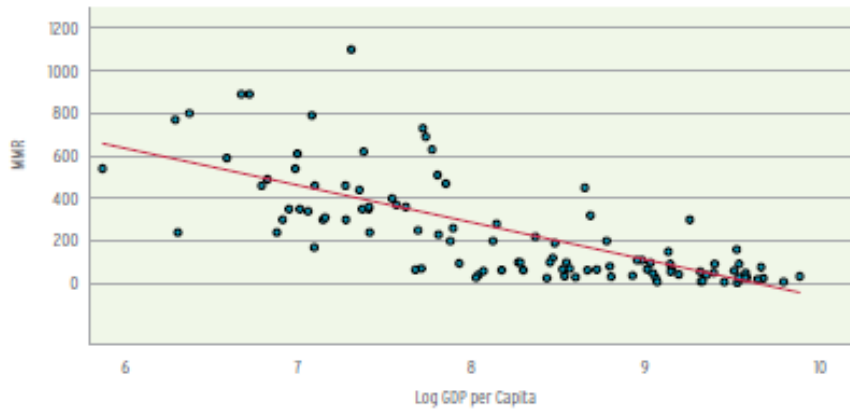
Approach

1. Background papers:
 - Closing the gap between knowledge & action
 - Review of family planning programs & women's agency
2. Empirical analysis of indicators and outcomes using DHS

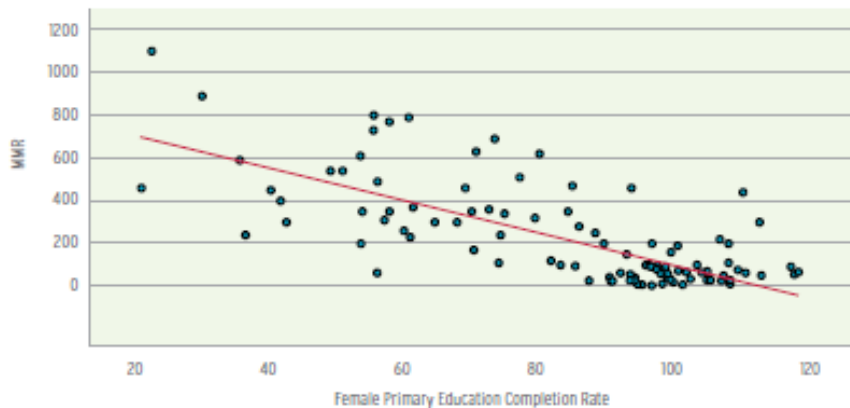
Family Formation:

Reproductive health outcomes are inextricably linked to gender equality.

MMR AND INCOME



MMR AND EDUCATION



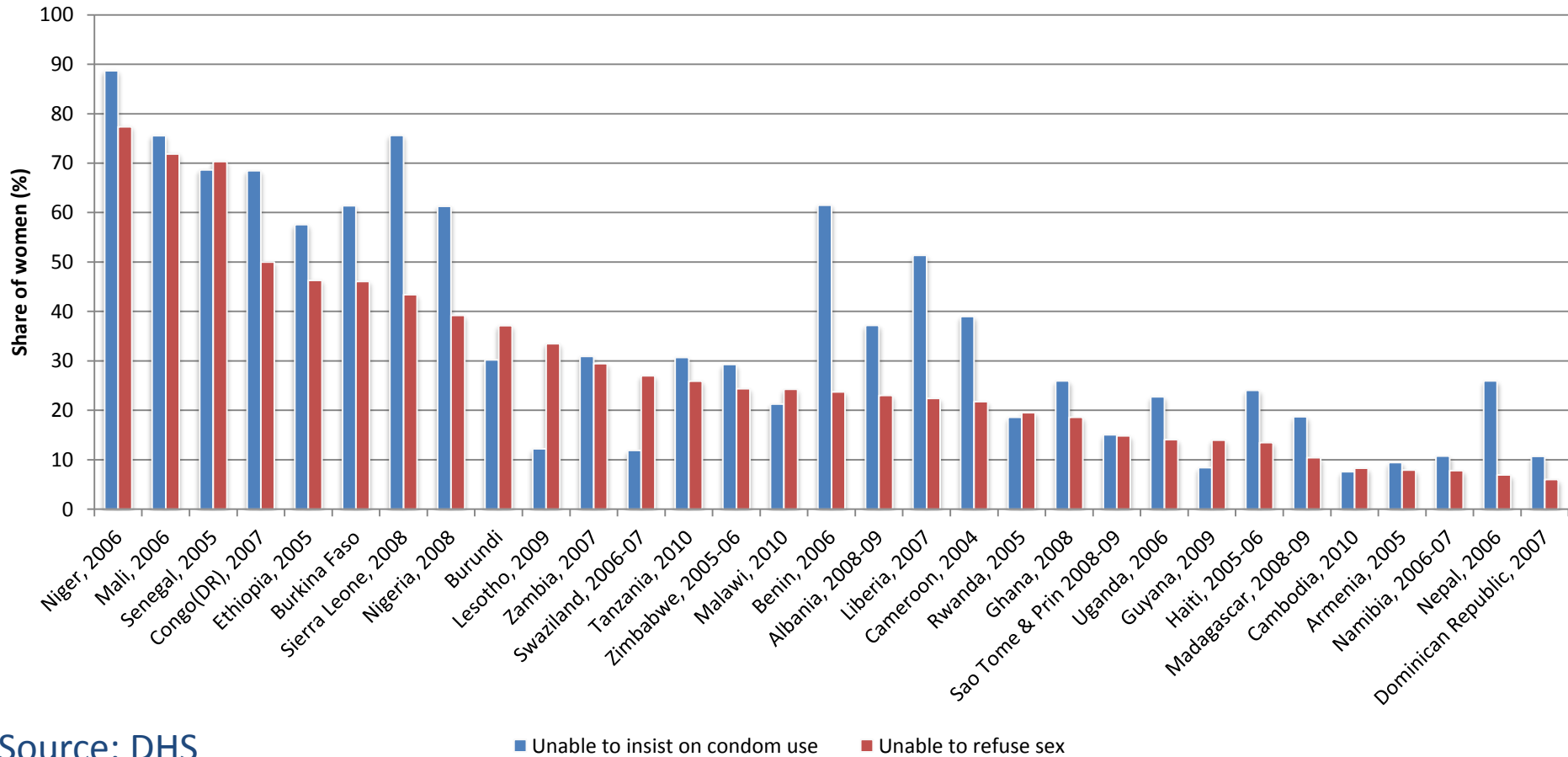
MMR AND GENDER INEQUALITY



Family Formation:

Major gaps persist in women's agency in sex, reproduction and family formation.

On average in 31 countries, over 1/3 of women (36%) report that they are unable to ask their partner to use a condom and over 1/4 (28%), that they cannot refuse sex.

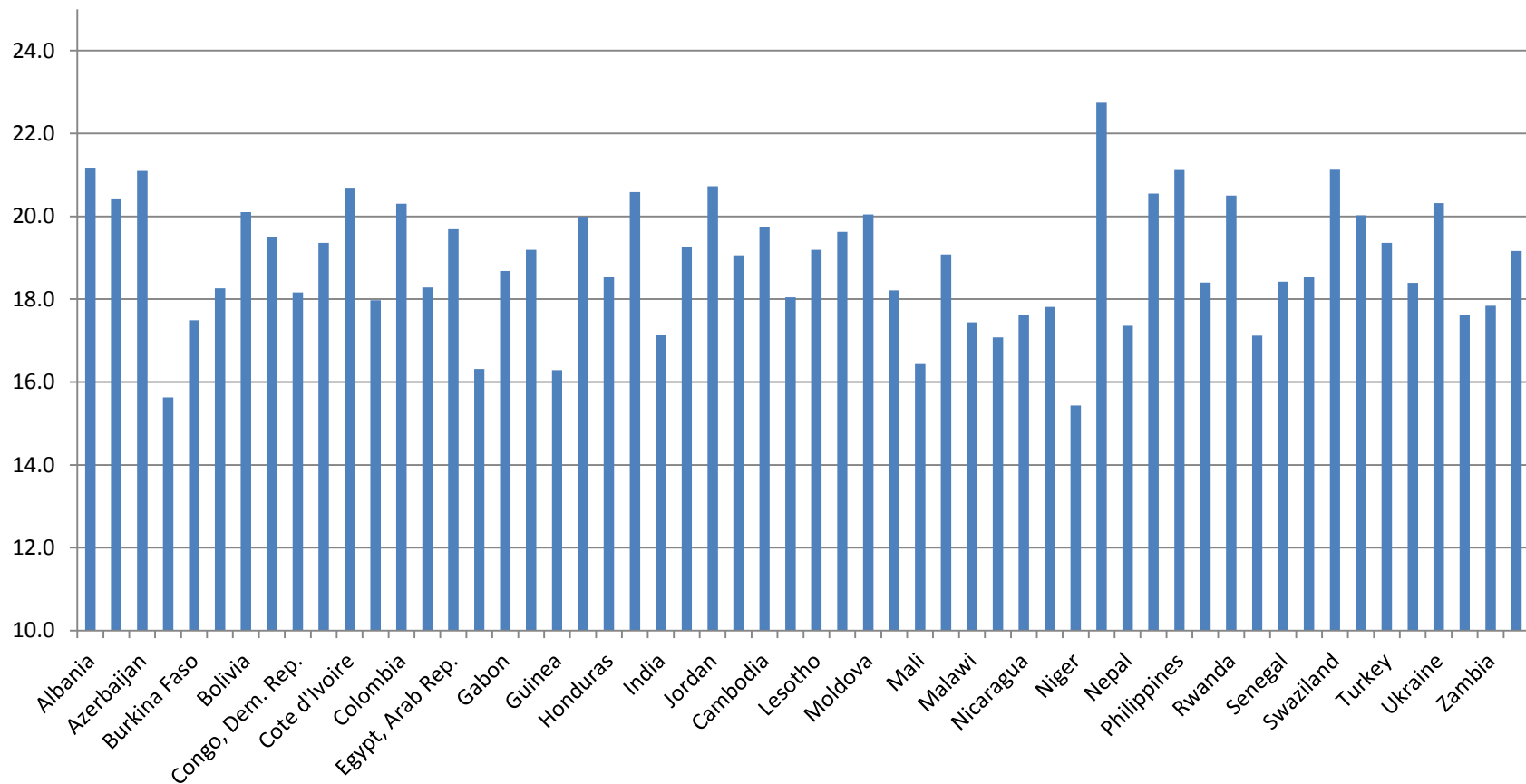


Source: DHS

Family Formation:

Constraints to young women's agency may be even greater.

Age of first marriage

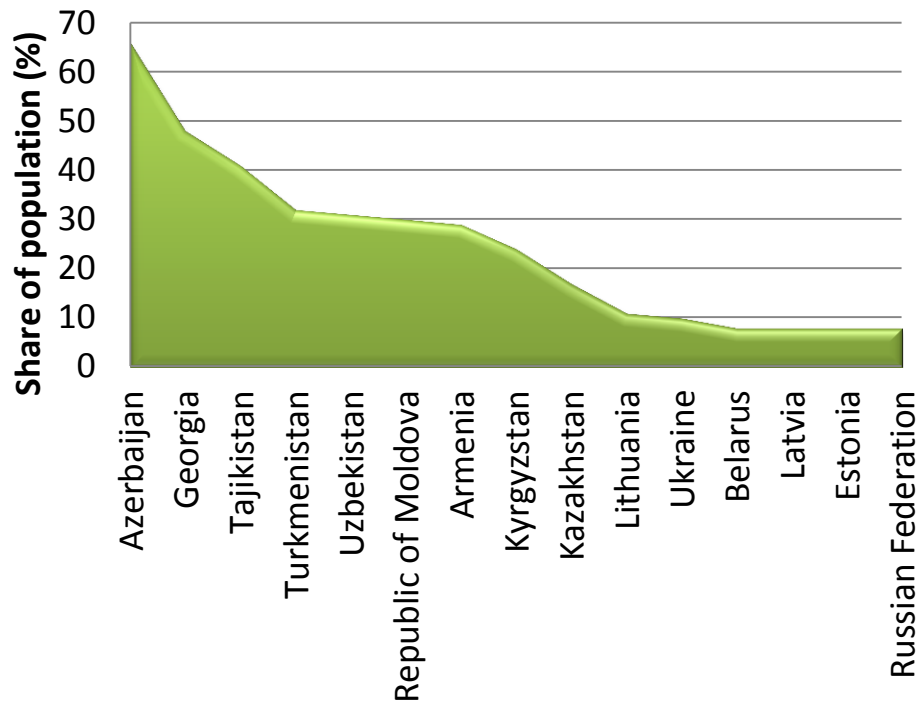


Family Formation:

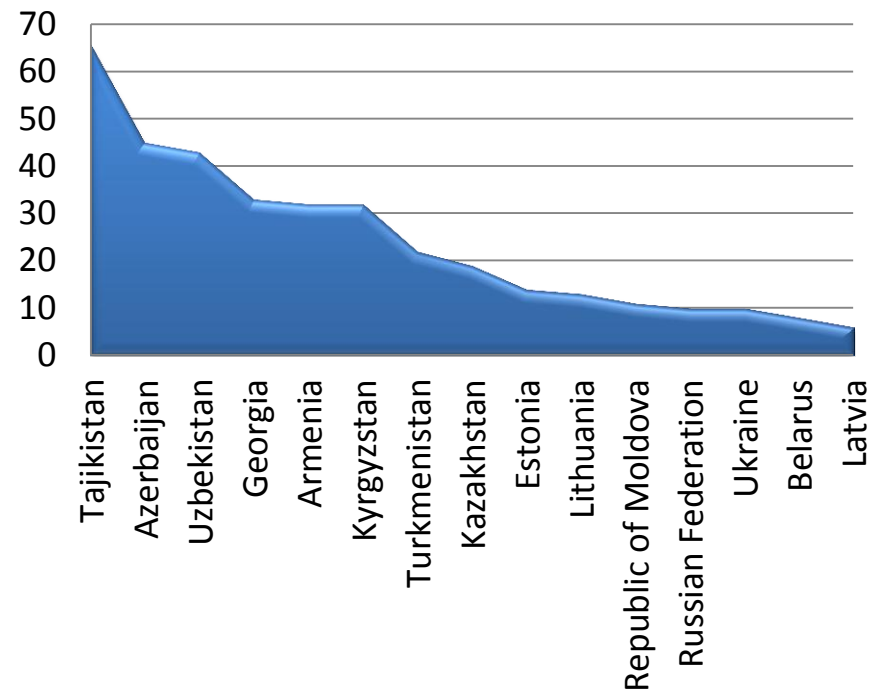
Norms and attitudes around sex, reproduction and marriage shape women's agency in these realms.

Share of population in the Former Soviet Union who believe it is morally wrong...

To use contraception



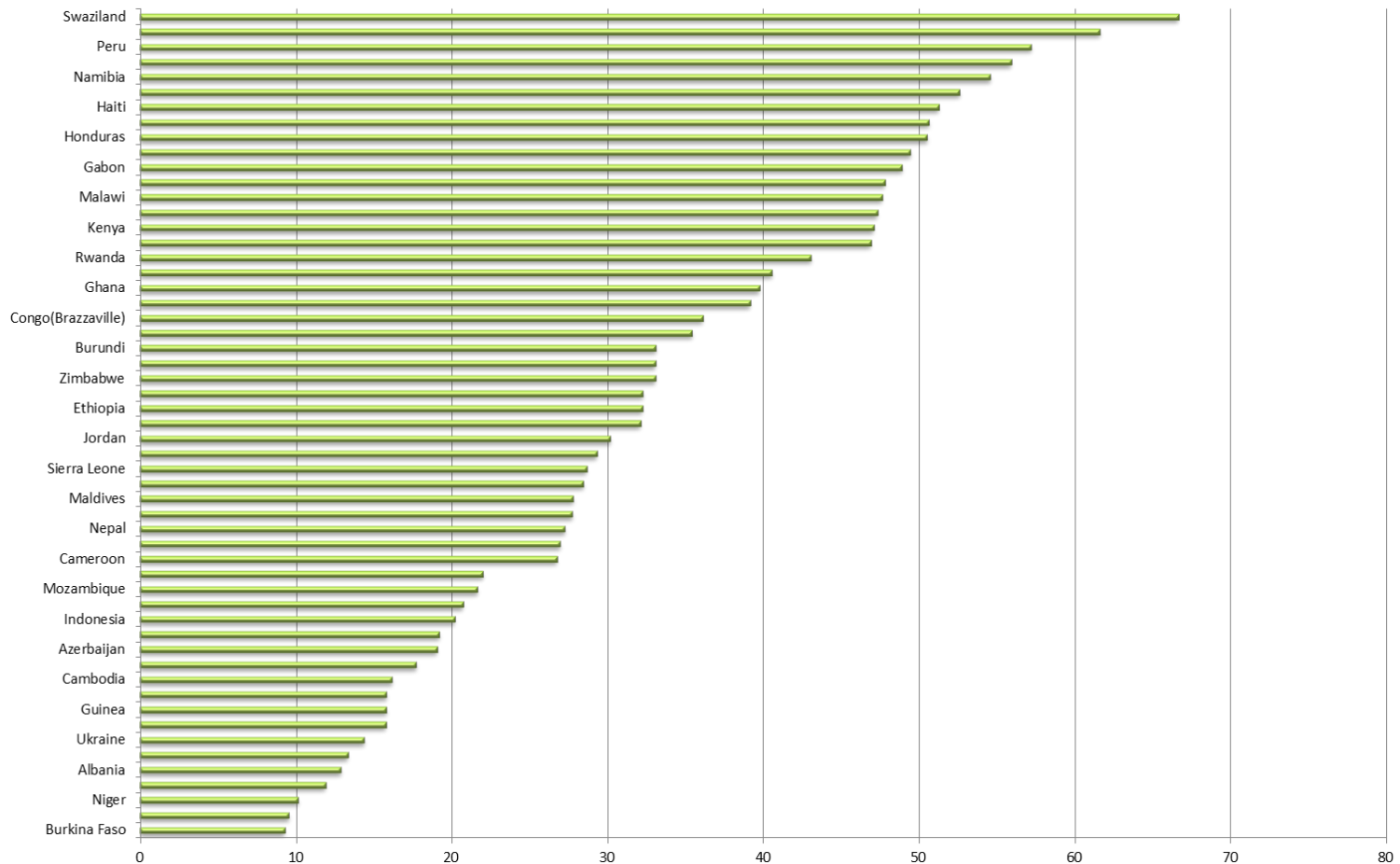
For a woman to delay marriage to further her education or start a career



Family Formation:

Gaps in agency manifest in proximate health outcomes.

Unintended pregnancy (share of children born previous 3-5 years that were not wanted at the time or at all (%))



Family Formation

Better SRH outcomes translate into economic effects.

Investing in women's sexual and reproductive health is *smart economics*. Research identified four main channels:

1. Female labor supply and productivity
 2. Financial well-being of households
 3. Future generations
 4. Broader economy wide effects
- Highlight what works for strengthening women's agency to achieve sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

Voice and choice

Proposed value added

- Advance knowledge of benefits of increasing women's voice and choice – for themselves, their families and communities
- Explore how overlapping disadvantages impede voice and choice
- Impacts of family and household decisions on labor market participation
- Review implications for Bank operations
- Identify appropriate indicators for operational use

Approach

1. Background papers:
 - National and local level political participation of women
 - Collective action and agency; & women's collective action in MENA region
2. Case studies:
 1. India, link between women's political participation and GBV
 2. Niger, household decision-making
3. Links to social accountability and Community Driven Development
4. Policy implications for the WBG, including:
 - Resourcing, training and monitoring state and other institutions responsible for implementing reforms

Partners – WBG Social Development Network; NDI; ODI; iKNOWPolitics

Moving the agenda forward

Laws and legal institutions

Critical role in expanding agency:

Citizenship; family law; property regimes; inheritance; gender based violence prevention and victim support; reproductive health; affirmative action

Progress on many fronts	Sticky areas persist
Since 1960, 50% of the discriminatory laws have been removed across 100 countries	90% of countries still have at least 1 discriminatory law on the books
149 countries call for equal protection under the law	Complex web of overlapping customary, religious & statutory systems further exacerbate existing discrimination
125 countries have criminalized domestic violence	Weak implementation & enforcement

Identifying promising tools and policy approaches, three areas of focus, grounded in human rights approach:

1. Constitutional and legal reform (eg Kenya, Vietnam and Turkey)
2. Addressing the interaction of customary and religious legal systems with formal legal systems (eg Botswana, South Africa and PNG)
3. Implementation and enforcement (eg India and Indonesia)

Need for better indicators and monitoring

- Paucity of gender-relevant data on agency (e.g., on decision-making, intra-household allocation of resources, GBV surveillance, local participation)

Build on recent progress:

- UN Inter-agency and Expert Group identified 52 core gender indicators, several relating to voice
- UN guidance on collecting statistics on GBV

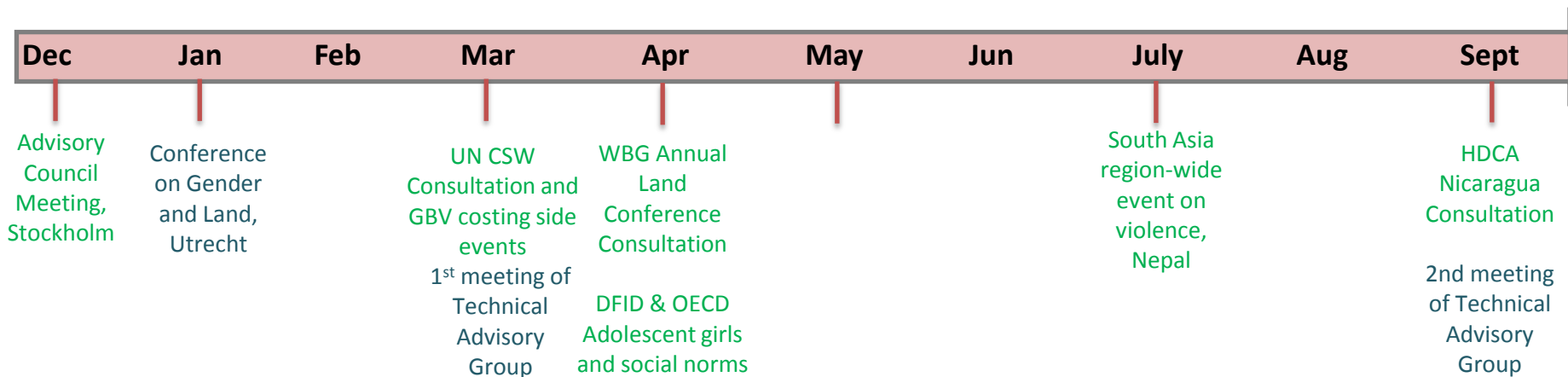
The report will:

- Take stock of data sources on agency, ongoing efforts and key gaps
- Recommend typology of indicators on voice and agency and associated determinants for country monitoring and Bank operations

Expected timeline and selected milestones

2012 2013

PAST EVENTS



FUTURE EVENTS

2013

2014



Report consultations are in GREEN

FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.worldbank.org/gender/agency