

Voice and Agency

Empowering women
and girls for shared
prosperity

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Why voice and agency?

Voice

Able to speak up and be heard, and to shape and share in discussions, discourse and decisions

Agency

Able to make decisions about one's own life and act upon them to achieve desired outcomes, free of violence, retribution, or fear



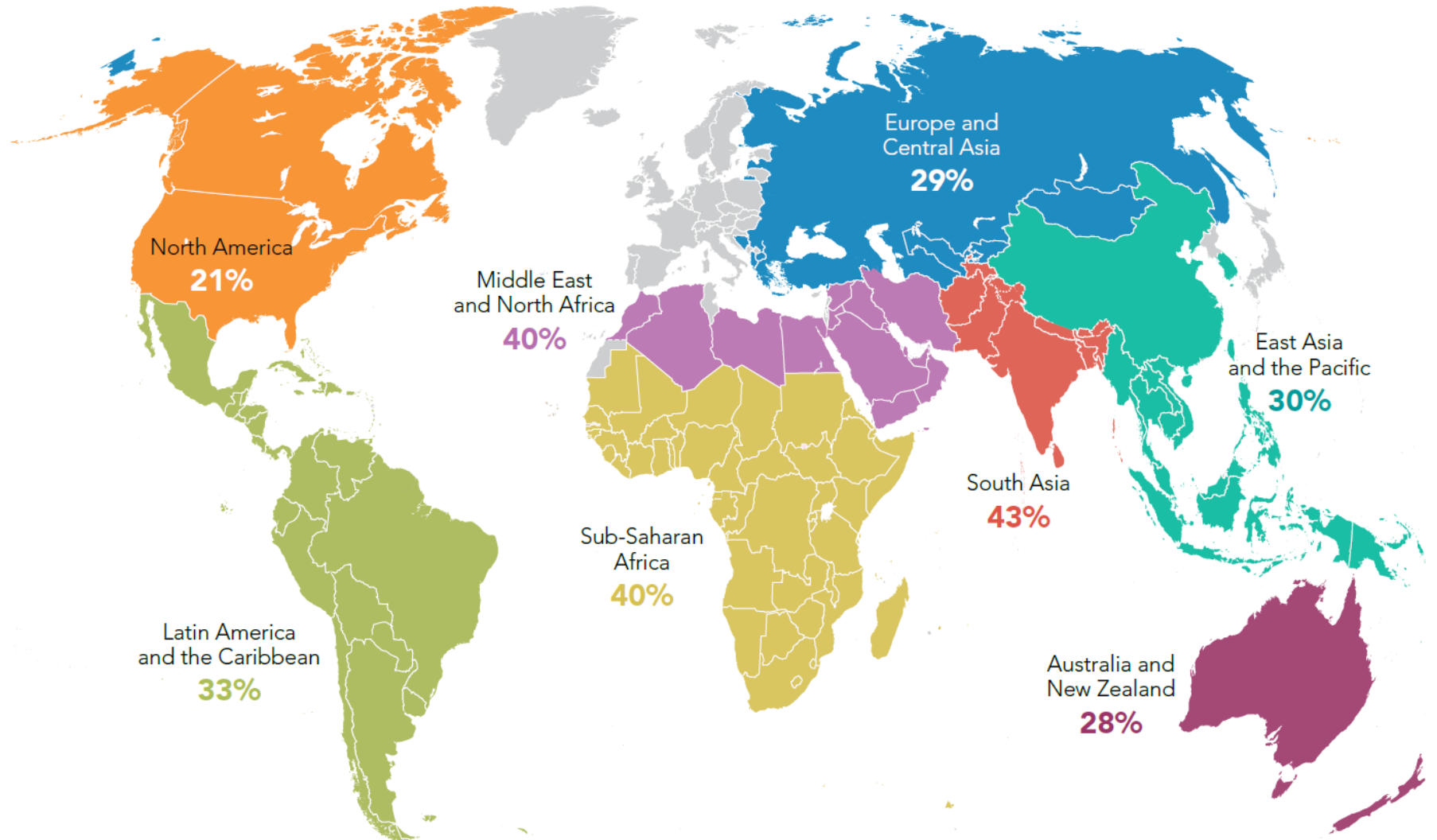
“An empowered woman is one who can help herself and others, who has a job, knows about herself and her environment and her community. If you join societies, organizations, communities, and other social things, even spiritually, you will be empowered.”

— A participant from a focus group in Ghana (Tsikata and Darkwah, 2011)

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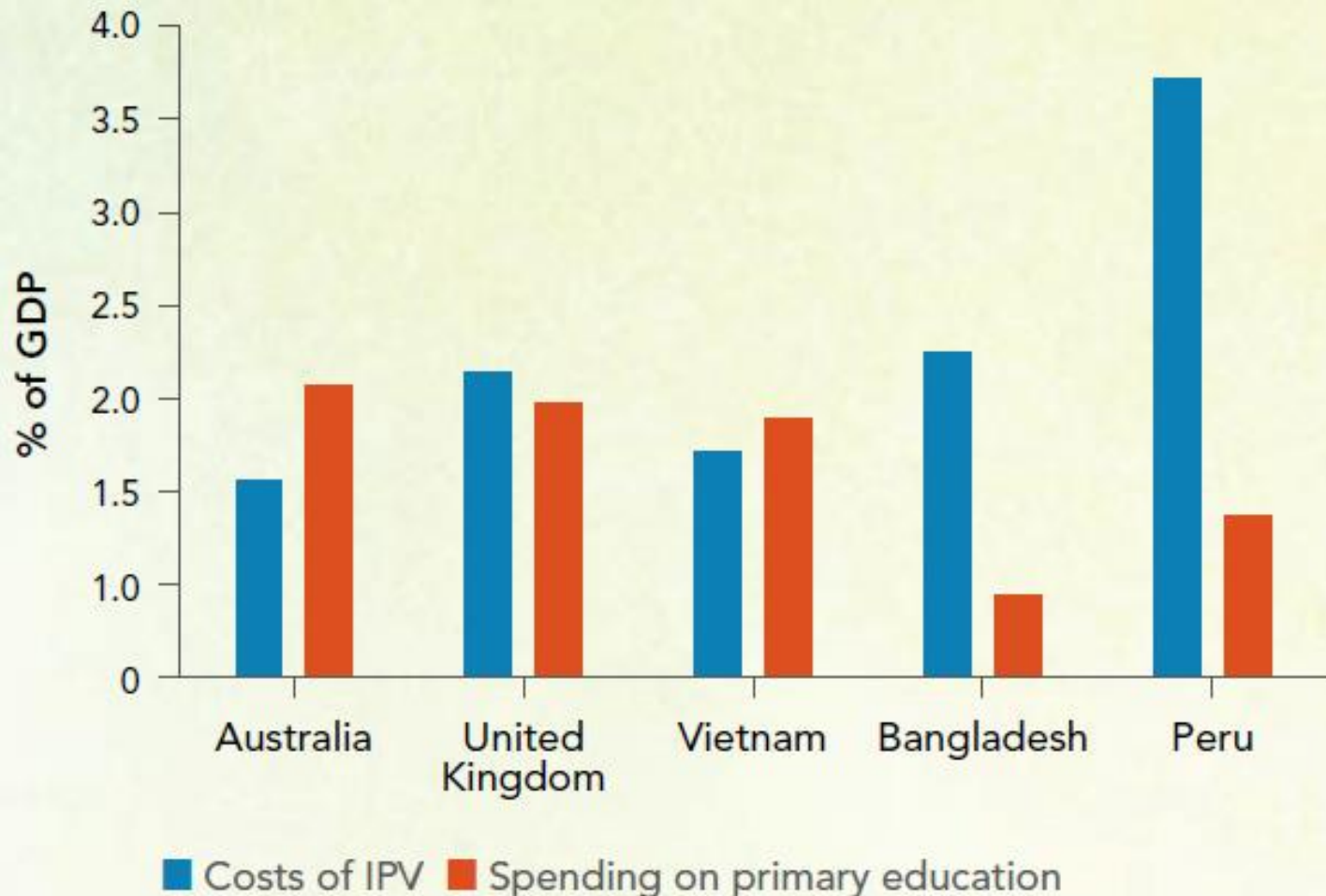
1. Framing the Challenge: Norms, Constraints & Deprivations
 2. Enhancing Women's Agency: A Cross-Cutting Agenda
 3. Freedom from Violence
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More than 700 million women subject to violence at the hands of a husband, boyfriend or partner in their lifetime

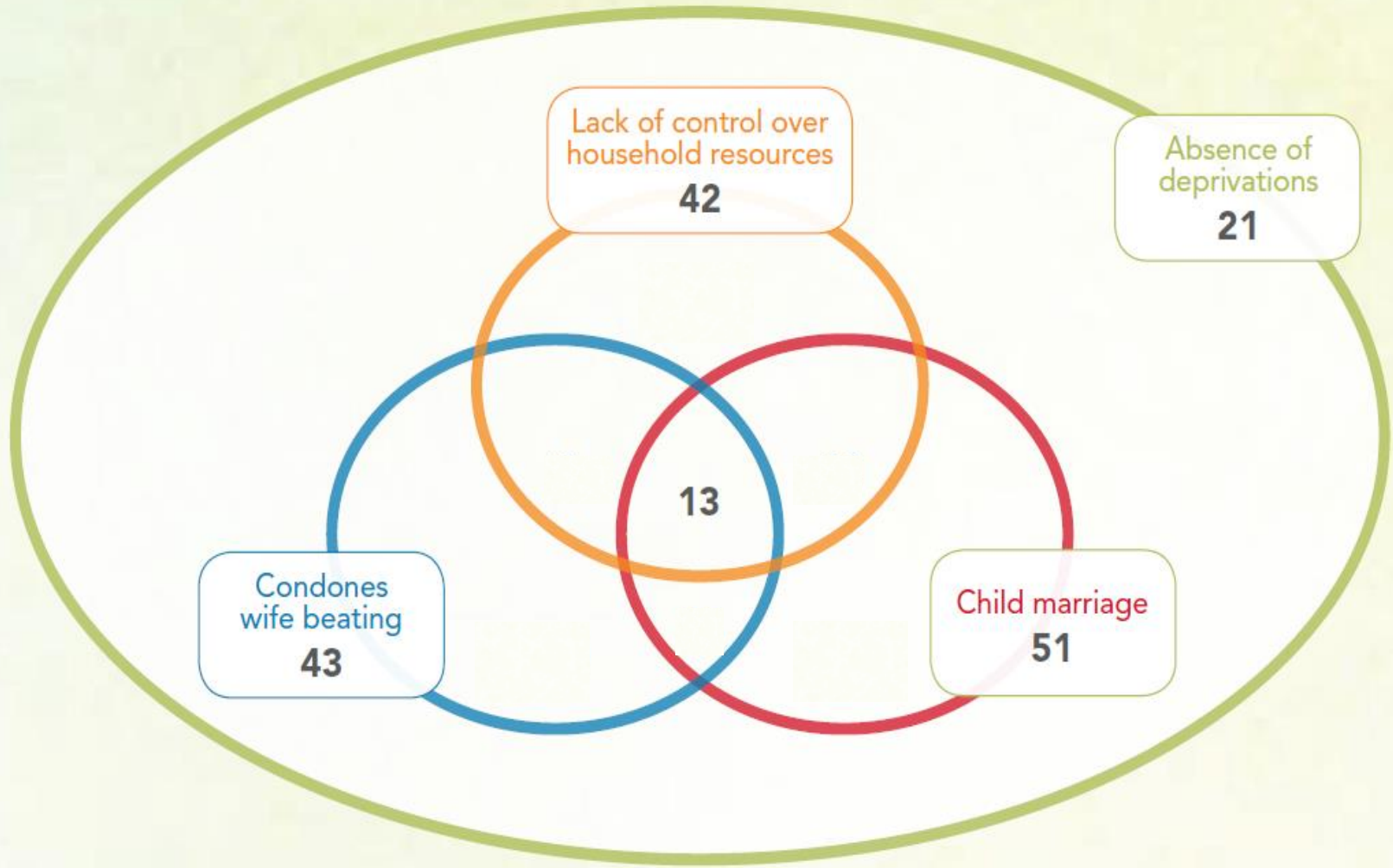


Beyond the human tragedy, violence incurs major economic costs

Often at least what the country spends on primary education

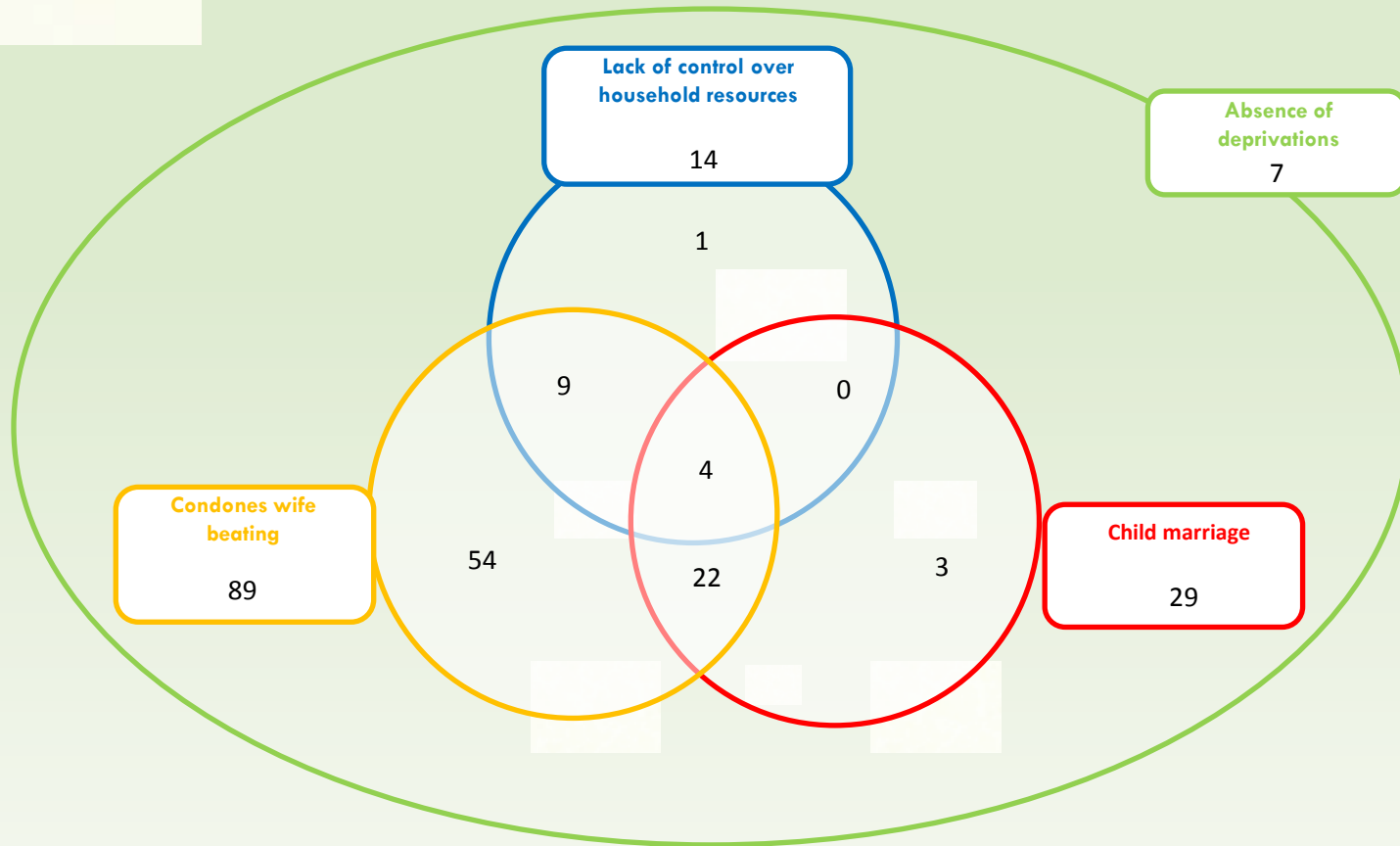


Women often face many deprivations and harmful norms



Percentage of women

Extensive deprivations in Timor Leste



Percentage of women

Education is critical in overcoming deprivations

Share with deprivations

90%



65%



**Primary
education or less**

**Secondary
education and
higher**

Suffer at least one deprivation

18%



**Primary
education or less**

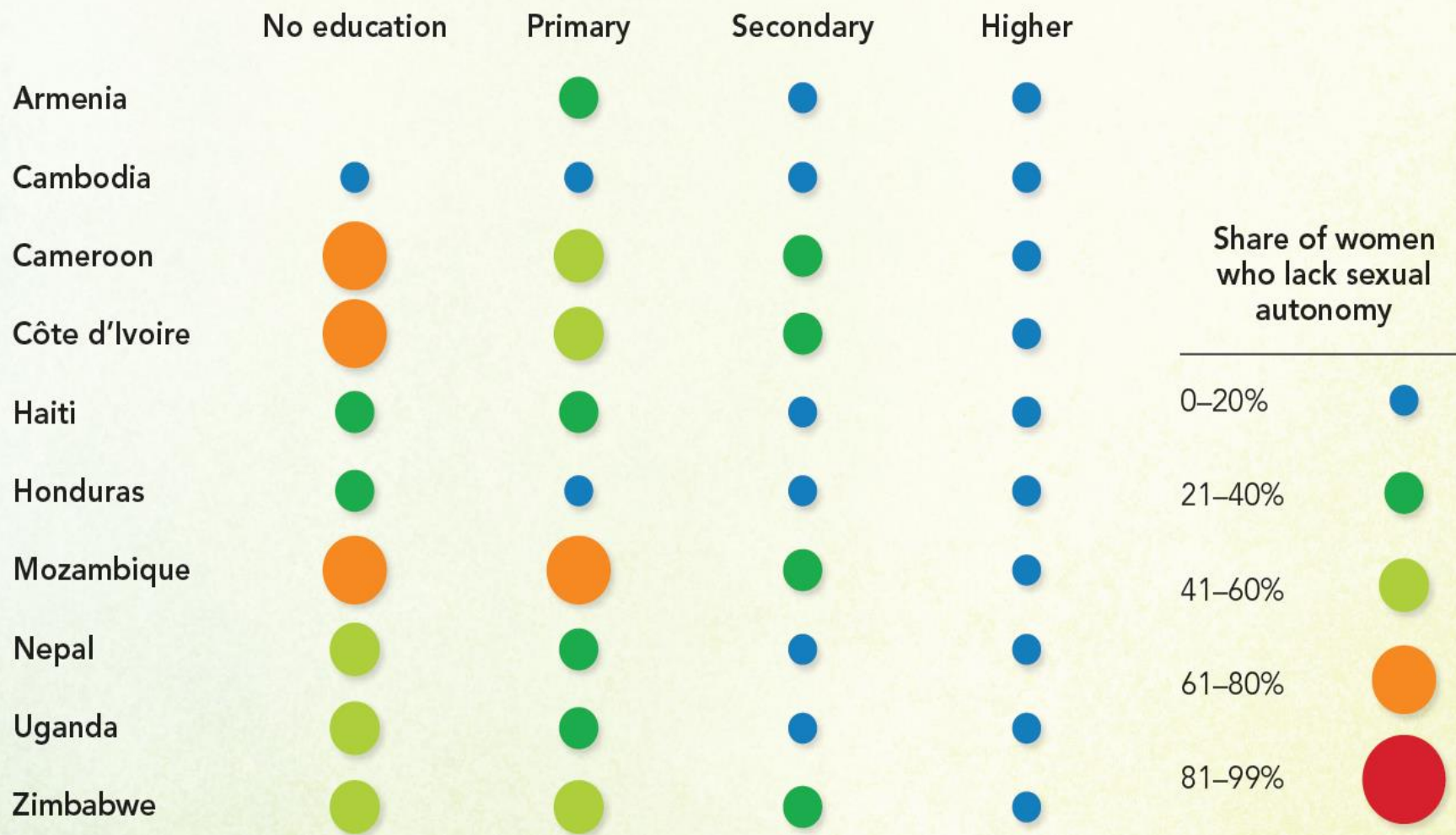
**Secondary
education and
higher**

5%



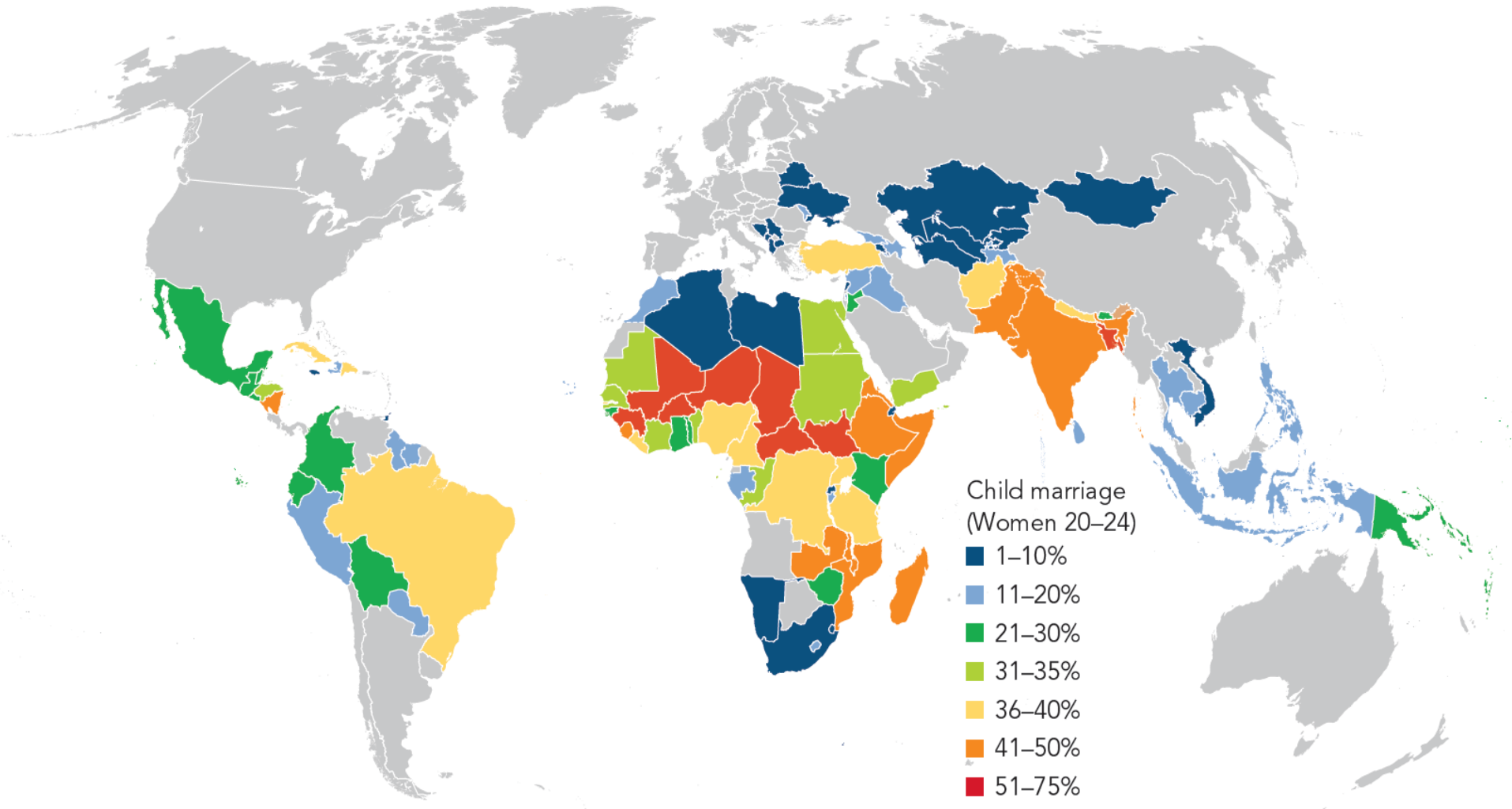
Suffer three deprivations

Education is important for sexual autonomy...



...And reduces the likelihood of early marriage

Girls who finish high school are six times less likely to marry early



Child marriage prevalence in 111 countries

Control over land and housing can expand women's agency

But, fewer women than men report owning housing...

...or land



Women's voices can be transformative

Collective
action

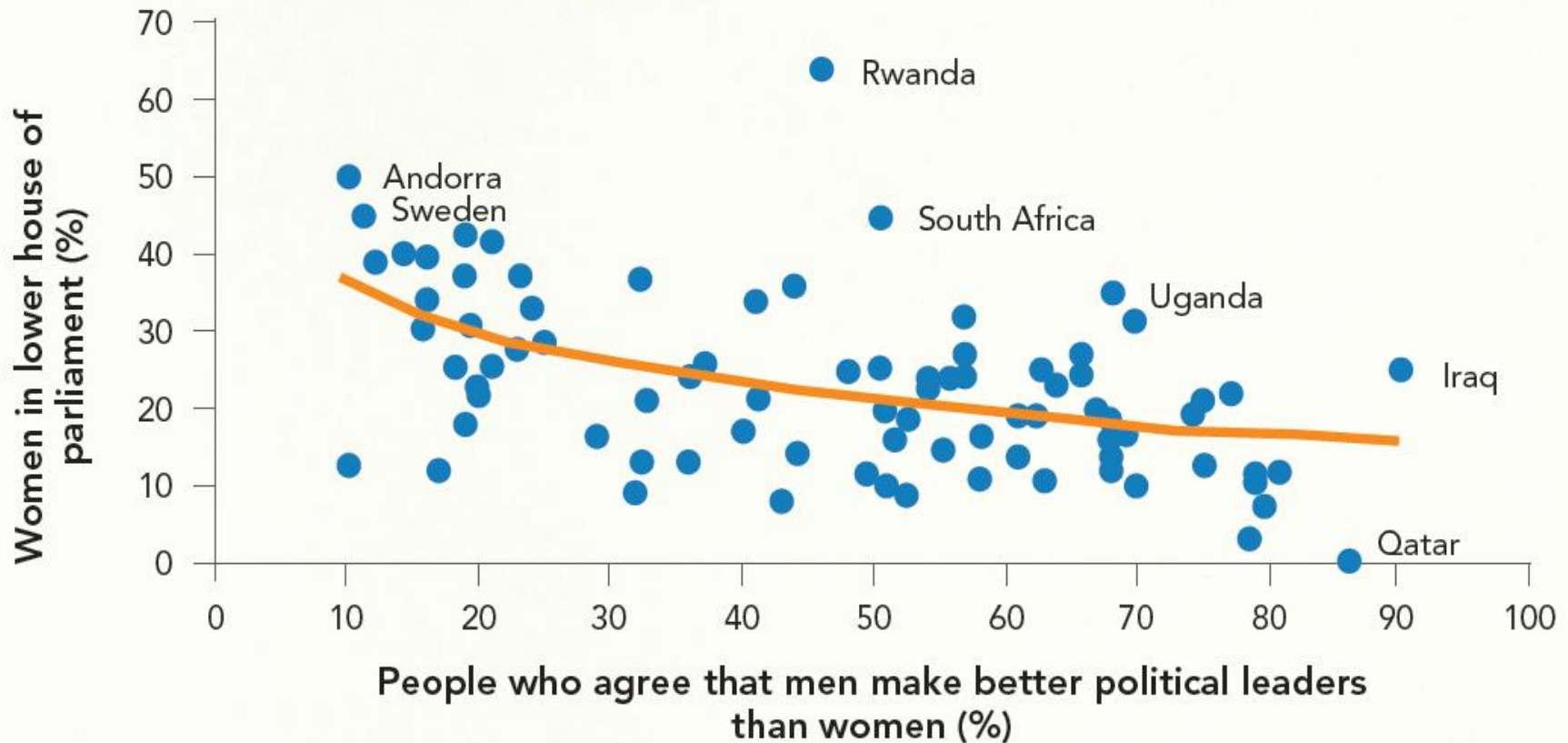
Political participation
and decision making

Information and
communication technologies



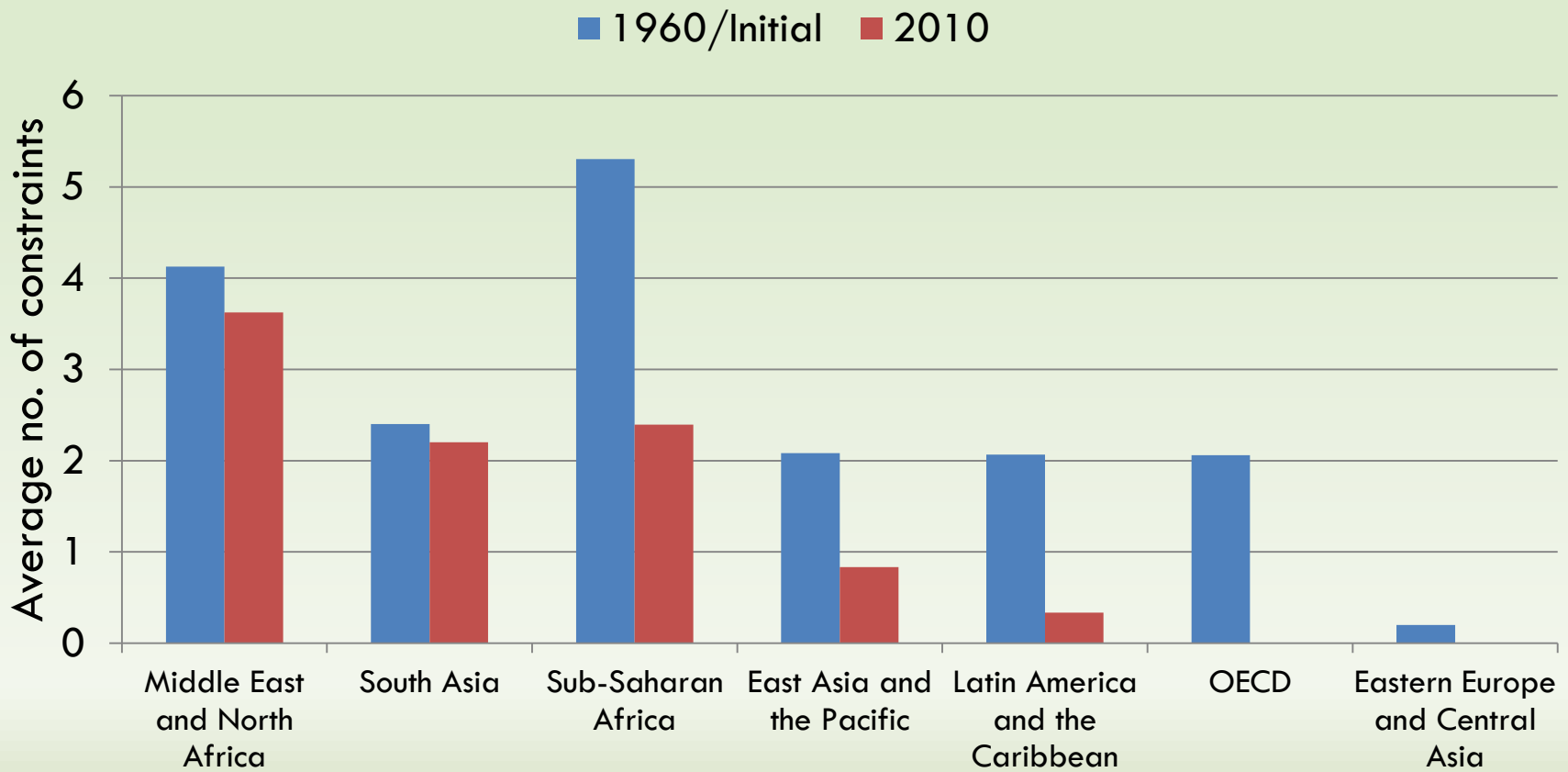
But attitudes are restrictive

The belief that women make equally good leaders is correlated with female representation in parliaments



Uneven progress in addressing legal disparities

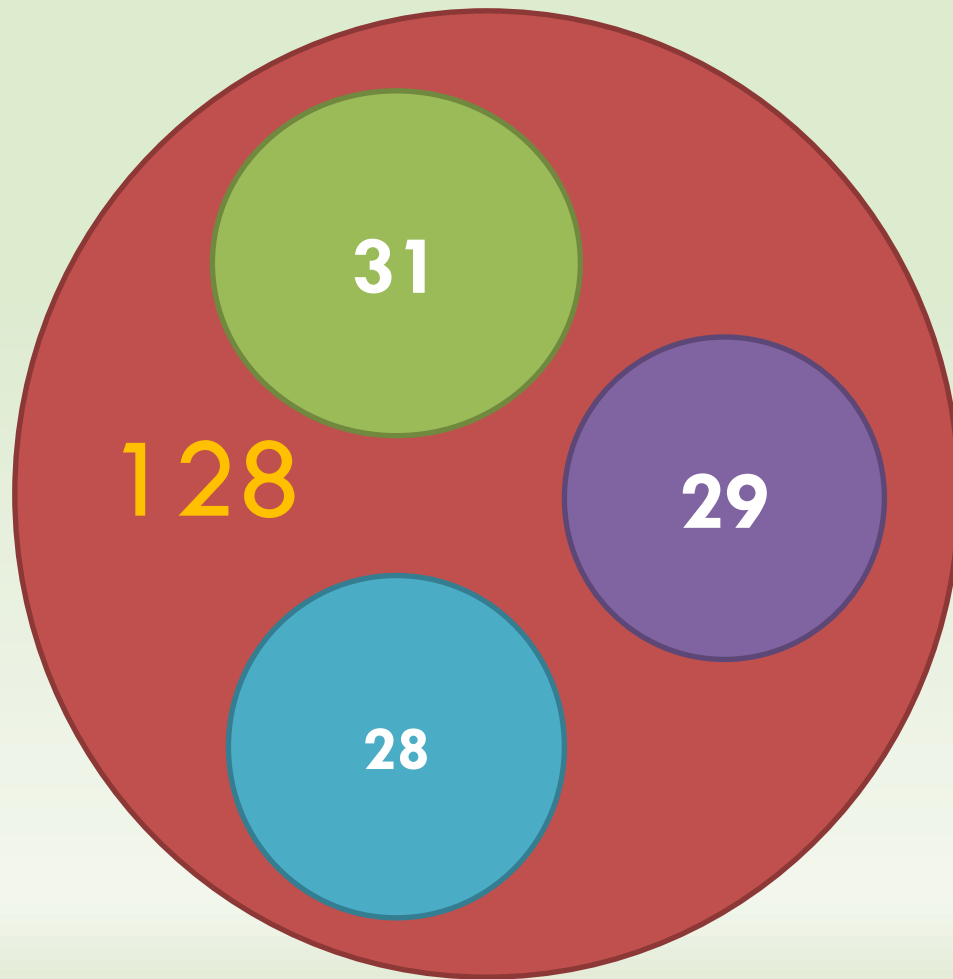
Changes in average number of legal constraints by region



Note: Number of potential constraints equals 11

Hallward-Driemeier, Hasan and Iqbal, 2013 Women's Legal Rights Over 50 Years

The need for legal reform remains



At least one legal difference between men & women

No laws on domestic violence

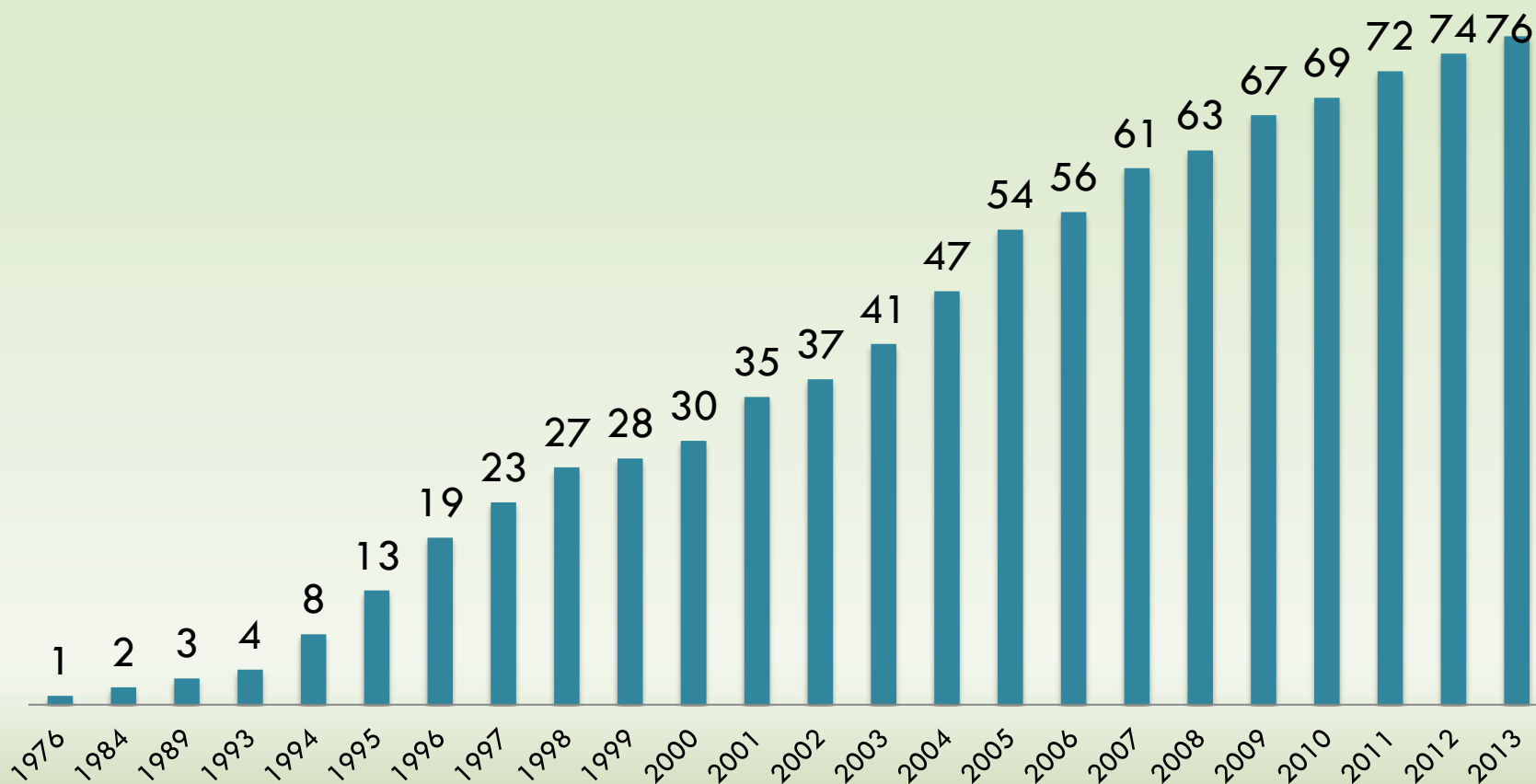
Restrictions on women as head of household

Unequal inheritance rights

Number of countries

Momentum for change: the case of domestic violence

Number of countries with legislation against domestic violence



Source: World Bank, *Women, Business and the Law 2014: Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality*

Promising directions for changing social norms



Gender-Based Violence: *What works?*

Prevention

- Include men *AND* women
- Engage entire community
- Combine multiple approaches
- Last at least 6 months
- Address social norms around the acceptability of violence

Response

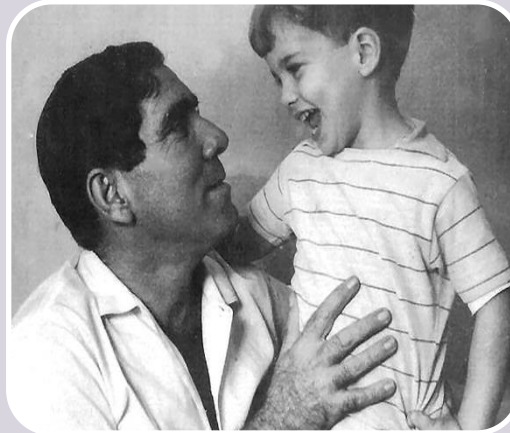
- Target survivors rather than perpetrators
- Encourage women's autonomy and empowerment
- Include psychosocial elements (e.g. counseling) and victim advocacy

Programs enhancing agency



TOSTAN

Working with communities to eliminate FGC and child marriage



PROGRAM P

Promoting men's roles as gender-equitable caregivers



SASA!

Mobilizing communities to reduce domestic violence

“Data not only measures progress. It inspires it.”

-Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Gaps

GBV: Scarce, infrequent and often underestimated

Sexual & reproductive health:
Scarce

Access to land: Data not collected at individual level

Voice: Limited

Selected New Efforts

Internationally agreed core indicators (52)

Evidence on Data and Gender Equality (EDGE)

Data 2X

Internationally agreed indicators on violence against women

Media reception to the report


600+ tweets featuring **#WomenCan** have captured **10+ Million** impressions to date. On May 14, **#WomenCan** was the **#7** trending Twitter topic in the **United States***** and the **#2** trending Twitter topic in Washington, D.C.

This page in English | Español

Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity featuring the Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton

Share Tweet 0 +1 32 Share 76

This event has concluded. View the replay below!



Play

00:00 01:001:0 700k

Postcards on the World Bank's Facebook channel.



United States Trends · Change

- #TwitterForBiz Promoted
- #EuropaLeagueFinal
- #MyWeirdNeighbor
- #ToBeOneTwerk
- #CarlsbadFire
- Congrats to Sevilla
- #WomenCan
- Ryan Sheckler
- Benfica
- Bela Guttman

Washington Trends

- #TwitterForBiz Promoted
- #WomenCan
- Jill Abramson
- #oomf
- #Nats
- #Orioles
- World Cup
- Michael Jackson
- Walmart
- Miami

World Bank Live Event

9,143 page views to date, **4,597** live blog views, **70** online questions submitted

Top 10 Countries: US, UK, Canada, India, Australia, Mexico, South Africa, Germany, Japan, France

***A World Bank first

Over 400 news stories in more than 20 countries covered -- US, Canada, Pakistan, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, China, Malaysia, South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, Bahrain, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, and Algeria.

Educating Girls: Big Payoff For \$45 A Year



May 15, 2014 11:37 AM ET - NPR Tell Me More
Girls without an education are six times more likely to marry young than those who've finished high school, according to a new report from the World Bank Group. Guest host Celeste Headlee learns more.

Child brides face increased chances of illiteracy, domestic violence, report says



World Bank: 700 million women subject to conjugal violence



上海日报



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#WomenCan