

# Women's Voice, Agency and Participation

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UN Women  
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# Outline

- World Development Report 2012
- Objectives
- Scope
  - Focus on five expressions
  - Cross-cutting issues
  - Monitoring
- Timeline



# 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

## Persistent inequalities, including

Not one of the regions is on track to meet MDG5, to cut maternal mortality by 3/4

Nearly 4 million missing women, annually

Gender segregation in economic activity

1.2 billion women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual partner violence or non-partner sexual violence

15 million 10-14 year old girls have been married over the last decade

These matter intrinsically.

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



# Concepts of agency

## Capability approach

- the ability to pursue goals that one values and has reason to value (Sen 1990); an agent is “someone who acts and brings about change” (Sen 1999).

## WDR2012

- the ability to use endowments to take advantage of opportunities to achieve desired outcomes

## →Voice, agency & participation

- Concern is with both *processes* (intrinsic) and *outcomes* (instrumental)
- Given operational focus, our interest is in ‘expressions’ of agency with the most policy and programmatic value

# 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

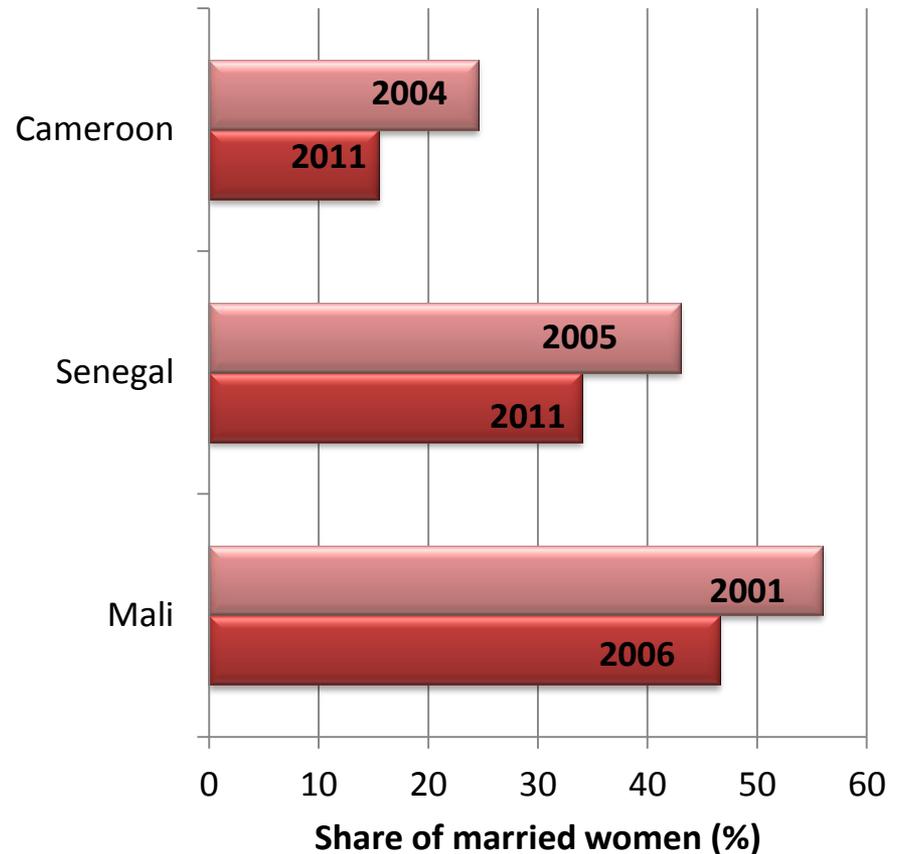
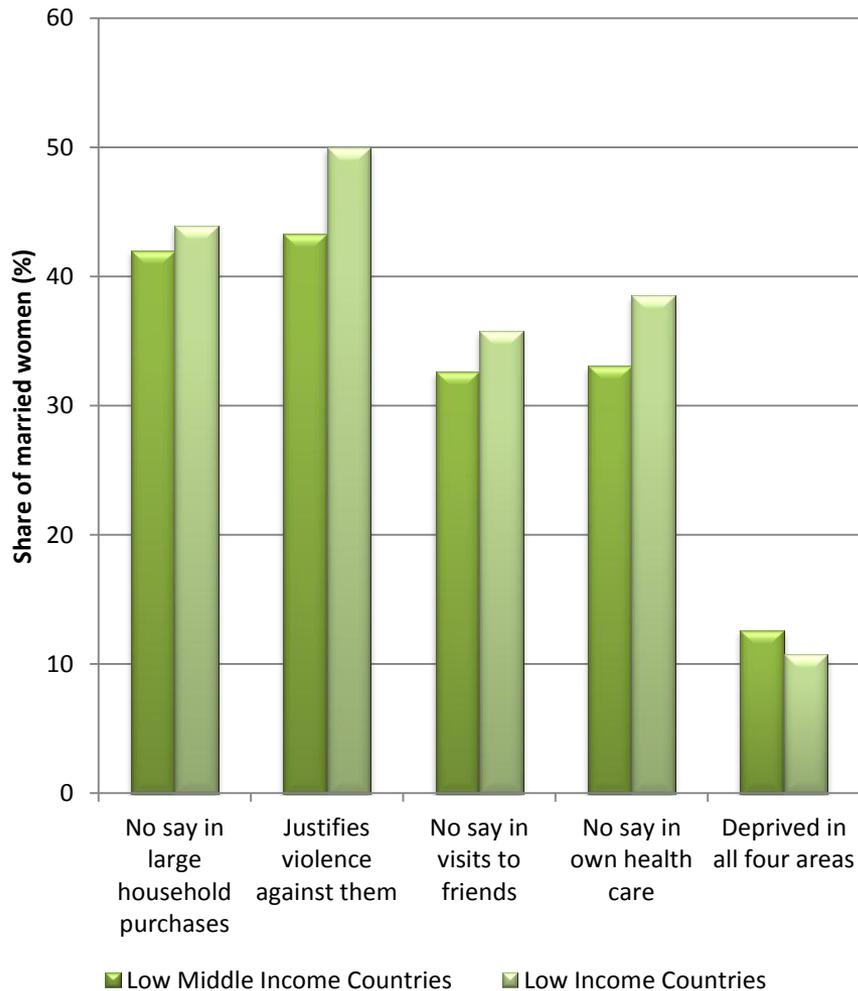
# Ongoing analytical work

1. 'Overlapping disadvantage' and multiple agency deprivations in Demographic Health Survey data for 50+ countries
2. Agency and outcomes among boys and girls (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Young Lives) for 20+ countries.
3. Male and female perceptions, and perceptions of women's status, Gallup World Poll for 130+ countries

# Some preliminary snapshots

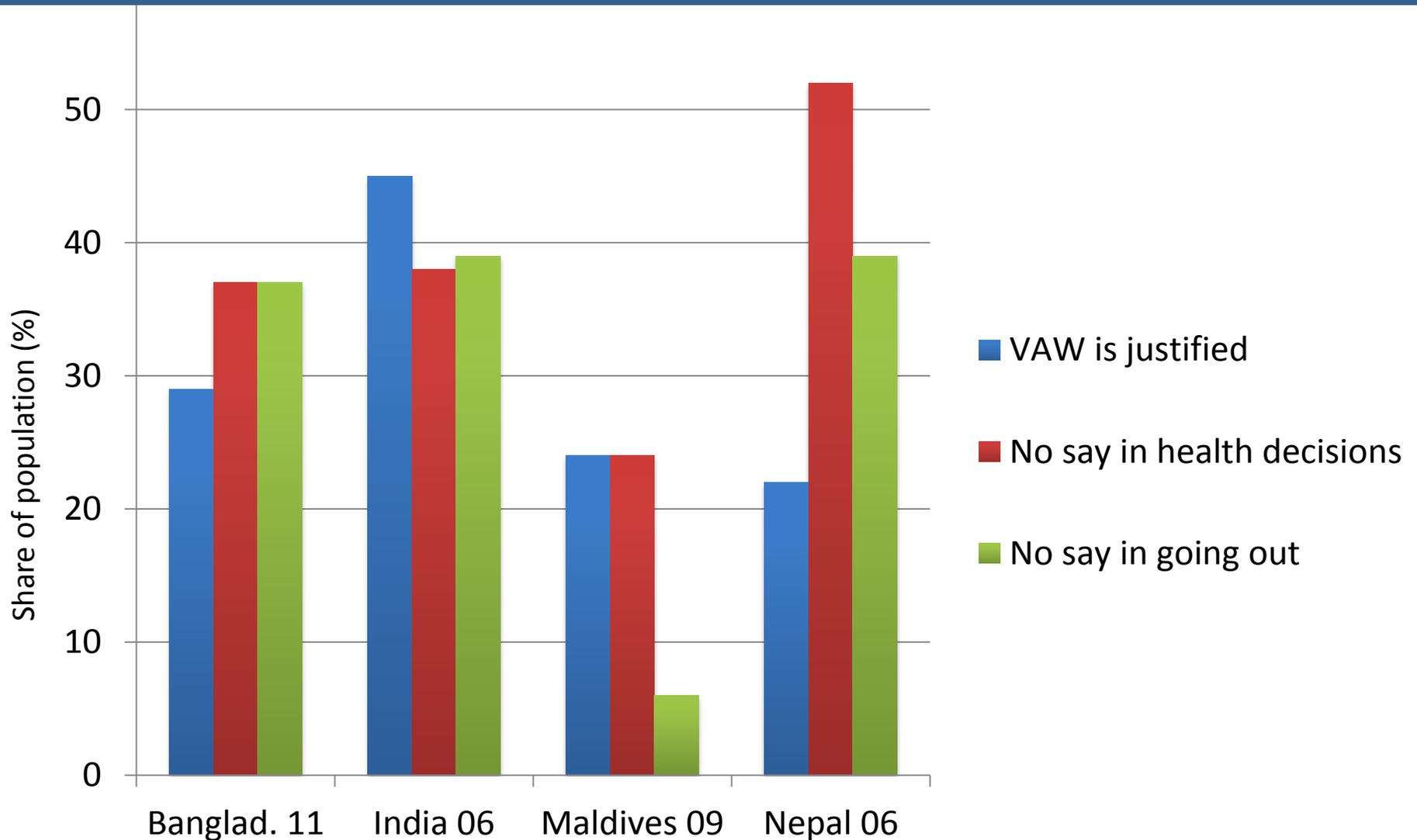
*Large shares of women lack agency in key areas*

*Falling share of women deprived in all four areas of agency*



Source: DHS

# Snapshots on agency in South Asia



# Focus: five 'expressions' of agency...

- Freedom from the **risk of violence** (GBV)
- Access to and control over **property** (land)
- Freedom of **movement** (localized)
- Decision-making over **family formation** (family planning, marriage & divorce, children)
- Ability to have **voice in society and influence policy** (political and community participation)

# Freedom from violence

## Proposed value added

- Insights into GBV as a development issue *and* human rights violation
- Greater understanding of how to cost GBV in developing settings
- Promising policy and programmatic options
- Multi-sectoral toolkit to guide GBV mainstreaming in operations

## Approach – building on 2013 Commission on the Status of Women

1. Complementary analytical work:
  - State of the evidence review of interventions to prevent GBV
  - Review and advance knowledge of costs and consequences of GBV
  - Understand the roles of men and boys as perpetrators, victims, and change agents
  - Evaluate international conventions, national laws, and implementation issues
2. Case studies, including connections between political mobilization and programmatic responses to GBV in India
3. Empirical work on attitudes towards GBV, and on patterns, correlates and effects of GBV exposure

## Partners

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

# Freedom from violence: emerging findings

- **GBV imposes significant costs on families and economies: New evidence from Tanzania:**
  - 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 - a major difference in a country where the average weekly income of women is \$14.00
  - Cost of partner violence due to productivity loss translates to roughly 1.4% of GDP.
- **Some countries struggle with hostile attitudes by men that endorse GBV and gender inequality.**
  - In DRC, India, and Rwanda, majority of men think women should tolerate violence to keep family together.
  - More than 80% men in the DRC and India think VAW laws are too harsh and make it too easy to charge men.
  - YET, the data also provide hopeful indications that younger men are less likely to perpetrate violence against a partner.
- **Systematic review of reviews of evidence on the effects of GBV prevention interventions finds most evidence coming from wealthy nations.**
  - 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).

# Access to and control over land

## Proposed value added

- Assess potentially transformative impacts of land
- Explore reforms and incentives that boost women's access and control (titling and beyond) in urban and rural settings
- Identify promising approaches to tackle discriminatory norms
- Guidance on indicators and data (what \*ought\* to be collected)
- New push at WBG to collect and collate project level data on female land ownership

## Approach

1. Background papers on land – rural and urban – including review of experience of interventions
2. Empirical analysis on patterns of ownership and linkages to other wellbeing outcomes

# Freedom of movement

## Proposed value added

- Explore determinants of freedom of movement – highlighting regional and country differences – and key barriers
- Promising directions to enable local mobility

## Approach

1. Country case study on constraints to local mobility. – Afghanistan.
2. Empirical analysis of patterns, correlates and impact of inability to move freely

Partners: KNOMAD

# Decision making over family formation

## Proposed value added

- Review of evidence on sexual and reproductive health (RH) services as entry point for GBV prevention
- Identify promising interventions to improve RH outcomes (agency, service delivery, accountability)

## Approach

1. Background papers on (1) closing the gap between knowledge & action and (2) review of operations & policies to build agency via RH channels
2. Case studies in Niger and Chad
3. Analysis of constraints to household decision-making

Partners - Women Deliver

# Voice in society and Influence policy

## Proposed value added

- Advance knowledge of benefits of increasing women's voice – for themselves, their families and communities
- Review implications for Bank operations and M&E

## Approach

1. Background papers by National Democratic Institute on national level participation of women, and on local level participation
2. Link to work on social accountability, building on insights from Community Driven Development
3. Case studies:
  1. India, link between women's political participation and GBV
  2. Indonesia, determinants of women's political participation (including why quotas haven't had intended effects)
4. Empirical work on levels and trends in decision-making, including at household level.

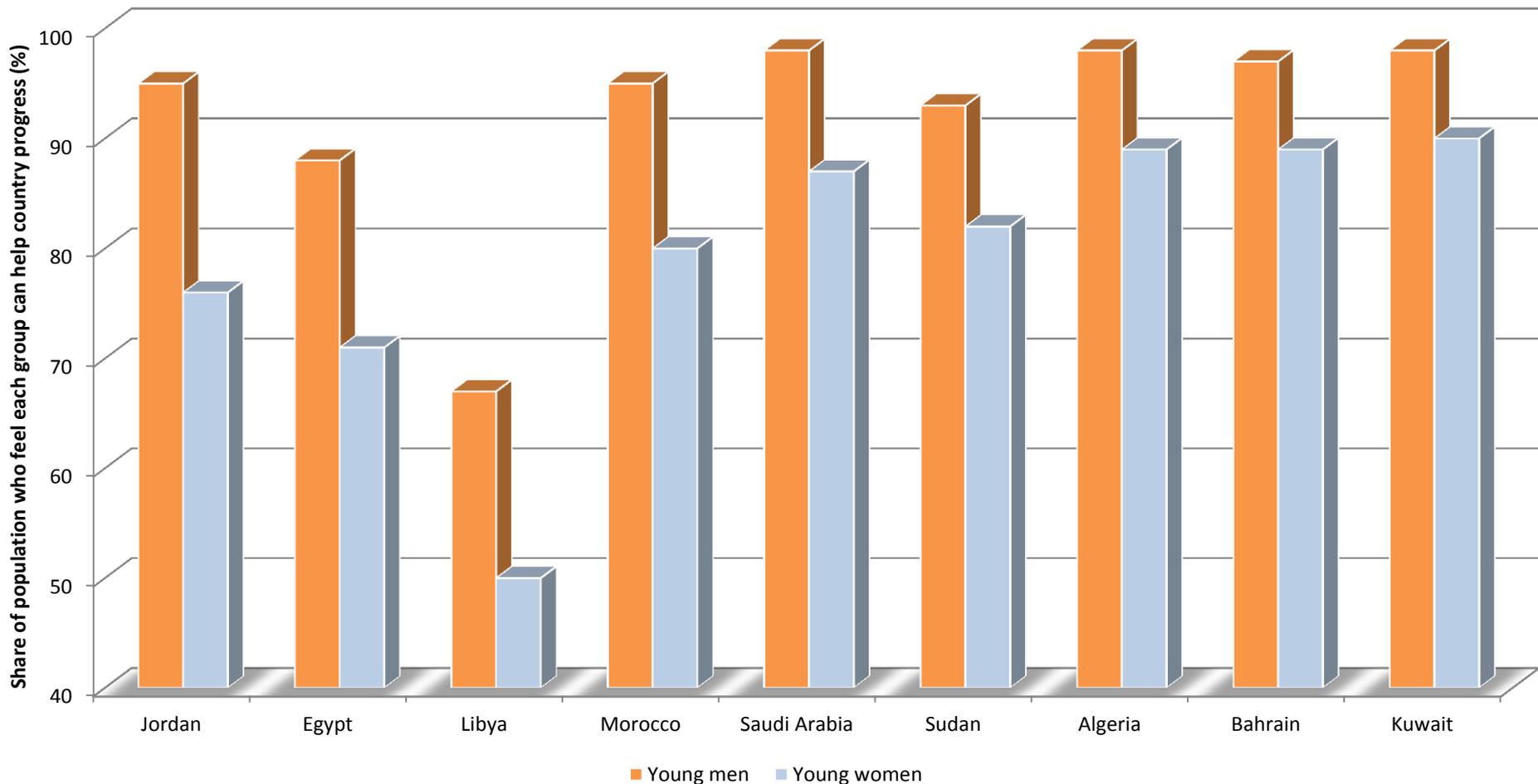
**Partners** - Social Development Network; World Bank Institute (?)  
- NDI, ODI, "I Know Politics", Equal Futures Partnership

# Cross-cutting issues: Diagnostics

- Inter-relations between structures, politics and agency
- Interactions of agency with endowments and economic opportunities
  - Overlapping disadvantage (*gender, age, health, income poverty, place of residence, ethnicity*)
- Importance of social and cultural norms
- Conflict and state fragility

# Preliminary snapshots of the data – pervasive social norms

*In several countries, people feel young men have more to contribute to progress than young women...*



# Cross-cutting issues: Institutions and technology

- Legal systems and institutions (government, religious, private sector)
- Collective action (women's movements, civil society)
- Potential of new technologies (social media and ICTs)

# Cross-cutting issues: 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 on 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

WBG & other key dates

WBG Law, Justice and Development Week

2012

2013

2014

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Sept Oct Apr

Advisory Council Meeting, Stockholm

Conference on Gender and Land, Utrecht

UN CSW Consultation and GBV costing side events

1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Technical Advisory Group

Advisory Council Meeting

WBG Annual Land Conference consultation

Women Deliver Conference consultation

WBG Exiting Fragility Conference Consultation

GENDERNET OECD/DAC consultation

South Asia region-wide event on violence, Nepal

1<sup>st</sup> Online consultation via AlertNet

HDCA Nicaragua consultation

Clinton Global Initiative consultation

2<sup>nd</sup> Online consultation via AlertNet

Joint Symposium with GWU on GBV

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Technical Advisory Group

LAUNCH REPORT

VAP report – key dates

Report consultations are in GREEN

UN/MDG – Meeting of high-level panel on Post-2015

WBG SDN Week

WBG Spring Meetings

UN/MDG – Launch report of high-level panel on Post-2015

UN GA MDG summit

WBG Annual Meetings

WBG Spring Meetings

# Questions for Discussion

- Critical knowledge gaps?
- Value-added?
- Interesting case studies or evidence?

FIND OUT MORE AT:

[www.worldbank.org/gender/agency](http://www.worldbank.org/gender/agency)