

# 2012 SIGI

## Social Institutions and Gender Index

UNDERSTANDING THE DRIVERS  
OF GENDER INEQUALITY



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# ABOUT THE OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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The Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development was established by decision of the OECD Council on 23 October 1962 and comprises 24 member countries of the OECD: Austria, Belgium, Chile, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. In addition, the following non-OECD countries are members of the Development Centre: Brazil (since March 1994); India (February 2001); Romania (October 2004); Thailand (March 2005); South Africa (May 2006); Egypt and Viet Nam (March 2008); Colombia (July 2008); Indonesia (February 2009); Costa Rica, Mauritius, Morocco and Peru (March 2009), the Dominican Republic (November 2009), Senegal (February 2011), and Argentina and Cape Verde (March 2011). The Commission of the European Communities also takes part in the Centre's Governing Board.

The Development Centre, whose membership is open to both OECD and non-OECD countries, occupies a unique place within the OECD and in the international community. Members finance the Centre and serve on its Governing Board, which sets the biennial work programme and oversees its implementation. The Centre links OECD members with developing and emerging economies and fosters debate and discussion to seek creative policy solutions to emerging global issues and development challenges. Participants in Centre events are invited in their personal capacity. A small core of staff works with experts and institutions from the OECD and partner countries to fulfil the Centre's work programme. The results are discussed in informal expert and policy dialogue meetings, and are published in a range of high-quality products for the research and policy communities. The Centre's Study Series presents in-depth analyses of major development issues. Policy Briefs and Policy Insights summarise major conclusions for policy makers; Working Papers deal with the more technical aspects of the Centre's work. For an overview of the Centre's activities, please see [www.oecd.org/dev](http://www.oecd.org/dev).

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# Key Findings

## DESPITE PROMISING PROGRESS IN SOME AREAS, UNDERLYING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN PERSISTS

- ◆ The 2012 Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) shows that countries have made promising progress in tackling discriminatory social institutions in some areas. For countries scored in the 2012 SIGI:
  - ◆ The average prevalence of early marriage across countries has decreased to 17% in 2012 from 21% in 2009.
  - ◆ The number of countries with specific legislation to combat domestic violence has more than doubled from 21 in 2009 to 53 in 2012.
  - ◆ 23 out of the 35 countries where missing women was identified as a concern in 2009 have shown improvement in 2012.
  - ◆ 29 countries have quotas to promote women's political participation at both national and sub-national levels.
- ◆ Despite positive steps, pervasive and persistent social institutions continue to limit women and girls' horizons in all regions ranked in the 2012 SIGI.
  - ◆ 86 out of 121 countries scored in the 2012 SIGI have discriminatory inheritance laws or practices.
  - ◆ Women's reproductive autonomy is restricted: on average, 1 in 5 women has an unmet need for family planning.
  - ◆ Despite the introduction of laws, attitudes that normalise violence against women persist. On average, for the countries scored in the SIGI, around 1 in 2 women believe domestic violence is justified in certain circumstances.
  - ◆ On average, women hold only 15% of land titles for countries where data is available.
- ◆ Latin America and the Caribbean shows the lowest level of overall discrimination against women in the 2012 SIGI rankings. South Asia has improved its position from the lowest ranked region in 2009 to the fourth ranked region in 2012. This is largely due to the introduction of laws to combat violence against women, decline in early marriage, introduction of quotas to promote women's political participation and improvement in son bias for some countries in the region. Sub-Saharan Africa shows the highest level of discrimination. Europe and Central Asia has moved from the top ranking region in the 2009 SIGI to the third ranked region in the 2012 edition. This is largely due to a growing problem of son bias in some parts of the region and the absence of quotas to promote women's equal political participation.



# POLICIES CAN CHANGE DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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Top-ranking countries have addressed discriminatory social institutions by ensuring gender equality in the family, land and property rights, introducing measures to improve women's access to credit, introducing and implementing strong laws and programmes to combat violence against women, ensuring women's access to reproductive health services, removing restrictions on women's access to public space and introducing laws to promote women's political participation at a national or sub-national level.

A three-pronged approach to tackling discriminatory social institutions is required.

## 1. Legal reform

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- ◆ Harmonisation, full implementation and enforcement of laws to guarantee equality and protection from harmful practices and violence
- ◆ Provision of judicial training, legal services, awareness-raising and legal literacy programmes

## 2. Community mobilisation and empowerment

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- ◆ Public awareness and community mobilisation activities to tackle attitudes and shift norms
- ◆ Support networks and skills development to address knowledge gaps and attitudes

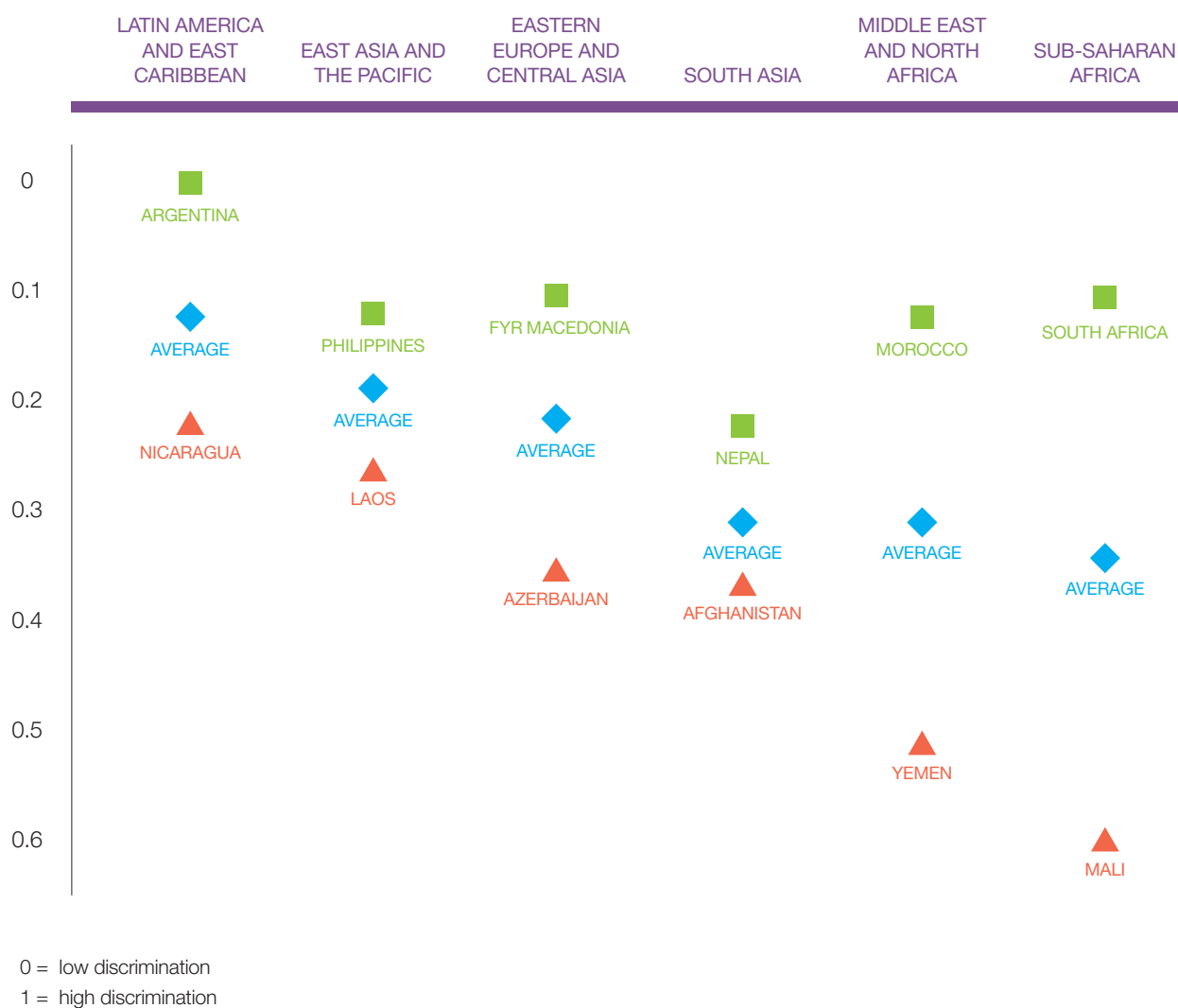
## 3. Economic support and incentives

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- ◆ Cash transfers and stipends to change practices
- ◆ Income-generating support and opportunities to remove economic constraints

# 2012 SIGI : Scores by regions

- Top ranking
- ◆ Average SIGI score
- ▲ Lowest ranking



# 2012 SIGI

## AN INNOVATIVE TOOL TO UNDERSTAND GENDER INEQUALITY

There is widespread consensus that gender equality is a prerequisite for development, growth and poverty reduction. In recent decades, policy makers and researchers have increasingly turned attention and resources to closing gender gaps on key economic and social indicators, yet at the same time have grappled with questions as to why gender inequalities persist. Discriminatory social institutions – social norms, practices, formal and informal laws – have gained prominence as a useful analytical framework to illuminate what drives gender inequalities and development outcomes more broadly.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), launched in 2009 by the OECD Development Centre, was the first attempt to capture, quantify and measure social institutions that discriminate against women and girls. SIGI was created to complement other existing gender indices. While other indices such as the UNDP Gender Inequality Index and the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index measure gender inequality in terms of outcomes such as education attainment or labour market participation, the SIGI's innovative focus on the underlying social institutions that influence gender roles and relations provides additional insight into the causes of gender inequality. By applying SIGI to issues as diverse as employment, food security and achievement of the MDGs, the OECD Development Centre has shown that countries which display higher levels of discrimination against women are also performing more poorly on a range of development indicators. Greater attention from policy makers and donors on targeting discriminatory social institutions will not only empower women and girls and secure their fundamental human rights, but also contribute to poverty reduction, economic growth and development.

As a composite index, the SIGI and its sub-indices provide powerful and interpretable tools to compare the level of underlying discrimination against women across non-OECD countries, allowing cross-country, regional and sub-regional analyses. The scores and ranking of each country are also complemented with detailed country notes which set the context and describe how social institutions discriminate against women with country-specific information.

Since the launch of the SIGI in 2009, many countries have introduced reforms and programmes to tackle discriminatory social institutions. These reforms include the introduction of comprehensive legislation to tackle gender-based violence, laws to establish an equal minimum age of marriage for men and women, awareness-raising programmes to shift attitudes on son bias or legal literacy programmes to improve women's access to resources. Furthermore, data sources on discriminatory social institutions have been gradually improving. For example, there is now more data on the prevalence of and attitudes regarding domestic violence. The 2012 SIGI takes advantage of improved data sources and reflects changes in laws and practice. The 2012 SIGI has also provided an opportunity to further strengthen the index through the addition and revision of some variables and the scoring framework.

This document sets out a summary of the 2012 SIGI framework and methodology, the overall rankings for 2012, analysis for each region and an overview of how the SIGI can be used.

# Conceptual framework and methodology

## COMPOSITION OF 2012 SIGI

The following section provides a brief overview of the methodological and conceptual framework for the 2012 SIGI. For further detail on the methodology and technical construction of the 2012 SIGI, please see the full 2012 SIGI Methodological and Technical Background Paper at [www.genderindex.org](http://www.genderindex.org).

### 2012 SIGI Sub-index

### Variables



#### DISCRIMINATORY FAMILY CODE

- LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE
- EARLY MARRIAGE
- PARENTAL AUTHORITY
- INHERITANCE



#### RESTRICTED PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

- VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (LAWS, ATTITUDES AND PREVALENCE)
- FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
- REPRODUCTIVE INTEGRITY



#### SON BIAS

- MISSING WOMEN
- FERTILITY PREFERENCES



#### RESTRICTED RESOURCES AND ENTITLEMENTS

- ACCESS TO LAND
- ACCESS TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN LAND
- ACCESS TO CREDIT



#### RESTRICTED CIVIL LIBERTIES

- ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACE
- POLITICAL VOICE



# WHAT IS 2012 SIGI CAPTURING AND WHY?

The 2012 SIGI is composed of five equally weighted sub-indices which each represent a distinct dimension of discrimination against women. Each SIGI sub-index is theoretically justified based on its relationship with gender inequalities in outcomes such as education or employment or broader development outcomes such as child malnutrition.

## What are we capturing?

## Why?

Social institutions that limit and restrict women's decision-making power and status in the household and the family

Women's low status in the family is linked to reduced educational attainment and economic outcomes for women and girls

Women's lower bargaining power in the household is linked to increased child malnutrition and inter-generational transfer of poverty

Early marriage is linked to higher adolescent fertility rate, high maternal mortality and higher infant mortality

Social institutions that limit and restrict women and girls' control over their bodies

Violence against women is linked to reduced access to economic resources in the household and economic opportunities outside the household

Violence against women and lack of access to reproductive health is linked to poor health outcomes for women and girls, including maternal mortality and vulnerability to HIV

Social Institutions that foster intra-household bias towards sons and the devaluation of daughters

Potential demographic crises and serious social consequences stemming from skewed sex-ratios

Son bias is linked to reduced educational attainment and economic opportunities for girls

Social institutions which restrict women's access to, control of, and entitlement over economic and natural resources

Women's lack of access to resources is linked to reduced economic opportunities

Women's lack of control over assets is linked to lower investment in family nutrition and welfare and greater vulnerability of families to poverty

Women's lack of ownership and control over productive assets is linked to lower agricultural production and food insecurity

Social institutions that restrict women's access to, participation and voice in the public and social spheres

Women's restricted access to public space is linked to limited access to education and economic opportunities

Women's participation in public decision making is linked with the accountability of governments

# WHAT ARE SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS?

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE FORMAL AND INFORMAL LAWS, SOCIAL NORMS AND PRACTICES THAT INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS, CHOICES AND BEHAVIOURS OF GROUPS, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS.

The concept of social institutions has been adopted by several disciplines to draw attention to the role of “culture” or social relations in limiting or enabling individual or collective agency. The most prominent theorist of social institutions, North, describes institutions as “the humanly devised constraints that structure political, economic and social interaction. They consist of both informal constraints (sanctions, taboos, customs, traditions, and codes of conduct), and formal rules (constitutions, laws, property rights).<sup>1</sup> The “social” aspect of social institutions refers to the way in which formal laws, informal laws, social norms and practices influence social relations or human interactions. By focusing on the “social” element of institutions, the SIGI seeks to uncover the extent to which the institutions that govern social behaviour and relationships, particularly gender roles and relations, have an impact on development outcomes.

Social institutions are not fixed, and there are often significant variations within countries, regions and communities. They are also in constant flux and can change over time, albeit slowly. While social institutions in themselves are not inherently good or bad, discriminatory social institutions are those that restrict or exclude women and girls and consequently curtail their access to opportunities, resources and power. Through their influence on the unequal distribution of power between men and women in the private sphere of the family, in the economic sphere, and in public life, discriminatory social institutions constrain the opportunities of men and women and their capabilities to live the life they wish to. It is on these discriminatory social institutions that the SIGI is focused.

## THE SELECTION OF VARIABLES

Based on the conceptual framework for the 2012 SIGI, variables have been selected on the following criteria:

### Conceptual relevance:

the variable should be strongly related to the conceptual framework of discriminatory social institutions and the variables should measure what they are intended to capture.

### Capture an underlying factor of gender inequality:

the variable should capture an underlying factor leading to unequal outcomes for women and men.

### Data quality, availability and coverage:

the variable should be based on data that is reliable, ideally the data should be standardised across countries and have extensive coverage across the SIGI countries.

### Distinct:

each variable should measure a distinct discriminatory institution and should add new information not measured by other variables.

### Statistical association:

variables in one sub-index should be statistically associated although not redundant, to ensure they are capturing a similar phenomenon.

The changes in the composition of the 2009 and 2012 editions of SIGI are the removal of the Polygamy (Discriminatory Family Code) and Freedom of Dress (Restricted Civil Liberties) variables and the addition of Reproductive Integrity (Restricted Physical Integrity), Fertility Preferences (Son Bias), Legal Age of Marriage (Discriminatory Family Code) Access to Public Space (Restricted Civil Liberties) and Political Voice (Restricted Civil Liberties) variables. Attitudinal and prevalence data has also been added to the Violence Against Women variable where available.

## THE CONSTRUCTION OF 2012 SIGI

### COUNTRY SELECTION

Countries are included in the SIGI if they meet the following criteria:

- ◆ non-OECD or non-European Union countries;
- ◆ population of more than 1 million;
- ◆ availability of data on discriminatory social institutions.

The selection of non-OECD and non-European Union countries is not based on the justification that discriminatory social institutions do not exist in these countries. Discriminatory social institutions exist in various forms across all countries and indeed, data from several surveys indicates that discriminatory attitudes and practices exist across all OECD and European Union countries. However, the OECD Development Centre's rationale for measuring discriminatory social institutions is to understand their impact on gender and development outcomes and as such, the primary focus of the SIGI is on developing countries or countries which have undergone rapid development in recent years. Another reason why OECD countries are excluded is that the primary role of the OECD Development Centre is to produce analysis relating to non-OECD countries. The justification for excluding countries with population less than 1 million is limited data availability on discriminatory social institutions for these countries. However, as data sources are gradually improving for smaller countries and statistical offices are increasingly collecting gender-disaggregated data, it is envisaged that smaller countries will be included in future editions of the SIGI.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2012 SIGI HAS INVOLVED SEVERAL STAGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN 2010 AND 2012, SET OUT IN THE DIAGRAM BELOW.

Each stage set out in the diagram below has taken place with consultation and input from key experts.

## STAGE 1

SELECTION OF COUNTRIES



## STAGE 2

COUNTRY NOTE RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT OF DATA AVAILABILITY



## STAGE 3

SELECTION OF VARIABLES



## STAGE 4

VALIDATION OF COUNTRY NOTE DATA WITH REGIONAL AND IN-COUNTRY EXPERTS



## STAGE 5

CODING OF DATA INTO THE GENDER, INSTITUTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT DATABASE



## STAGE 6

CALCULATING THE 5 SUB-INDICES STATISTICAL TESTS AND PCA



## STAGE 7

CONSTRUCTION OF THE SIGI AND RANKINGS

### Want to change the indicators and weights of the SIGI?

The 'Build Your Own SIGI' function of [www.my.genderindex.org](http://www.my.genderindex.org) allows you to remove sub-indices and change the weights. Scores and rankings are updated automatically and featured on an interactive map.

## DATA, VARIABLES AND CODING

The main source of data for the coding of variables for the 2012 SIGI are the SIGI country notes, available on [www.genderindex.org](http://www.genderindex.org). The country notes contain fully-referenced qualitative and quantitative information relevant to discriminatory social institutions, organised by the sub-indices and variables of the 2012 SIGI.

For a full explanation of variables, data sources and the coding framework, please see Appendix A.

## THE TECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION OF 2012 SIGI

### Step 1:

For each sub-index, we want to combine variables that are assumed to belong to one dimension of discrimination against women. The statistical association and correspondence of the variables in each sub-index is tested to ensure the variables belong to a distinct dimension of discrimination against women. This is undertaken using two tools. The first tool is a Kendall Tau b rank correlation analysis. The second tool is a Multiple joint Correspondence Analysis (MCA). The variables for each sub-index of the 2012 SIGI were found to be statistically associated and have a significant degree of correspondence.

### Step 2:

Each sub-index is constructed to provide a summary measure for each dimension of social institutions.

The construction of each sub-index consists of aggregating the variables with a reasonable weighting scheme. This is done through a polychoric Principal Component Analysis (PCA). The weights capture the contribution of each variable to the phenomenon of discrimination that the sub-index is intended to capture. For more information about the weights, please see the full SIGI 2012 Methodological and Technical Background Paper.

### Step 3:

The SIGI is an unweighted average of a non-linear function of the sub-indices. We use equal weights for the sub-indices, as we see no reason for valuing one of the dimensions more or less than the other. The non-linear function arises because we assume that inequality related to gender corresponds to deprivation experienced by the affected women, and that deprivation increases more than proportionally when inequality increases. Thus, high inequality is penalised in every dimension. The non-linearity also means that the SIGI does not allow for total compensation among sub-indices, but permits partial compensation. Partial compensation implies that high inequality in one dimension can be only partially compensated with low inequality on another dimension.

The value of the 2012 SIGI for a given country is calculated as follows:

$$\text{SIGI} = \frac{1}{5} (\text{SubindexFamilyCode})^2 + \frac{1}{5} (\text{SubindexPhysicalIntegrity})^2 + \frac{1}{5} (\text{SubindexSonBias})^2 + \frac{1}{5} (\text{SubindexCivilLiberties})^2 + \frac{1}{5} (\text{SubindexResourceEntitlement})^2$$

Note that a country is only scored for a sub-index or the 2012 SIGI if it has data for all variables. Countries with missing data are not ranked in the 2012 SIGI or for the sub-index where there is missing data for one or more variables.

# Ranking and scores

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN 2012

The following table sets out the scores and rankings for the 2012 SIGI and also provides the country ranking from 2009. Overall, Latin America and the Caribbean has a strong performance as the top-ranking region. Nine out of the ten bottom-ranked countries are from Sub-Saharan Africa. South Asian countries have generally improved their position between the 2009 and 2012 SIGI. Europe and Central Asia moved from the top ranked region in 2009 to the third ranked region in 2012.

Changes in rankings between 2009 and 2012 should be interpreted with caution for several reasons. Firstly, a genuine comparison is not possible due to the change in variables and methodology between the 2009 and 2012 editions of the SIGI. Secondly, a comparison is further limited due to the improvement in data sources on discriminatory social institutions between 2009 and 2012. An improvement in score between 2009 and 2012 could be due to better quality data, rather than an improvement in discriminatory social institutions. Finally, there is a difference between the number of countries ranked in 2009 and 2012. Due to the addition of variables and new data, some countries that were ranked in 2009 have not been ranked in 2012 and vice versa.

Countries and economies not ranked  
in 2012, but ranked in 2009:

Algeria; Bahrain; Bhutan; Botswana; Central African  
Republic; Croatia; Equatorial Guinea; Eritrea; Fiji;  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China;  
Iran, Islamic Republic of; Kuwait; Libya; Mauritius; Papua  
New Guinea; Peru; Russian Federation; Singapore;  
United Arab Emirates; Uruguay; and Zimbabwe.

2012 SIGI rank out of 86 countries	Country	2012 SIGI score (rounded)	2009 SIGI rank out of 102 countries
1	Argentina	0.0069	4
2	Costa Rica	0.0220	5
3	Paraguay	0.0645	1
4	South Africa	0.1035	49
5	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.1047	23
6	Cuba	0.1062	22
7	Trinidad and Tobago	0.1070	29
8	Brazil	0.1092	24
9	Dominican Republic	0.1117	40
10	El Salvador	0.1158	8
11	Serbia	0.1180	*
12	Philippines	0.1200	7
13	Cambodia	0.1213	27
14	Kazakhstan	0.1220	3
15	Belarus	0.1257	19
16	Venezuela	0.1258	15
17	Morocco	0.1267	43
18	Honduras	0.1311	36
19	Ecuador	0.1314	9
20	Bolivia	0.1336	13
21	Namibia	0.1358	47
22	Tunisia	0.1359	25
23	Mongolia	0.1430	39
24	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.1433	*
25	Thailand	0.1475	16
26	Colombia	0.1477	18
27	Ukraine	0.1522	10
28	Rwanda	0.1543	66
29	Republic of Moldova	0.1602	12
30	Madagascar	0.1679	46
31	Haiti	0.1698	*
32	Indonesia	0.1743	55
33	Kyrgyzstan	0.1761	30
34	Jamaica	0.2077	42
35	Guatemala	0.2128	34
36	Nepal	0.2154	65
37	Nicaragua	0.2167	28
38	Malawi	0.2178	60
39	Mozambique	0.2200	77
40	Tajikistan	0.2246	35
41	Senegal	0.2304	52
42	China	0.2388	31
43	Viet Nam	0.2393	83
44	Myanmar	0.2405	41

2012 SIGI rank out of 86 countries	Country	2012 SIGI score (rounded)	2009 SIGI rank out of 102 countries
45	Guinea-Bissau	0.2443	*
46	Kenya	0.2487	57
47	Tanzania	0.2521	53
48	Mauritania	0.2545	61
49	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.2599	38
50	Ghana	0.2622	54
51	Burundi	0.2755	50
52	Albania	0.2793	51
53	Sri Lanka	0.2798	45
54	Armenia	0.2854	32
55	Pakistan	0.2934	94
56	India	0.30469	96
57	Uzbekistan	0.30474	*
58	Zambia	0.3050	85
59	Iraq	0.3175	93
60	Georgia	0.3382	33
61	Côte d'Ivoire	0.3402	58
62	Liberia	0.3442	87
63	Bangladesh	0.3524	90
64	Ethiopia	0.3536	89
65	Egypt	0.3578	82
66	Sierra Leone	0.3610	100
67	Togo	0.3612	78
68	Azerbaijan	0.3625	37
69	Afghanistan	0.3631	101
70	Burkina Faso	0.3692	63
71	Cameroon	0.3706	81
72	Niger	0.3722	67
73	Uganda	0.3836	73
74	Swaziland	0.3915	62
75	Syrian Arab Republic	0.3928	59
76	Gambia	0.3947	69
77	Gabon	0.4289	84
78	Guinea	0.4401	88
79	Nigeria	0.4422	86
80	Chad	0.4530	97
81	Benin	0.4567	74
82	Somalia	0.4992	*
83	Yemen	0.5062	98
84	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.5134	79
85	Sudan	0.5246	102
86	Mali	0.6011	99

\*not ranked in 2009





Regional spotlight

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN\*



\*Countries and economies included in this region :  
Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil;  
Colombia; Costa Rica;  
Cuba; Dominican Republic;  
Ecuador; El Salvador;  
Guatemala; Haiti; Honduras;  
Jamaica; Nicaragua;  
Panama; Paraguay; Peru;  
Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay  
and Venezuela.

Latin America and the Caribbean has achieved several positive changes for women over the last few decades: the region has made significant improvements in terms of health and gender parity in education. There has been a sharp decline in maternal mortality rates due to increased investment in the health of girls and women in general.<sup>2</sup> In education, the gender gap has closed and even reverted in some regions, as girls generally outperform boys and are more likely than boys to be enrolled in secondary and tertiary education. However, gender gaps in education remain for some indigenous populations. Another important area of change has been an increase in female labour force participation. Despite women's labour force participation being as high as 53%, in some countries women are paid up to 40% less than men.<sup>3</sup> In addition, women make up the majority of domestic workers and more needs to be done to ensure their basic employment rights. Another emerging challenge is the design of better policies to balance the demands of women's careers with their family responsibilities, especially since women tend to resort to informal employment and trade basic social and labour protections and better career prospects for the job flexibility that helps to balance such responsibilities.<sup>4</sup> Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Bolivia have recognised the unpaid work done by women in their constitutions.<sup>5</sup> The region has also made great strides in women's participation in formal politics:<sup>6</sup> six countries have achieved the 30% critical mass target for women's representation in parliament and there are currently four women serving as elected heads of state or government. All countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Still, inequalities remain as women's representation in parliaments is uneven across the continent.



## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

Latin America and the Caribbean is the highest performing region in the 2012 SIGI rankings. Among the top 10 countries in the overall ranking, eight are from the region, and three are at the top of the overall 2012 SIGI rankings: Argentina, Costa Rica and Paraguay. The top performing country in the region is Argentina, while the country with the lowest SIGI ranking in the region is Nicaragua. Latin America and the Caribbean is the top-ranking region for the Restricted Physical Integrity, Restricted Resources and Entitlements and Restricted Civil Liberties sub-index, while also showing a strong performance for Son Bias and Discriminatory Family Code.

Early marriage is declining across the region, although in some countries such as the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Guatemala, over one in four girls aged 15-19 are married. Laws generally provide women equal rights with respect to parental authority and inheritance. The region has made significant progress in the area of violence against women although some obstacles remain. Venezuela has enacted a law prohibiting rape, spousal rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment. In both Costa Rica and Guatemala, femicide and sexual violence are recognised as crimes. Argentina and Mexico have adopted comprehensive laws to prevent, punish and eradicate violence. Still, despite solid progress, there is a need for greater enforcement particularly to address the serious problem of femicide in the region, and the targeting of interventions to reach minority groups such as indigenous women. Furthermore, some countries still need to strengthen laws, for example Bolivia, where a rape perpetrator can escape prosecution by marrying the victim.

Sex-ratio data does not indicate that missing women is a concern in the region and there does not appear to be a fertility preference for boys, based on the share of males as the last child. Laws in the region grant women equal access to land, property and credit although in practice discriminatory social norms continue to restrict women's access to productive resources. Latin America and the Caribbean has made great progress in improving women's political participation: the region has the highest share of women in parliament among developing countries, a figure that jumped from 12% in 1997 to 20% in 2011, and there are 12 countries in the region that have election law quotas for national parliaments.

## PROMISING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ In 2006, Argentina set up an observatory on discrimination in radio and television to raise the alert on discrimination and gender violence in radio and television media. This national body helps in detecting cases of gender discrimination and imposing the necessary sanctions.
- ◆ Owing to awareness-raising efforts on violence against women and higher reporting levels, Brazil currently counts more than 400 women's police stations. These police stations have been granted a leading role in initiating legal proceedings in cases of violence against women (including providing immediate assistance to survivors, and securing protective measures), especially since the passing of the Maria da Penha Law on domestic violence in 2006. Women's police stations now exist in 13 countries across the region.
- ◆ In 2007, Venezuela enacted a law prohibiting rape, spousal rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment which not only includes punishment and prosecution, but also requires that the authorities implement a programme to raise awareness and change attitudes. Following the law, Special Courts for Violence against women were created, which led to a steep increase in recorded complaints of violence against women in the country.
- ◆ In Honduras, the Land Access Pilot Project (Proyecto Acceso a la Tierra [PACTA]) integrated a gender approach in the three-year implementation plan for the expanded pilot (2005-2007) which as a result helped women to own land: in 2005, 20% of the participating women were direct members who had acquired land and received technical assistance and training.
- ◆ The Sexto Sentido television programme in Nicaragua aimed to shift attitudes towards gender-based violence amongst young people. A longitudinal study of more than 4 000 young people found significant improvements in attitudes toward violence and gender equity among those who watched the show regularly.

## TOP PERFORMING COUNTRY IN THE REGION

In the 2012 SIGI rankings, Argentina sets the example for the remaining countries in the region. Women and men have equal rights in marriage, parental authority and inheritance, and the law sets the minimum age of marriage for women and men at 18. Argentina ratified the optional CEDAW Protocol on violence against women in 2007. In 2008 the Office of Domestic Violence was created to address the issue of under-reporting and in 2009 the government enacted a new law to address violence against women in a more comprehensive manner (including physical, psychological, sexual, economic and symbolic). The law recognises violence against women for the first time as gender violence. It requires collaboration across government agencies of all jurisdictions, and is administered through the National Council of Women. Only 6% of women have an unmet need for family planning and there is no evidence of missing women. There are no reported restrictions on women's access to public space and the country has quotas to promote women's political participation at national and sub-national levels. The country elected its first female president in 2007, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, and re-elected her for a second term in 2011. Women are well represented in Argentina's bi-cameral parliament: in 2009 they held 37.8% of the seats. Still there is room for improvement. Women's access to productive resources and implementation of laws to combat violence against women remain a challenge.



Regional spotlight

## EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC\*



\*Countries and economies included in this region : Cambodia; China; Chinese Taipei; Fiji; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China; Indonesia; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Women's life expectancy in the East Asia and Pacific region has increased over the years and the region has made particularly good progress in girls' education. The region has nearly closed enrolment gaps between girls and boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education and in some countries girls even outperform boys in education. Compared to the other regions, the East Asia Pacific region ranks highest in political empowerment and lowest in health; it ranks fourth in education and fifth in economic participation.<sup>7</sup> Most countries in the region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The female labour participation rate in the region is 64% and the region also increased its education scores in the ranking.<sup>8</sup> The gap in labour force participation is not only narrowing, but more and more migrant women are making substantial contributions to remittances and the well-being of their families. Some of the countries are also making progress in women's political participation.<sup>9</sup> Despite this, women represent the majority of rural subsistence farmers and a large number of them work in the informal sector, which leaves them with no job security or social protection.<sup>10</sup> Gender disparities remain in access to economic opportunity and in voice in society<sup>11</sup>, as the share of women in parliament was only 11% in 2011 – a slight increase from the 8% figure in 1997 – and only three countries have quotas for national parliaments.<sup>12</sup>

## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

East Asia and the Pacific is the second highest-ranking region in the overall 2012 SIGI ranking following Latin America and the Caribbean. The highest-ranked country in the region is the Philippines (12 out of 86), followed closely by Cambodia (13 out of 86). The lowest ranking country is Laos ranked at 49 out of 86. East Asia and the Pacific shows a strong performance in the Discriminatory Family Code, Restricted Physical Integrity and Restricted Resources and Entitlements sub-indices. The region's weakest areas are the Son Bias and Restricted Civil Liberties sub-indices.

With the exception of Laos and Papua New Guinea, early marriage in the region is declining. Most countries provide women and men equal rights in exercising parental authority. The regional picture on inheritance rights is mixed, with countries such as Indonesia, Laos and Myanmar discriminating against women in this area. There were some improvements in responses to violence against women, for example in Fiji, the Crimes Decree of 2009 criminalised rape, the 2009 Domestic Violence Decree considers spousal rape a criminal offence and sexual harassment is also prohibited. However, spousal rape is still not criminalised in some countries and the implementation of laws remains a concern. Attitudes accepting domestic violence are prevalent in some countries in the region: 86% and 81% of women in Timor-Leste and Laos respectively agree that domestic violence is justified in some circumstances.

Son Bias is a particular issue of concern in the region although there has been improvement since 2009. Sex-ratio data indicates that missing women is a persistent problem, particularly in China and Papua New Guinea. Data on the share of males as the last child also indicates that son bias is strong in some parts of the region, including China, Viet Nam and Laos.

Women's political representation is low in the region: in Fiji, there are no national bodies of legislature to which women can be elected; in China, as of December 2009, women held 21% of the more than 2000 seats in the National Congress; in Viet Nam, as of November 2011, women held 122 of 500 seats in national parliament, which fails to meet the 30% target set out in their 2010 national strategy. The trend is similar across all countries in the region. No country in the region has quotas at both national and sub-national levels.

## PROMISING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ The Government of Singapore has been working through the Association of Devoted and Active Family Men and the Centre for Fathering, while in Hong Kong, China the Education Bureau is embarking on an "equal opportunities for all subjects" initiative, rejecting the practice of streaming girl and boy students to different subjects, which reinforces gender stereotyping at an early age.
- ◆ In Cambodia's 2007 local and 2008 national elections, a civil society group called the Committee to Promote Women in Politics trained women politicians, convinced political party leaders to support women's leadership and conducted campaigns to educate voters on women's leadership potential. In three of the provinces targeted by the group, the number of female commune councillors successfully contesting the election at least doubled if not tripled.
- ◆ The "Care for Girls" programme in China between 2003 and 2005 aimed to reduce the imbalanced sex-ratio by public awareness campaigns, supporting girl-only families and strengthening data systems. The programme contributed to a reduction in the sex-ratio at birth from 133.8 in 2003 to 199.6 in 2005.
- ◆ The Partners for Prevention "Engaging Young Men through Social Media for the Prevention of Violence against Women" project aims to shift norms that accept violence against women by using multiple forms of social media and discussion forums to inspire young men to share information and take action. The programme is currently being developed for China and Indonesia.

The Philippines is the top-ranking country in East Asia and the Pacific, at 12 out of 86. In the last decade, the government put emphasis on women's economic empowerment, human rights and gender-responsive governance. Rates of early marriage have declined over the last two decades. There was also an increase in female-headed households and in 2000 the government passed the Solo Parents Welfare Act, which provides for flexible work arrangements, parental leave and other benefits to sole parents and their children. The 2004 Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act protects women and children from any abuse in the context of marital, dating or common law relationships. The change in attitudes can also be seen through the results of the 2008 Demographic and Health Survey, where only 16% of women agreed that a husband is justified in beating his wife in certain circumstances. Finally, the government has delivered gender-sensitivity training to police officers and encourages women to report acts of violence. Under Restricted Entitlements and Resources, men and women have equal legal rights to land, property other than land and credit. In 2002, the Environment and Natural Resources Department amended its regulations to grant all women (regardless of their civil status) equal rights to apply for the purchase or lease of public lands. However, there is room for improvement for the Philippines. Data on the share of males as the last child provides evidence of Son Bias in the Philippines and over one in five women has an unmet need for family planning. Further, laws addressing violence against women could be better enforced and women's representation in decision making could be improved.





Regional spotlight

## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA\*



\*Countries and economies included in this region :

Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Serbia; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Despite strong performance in gender equality in education, there remain some areas where gender gaps persist in the Europe and Central Asia region. There is no significant gender gap in primary and secondary school enrolment.<sup>13</sup> In the countries of Caucasus and Central Asia, especially in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, gender disparities in education remain high in rural areas.<sup>14</sup> In the lower income countries of Central Asia, the secondary gross enrolment rate among girls is significantly higher than in other low-income developing countries. The labour force participation rate among women is above the global average but low relative to men (with the exception of Belarus where it is equal to men). From 1999 to 2008, women's employment increased by 11%. The highest growth rate of female employment was observed in the poorest countries in the region – Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.<sup>15</sup> Many women are engaged in the informal economy including unpaid home-based production of goods and services.<sup>16</sup> There has been progress in the area of reproductive health and infant mortality, particularly in Central Asia. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased in Armenia, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.<sup>17</sup> The lowest proportion of women using modern contraception methods is in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.<sup>18</sup> ECA is a region of growing concern in relation to HIV/AIDS, with several countries reporting a higher HIV incidence among men than women.<sup>19</sup>

## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

Europe and Central Asia is the third highest performing region following Latin America and the Caribbean and East Asia and the Pacific. In the 2009 SIGI, Europe and Central Asia was the top performing region. In the 2012 edition, the highest ranking country in the region is the Former Yugoslav Republic (FYR) of Macedonia, ranked fifth out of 86. The country with the lowest SIGI ranking is Azerbaijan ranked at 68 out of 86. The region ranks above all other regions for the Discriminatory Family Code sub-index and also shows a strong performance in the Restricted Physical Integrity and Restricted Resources and Entitlements sub-indices. The region's weakest performance is in the Son Bias and Restricted Civil Liberties sub-indices.

In some countries, early marriage remains a concern with a highest prevalence in Bosnia and Herzegovina (17%), Georgia (14%), and Tajikistan (14%). In order to improve women's rights in the family, some countries have revised their Family and Criminal Codes. For example, in 2011 the parliament of Azerbaijan passed an amendment to the Family Code which increased the minimum age of marriage to 18 for both women and men. Violence against women persists in the region but there is growing awareness of this problem, especially in relation to trafficking and domestic violence. Many countries have strengthened legislation and have established national plans to eliminate violence against women, although many countries are yet to criminalise spousal rape.

Son Bias is a growing concern in the region and the region shows change in this sub-index between the 2009 and 2012 editions of the SIGI. Sex-ratio data indicates that missing women is a problem in Georgia, Azerbaijan, Albania and Armenia. Data on the share of males as the last child also indicates a widespread prevalence of son bias across the region. Despite legal provisions granting women equal rights in access to land and property, a lack of awareness of rights or discriminatory attitudes mean that these rights are often not realised. Women's political participation has been slowly rising over the last few years but has not yet achieved the critical mass target of 30%.

## PROMISING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ Tajikistan established 16 District Task Forces (DTFs) to provide legal advice on land rights. From 2003 to 2008, staff provided legal advice to approximately 14 000 rural women and men. The proportion of farms registered to women rose from 2% in 2002 to 14% in 2008.
- ◆ In Kyrgyzstan, the political quota system and the new Election Code were adopted in 2007. Quotas in line with long-term involvement of civil society organisations helped to increase the number of women in the parliament from 0% in 2005 to 23.3% in 2010. This is the highest percentage of women in parliament in Central Asia.
- ◆ In Uzbekistan, the Social Initiatives Support Fund implemented a microcredit project targeted to female farmers. Apart from being granted loans, women were trained in bookkeeping, management and business planning. This helped women to develop their businesses, raise economic performance, exchange experience and improve their professional skills.
- ◆ In 2010, Azerbaijan adopted the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence which defines domestic violence broadly, provides for court orders and legal assistance and also sets out measures to prevent domestic violence. A key challenge now is the implementation of the law and awareness-raising amongst service providers and the public.

The highest-ranked country from the region in the SIGI 2012 is the FYR of Macedonia. The country has ensured strong legislation on gender parity. The Constitution of Macedonia states the right to non-discrimination; the 2006 Law on Equality between Men and Women provides men and women with equal rights and freedoms; in 1997 the country ratified the European Convention on Human Rights. The most recent anti-discrimination legislation was adopted in 2010. The number of women between 15 and 19 years of age who have ever been married or in union has decreased from 9% in 1994 to 2% in 2005/2006. In 1996 the Macedonian Penal Code criminalised rape, including spousal rape; in 2004, the Macedonian Penal Code was amended to make domestic violence a specific crime. The Law on Inheritance provides the same rights to inheritance for both men and women. With respect to political participation, women have equal rights with men to vote and stand for election and every third candidate on a party's electoral list must be female. In 2010, more than 30% of parliamentarians were women. Despite these positive changes, there is still room for improvement. Over one in five women agree that domestic violence is justified in certain circumstances, signalling the need to step up efforts to tackle social norms that tolerate gender-based violence. Over one in three women also has an unmet need for family planning, showing that greater effort is required to ensure women's reproductive autonomy.





## Regional spotlight

### SOUTH ASIA\*



\*Countries and economies included in this region :  
Afghanistan; Bangladesh;  
Bhutan; India; Nepal;  
Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In recent years, countries in South Asia have made substantial progress towards gender equality, yet gender disparities remain on key social and economic indicators. The UNDP reports that the region suffers a 60.1% loss in human development due to gender inequality, which represents the second highest percentage of all regions. South Asia's rankings for many gender gap indicators —health, adult literacy, economic participation— are often close to or lower than those in sub-Saharan Africa. With respect to education, in 2012 UNESCO reported that only Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have reached gender parity in primary school education. Females have made significant progress in recent decades in increasing secondary school enrolments, however most countries have not reached gender parity.<sup>20</sup> Despite increasing educational attainment, women's economic opportunities are limited. In 2010, the female labour force participation rate was 36%, amongst the lowest in the world. Women are more likely to be concentrated in vulnerable employment, with contributing family workers making up 46% of female employment. Agriculture makes up 55% of female employment.<sup>21</sup> More women die in childbirth in South Asia —500 for every 100 000 live births— than in any other part of the world except for sub-Saharan Africa. HIV/AIDS in South Asia is a gendered epidemic, with 60% of over one million HIV-positive youths aged 15-24 being women. The ongoing effects of conflict and insecurity in some parts of the region have also shaped women's economic and social outcomes. However post-conflict settings have also opened opportunities to introduce gender equality reforms. For instance, women in Nepal gained 33% of the seats in the 2008 Constituent Assembly elections, an unprecedented achievement for Nepal and South Asia at large. Every country in the region has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.



## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

South Asia is the third lowest ranking region in the SIGI 2012, performing better than Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa. Nepal is the highest-ranking country (at 36 out of 86) and Afghanistan is the lowest-ranking country (at 69 out of 86). South Asia is the region with the poorest performance in the Son Bias sub-index. The region also performs poorly in the Discriminatory Family Code sub-index.

Early marriage is prevalent in the region, with 48% of 15-19 year old girls in Bangladesh and 32% of 15-19 year old girls Nepal being married. Only Bhutan and Nepal have an equal minimum age of marriage for women and men; only Nepal, India and Bhutan grant women and men equal parental authority and only Nepal has no legal discrimination against women with respect to inheritance. Dual legal systems or religious legal systems often limit women's status, particularly in the sphere of the family and inheritance rights. Land rights and access to productive resources is a significant problem, despite some countries having laws providing equal rights to women. However, this is not the case across the board. In Bhutan, 60% of rural women hold land registration titles. Discrimination in property rights is also linked to HIV. On the death of the husband, the woman is often blamed and, in the worst instances, deprived of rights to land and housing.

There has been significant progress with countries introducing laws to address violence against women. However enforcement and implementation remain a problem. In Afghanistan, for example, it is reported that women are often victimised and even criminalised for making a report of domestic violence or rape to authorities. Some specific forms of gender-based violence are prevalent in the region such as acid attacks, dowry related violence and honour killings. Attitudes that normalise violence against women are widespread, providing an indication of strong social norms: on average, 45% of women in the region agree that domestic violence is acceptable under certain circumstances. Reproductive autonomy is limited for women in some countries – over one in five women in Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan reports an unmet need for family planning.

The problem of son bias is particularly serious and widespread in South Asia. Based on an analysis of sex-ratio data, missing women appears to be a problem in every country in the region except for Sri Lanka. The 2011 census for India found a worrying trend in child sex-ratios with only 914 females for 1 000 males, a drop from 927 in 2001. After adjusting for excess mortality rates in girls, it is estimated the number of selective abortions of girls rose from 0.2-2.0 million in the 1980s, to 1.2-4.1 million in the 1990s and to 3.1-6.0 million in the 2000s. Examining the share of males as the last children born as an indicator of fertility preferences also shows significant evidence of Son Bias in the region. The region has however made impressive progress in the introduction of political quotas: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan have introduced quotas at both national and sub-national levels.

## TOP PERFORMING COUNTRY IN THE REGION

In the 2012 SIGI rankings, Nepal is the top-ranking country in the region, at 36 out of 86. The country has made particular efforts to remove legal discrimination against women and improve women's political participation. Recent amendments to the chapter on marriage in the Country Code have raised the age of marriage to 20 for both sexes. Between 1996 and 2006, the median age of a woman at marriage rose from 16.4 to 17.2. The law provides equal parental authority to women and men and recent reforms removed all legal discrimination against women with respect to inheritance rights and land ownership. The law prohibits spousal rape in Nepal and in 2009, the country passed its first law against domestic violence, the Domestic Violence and Punishment Act. Another area where the government has noticeably improved the situation for women is in the realm of their participation in the political process. The interim constitution of 2007 mandated that women must comprise 33% of the candidates for the Constituent Assembly. As a result of these new procedures, the number of women represented has skyrocketed from 6% of the total in 2005 to 33.1% at present. There is however, room for improvement. Sex-ratio data and the share of males as the last child indicate that Son Bias is prevalent in Nepal. Furthermore, despite laws providing women equal access to land, women account for only 6% of total landowners and hold a combined share of only 4% of arable land.

## PROMISING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ Through the passage of the Eleventh Amendment of the Country Code Bill in 2002, Nepal secured the legal recognition of women's property rights. The statute is broad in its scope, overturning a series of discriminatory laws. It is backed by sanctions for non-compliance. A tax exemption has been introduced to incentivise families to share property with their wives, daughters and sisters.
- ◆ The *Apni Beti Apna Dhan* programme in India provides cash incentives to girls and their families that are conditional on the daughters remaining unmarried until age 18. Initial evaluation results suggest this programme helped parents increase their investment in their daughters' human capital.
- ◆ In 2006, the Indian government passed a new law that defined domestic violence more broadly to cover physical, sexual, and emotional abuse as well as harassment in the form of dowry demands, and which criminalises spousal rape. This law recognises a woman's right to a home without violence. She cannot be evicted from her home and if evicted can seek immediate relief, seek a protection order and support. An initial evaluation found that the number of cases being filed across the country has increased, indicating growing awareness of the law.
- ◆ The 2002 Acid Attacks Crime Repression Act and Acid Control Act in Bangladesh aims to stop the practice of disfiguring women by throwing acid on them. In 2011, the parliament of Pakistan passed the Acid Control and Acid Prevention Act, also aiming to target acid attacks.
- ◆ ActionAid and HungerFree Women in India built on a previous campaign led by the Andhra Pradesh Dalit Samakhya (APDS) association, which in 2007 mobilised Dalit women in five districts of Andhra Pradesh to claim their land rights. Since then to spring 2009, 7 000 acres of land have been granted to 5 000 women and some results have also been recorded in Tamil Nadu and Bihar.



Regional spotlight

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA\*



\*Countries and economies included in this region :  
Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt;  
Iran, Islamic Republic of; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait;  
Lebanon; Libya; Morocco;  
Oman; Palestinian Authority;  
Saudi Arabia; Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

There have been positive changes towards gender equality in the Middle East and North Africa region in recent decades, particularly in the area of education. These advances, however, have not broadly translated to social and economic empowerment for women in the region. The UNDP estimates that the region suffers a 56.3% loss in human development due to gender inequality – positioning the region slightly above Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Impressive progress has been made in closing the gender gap in primary and secondary school education, and in some countries such as Tunisia and Jordan girls now outnumber boys in secondary school and tertiary education. However, a particularly stark gender gap in education persists in Yemen.<sup>22</sup> In 2009, only 21.6% of women of working age in the Middle East and 23.1% of women in North Africa were employed although these figures represent a gradual rise in recent decades. Women are more likely to be in vulnerable forms of employment, with 40.4 % of employed women in North Africa and 20.8% of employed women in the Middle East working as contributing (unpaid) family workers. Only 2.9% of employed women in North Africa are categorised as employers, compared to 13.4% of men.<sup>23</sup> With respect to gender equality in the public sphere, it is not yet clear what the uprisings taking place since early 2011 known as the “Arab Spring” will mean for women’s voice in decision making and gender equality overall, but women have played a visible role in the protests. An increasing number of countries are introducing quotas for women’s political participation at national and sub-national levels. Every country in the region, except for Iran, has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

### Morocco

#### TOP PERFORMING COUNTRY IN THE REGION

The Middle East and North Africa is the second lowest ranking region for SIGI 2012, ranked above Sub-Saharan Africa. Morocco is the highest ranked country in the region at 17 (out of 86), followed by Tunisia at 22. Yemen is the lowest ranked country at 83 out of 86. The Middle East and North Africa is the lowest ranked region for the Restricted Civil Liberties sub-index and also performs poorly on the Discriminatory Family Code, Restricted Civil Liberties and Son Bias sub-indices.

In many countries in the region, women's rights within the family are restricted due to the application of religious law. This includes rights in relation to consent to marriage, choice of marriage partner (women cannot marry outside the faith), equality within marriage (with the husband named head of household), inheritance rights, rights to divorce and custody rights in the event of divorce. Exceptions include Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, where reforms to Family Codes have provided equal rights for women in the family. While several countries still provide that women are unable to give their nationality to foreign husbands or children from these unions, there are a growing number of countries introducing reforms in this area, for example, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt. Early marriage appears to be declining in the region, for example in Yemen, the percentage of girls aged 15-19 who are married decreased from 27% to 17% between the 2009 and 2012 according to the SIGI. Women's rights to land ownership and credit are protected by law in every country, but in reality, women face pressure to cede management of land, property and other assets to their husbands or male relatives owing to persistent social norms.

Domestic and sexual violence are thought to be widespread, but both remain taboo issues. Attitudes that normalise violence against women are common: in Iraq, Algeria and Morocco over 50% of women agree that domestic violence is justified in certain circumstances. Women are often reluctant to report abuse for fear of bringing shame on themselves and their families. In the case of sexual violence, there is also the fear of facing prosecution themselves under laws criminalising sex outside marriage in some countries. Only Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Tunisia have some form of specific legislation in place protecting women from domestic violence. Analysis of sex-ratio data indicates that missing women is a concern in the region. However there has been improvement in this area between the 2009 and 2012 editions of the SIGI. Data on the share of males as the last child indicates that son bias in fertility preferences is also prevalent in some countries.

Women's freedom of access to public space is restricted in a number of countries, although these restrictions are gradually being removed. In Yemen for example, women cannot leave the house without permission of her husband or male guardian and a woman is unable to obtain a personal identity card or passport without the consent of her guardian. There have been positive developments with respect to women's political participation – Morocco and Jordan now have quotas for women's political participation at both national and sub-national levels. One notable development is in Saudi Arabia where, as of 2011, women were granted the right to participate and vote in local elections.

## PROMISING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ The 'Safe Age of Marriage' programme in Yemen funded by USAID sought to raise awareness of the social and health consequences of early marriage at the community level in two districts. The programme concentrated on building community support for keeping girls in school as an alternative to early marriage and on securing support from religious leaders. The programme included working with girls aged 9 to 15, who developed and performed school plays and produced school magazines to raise awareness of the risks associated with early marriage, and awarding prizes to "model families" who delayed their daughters' marriages and supported them to complete their secondary education.
- ◆ The Status of Women in the Middle East and North Africa (SWMENA) Project, run by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), sought to gather information about men's attitudes towards women's role and status in society. In Lebanon, surveys were conducted on attitudes towards women's control of (and right to control of) financial assets, women's economic and educational status, choice of marriage partner, political participation and policies to improve women's status in relation to marriage, citizenship and political participation.
- ◆ A "Future Judges Programme" in Jordan planned to have a quota of at least 15% for female participants when it was launched in 2007. The percentage of women within the judiciary, which stood at 6.4% in 2008, is expected to more than triple in the next two years.
- ◆ In Jordan, the 2010 amendment of the Personal Status Law limited the corporal punishment of wives, recognised psychological as well as physical abuse, and restricted "acceptable" sanctions to levels that do not inflict physical or psychological damage that would constitute a crime under the Penal Code. A Domestic Violence Protection Act was promulgated in 2008 that makes provisions for penalties in case protection orders are not respected. The number of women registering complaints with the Family Protection Unit has risen from 300 in 1998 to 5 811 in 2009 and to 8 200 in 2010.

In the 2012 SIGI rankings, Morocco is the top-ranking country in the region, at 17 out of 86. Notable developments in relation to discriminatory social institutions in Morocco include reforms to the country's Family Code. The reforms provide women with equal rights in some areas of family law, for example to choose their own spouse, exercise equal parental authority and the right for Moroccan women married to foreigners to pass on their citizenship to their children. However, these reforms have not extended to provide equal inheritance rights. Morocco's Employment Code was recently revised and now recognises sexual harassment in the workplace as an offence, as well as non-discrimination in employment and salaries. While the 2009 SIGI found that Morocco was a country of concern for missing women, sex-ratio data analysed for the 2012 SIGI indicates that Morocco is no longer a country of concern for missing women. Data on the share of males as last children also indicates lower levels of Son Bias compared to other countries in the region. Women have the same rights as men to own and administer land and property. To address women's limited access to credit, the government has launched numerous initiatives to support women's entrepreneurship, including numerous trainings, income-generating projects and micro-credit initiatives targeted at women. Women's freedom of movement is guaranteed under the Constitution on the same footing as men. Women do not need their husbands' authorisation to obtain a passport or travel, while the new Family Code states that spouses should jointly choose where they live as a couple. Morocco has quotas for women's political representation at national and sub-national levels. Currently, women make up 11% of the national parliament. Despite these achievements, there remains room for improvement. Women continue to face discrimination with respect to inheritance rights and there is a lack of adequate legislation to combat gender-based violence. This is particularly critical given the level of acceptance of violence against women: 64% of women agree that domestic violence is justified in certain circumstances.





Regional spotlight

## SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA\*



\*Countries and economies included in this region :

Angola; Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo, Republic of, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Côte d'Ivoire; Equatorial Guinea; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Madagascar; Malawi; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; Sudan; Swaziland; Tanzania, United Republic of; Togo; Uganda; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Gender inequality is a major challenge confronting Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, with the UNDP reporting based on the Gender Inequality Index that the region averages a 61% loss in human development due to gender inequality, representing the largest loss for any region. However, recent decades have seen some important progress towards gender equality. Many countries in the region have reached gender parity in primary school enrolments – in Mauritania, Senegal and Malawi, more girls than boys are enrolled in primary school. However, stark gaps for primary school education remain for some countries, particularly in Somalia, Chad and Central African Republic.<sup>24</sup> Gender inequality in secondary school enrolment and completion remains a problem across the region. Compared to other regions such as South Asia or Northern Africa, SSA has a relatively higher rate of female labour force participation at 62%. However, vulnerable forms of employment such as own-account work and unpaid family work are prevalent in the region, especially amongst women. Agricultural labour, often characterised by poor conditions and vulnerability, makes up 60% of female employment.<sup>25</sup> Women's economic status in the region has also been affected by the global challenges of food security, climate variability and financial crises.<sup>26</sup> Further, women's income generating opportunities are limited by the greater burden of unpaid caring and domestic work which is exacerbated by the lack of basic infrastructure and transport. Women's health outcomes are a major concern in the region: it is estimated that 1 in 22 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death and women make up the majority of adults living with HIV.<sup>27</sup> The ongoing impact of conflict and insecurity is a significant issue facing women in some parts of the region. In countries affected by conflict, many women have suffered displacement, extremely high levels of sexual violence and poverty. One area where the region has made remarkable progress is in women's political participation. Eight countries in SSA have exceeded the 30% critical mass mark for women's representation in politics, and in Rwanda, 51% of parliamentarians are women – the highest in the world. Every country in the region, except for Somalia and Sudan, has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE REGION

### South Africa

#### TOP PERFORMING COUNTRY IN THE REGION

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) shows the poorest performance in the overall SIGI 2012 rankings. Nine out of 10 bottom-ranking countries are in SSA, with Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Mali being ranked 83, 85 and 86 out of 86 respectively. Exceptionally, South Africa is ranked at 4 in the top 10. Namibia and Rwanda also show a stronger performance compared to the rest of the region, being ranked at 21 and 28 respectively. SSA shows the poorest performance across most sub-indices of the region – Restricted Resources and Entitlements, Discriminatory Family Code and Physical Integrity.

Discrimination in the family and in accessing resources often stems from dual or tri-partite legal systems, where customary or religious laws often discriminate against women. Even where civil laws have been introduced to provide equal rights to inheritance and ownership, these are not necessarily implemented or respected at a local level due to persistent social norms and discriminatory attitudes. Women's access to productive resources is a serious challenge in the region, particularly given the significant share of women working in agriculture. Early marriage is a significant problem in some parts of the region – in Niger and Mali, 61% and 50% respectively of girls aged 15-19 are married. In some countries, such as Mali or Chad, the law provides that the father is the head of the household and bears sole parental authority.

Despite progress across the region in introducing laws to address violence against women, rape within marriage is not criminalised for over half the countries in the region and 12 countries have no laws addressing domestic violence. Attitudes that normalise domestic violence are widespread in many countries – over 75% of women in Guinea, Ethiopia, Somali, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali agree that domestic violence is justified in some circumstances. Although female genital mutilation (FGM) remains prevalent for many countries in the region (Somalia has the highest prevalence at 98%), some countries have shown significant improvements including Kenya, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Malawi. Countries are starting to introduce laws to prohibit FGM with Eritrea introducing a law in 2007, Kenya introducing a law in 2001 and Uganda passing a law in 2009. Women's reproductive autonomy is limited across the region with on average around one in five women reporting an unmet need for family planning. One area where the region has made impressive progress is in ensuring women's political participation: 17 countries have quotas for women's political participation at national and/or sub-national levels.

## PROMISING INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

- ◆ In 2010, Kenyan citizens voted for major reforms to the constitution to grant women equal rights in the family, marriage and property rights. The parliament is now considering draft laws to implement the new provisions of the 2010 constitution.
- ◆ In 2009, Rwanda introduced the Law on the Prevention, Protection, and Punishment of Any Gender-Based Violence, the country's first comprehensive legislation on domestic violence. This bill addresses spousal violence, spousal rape, sexual harassment and sexual abuse of children in its definition of gender-based violence, and lists the occurrence of such violence as grounds for divorce. This has been accompanied by awareness-raising activities including sensitivity training for police.
- ◆ The age of consent for marriage has been increased in Botswana, Mozambique and Madagascar to 18 for men and women. The Zomba Cash Transfer Programme in Malawi found that cash transfers were effective in delaying marriage and childbearing – by 44% and 27%, respectively, after two years.
- ◆ Many countries have introduced campaigns and laws to eradicate female genital mutilation. One successful village-level campaign in Senegal run by the Tostan organisation has encouraged whole villages to commit to abandoning the practice (as of 2005, almost 1 700 out of 5 000 communities had formally abandoned the practice).
- ◆ In Ethiopia, land administration committees are required to have at least one female member and the land certificates include maps and a placeholder for pictures of both the husband and wife. Studies have found the intervention has improved women's social and economic status. When participants were asked about improvement of land certification for women, 85% said that certification was likely to create incentives for women to rent out their land. In addition, land certification also increases the propensity to invest in areas that indirectly benefit female participants such as soil and water conservation measures, which increased by around 30%.
- ◆ The IMAGE (Intervention with Micro-finance for Aids and Gender Equity) programme in South Africa provides micro-finance plus participatory training on gender, violence and HIV to poor rural women. Initial evaluation shows a 55% reduction in domestic violence. Now, a sustainable delivery model to scale-up the IMAGE programme is being developed to reach 15 000 of the poorest households within communities surrounding a large-scale mining site in rural South Africa.

In the 2012 SIGI rankings, South Africa sets the example for the rest of the region, ranking at 4 of 86. The country has made particular efforts to remove discrimination against women under the dual legal system. The constitution protects women's right to equality and prohibits discrimination. The government of South Africa has taken steps to equalise women's rights within all types or marriage, particularly customary marriage, which the state now recognises under the 1998 Recognition of Customary Marriages Act. Under South African law, parental authority is shared by the mother and father in both civil and customary marriages. With respect to inheritance rights, a recent landmark constitutional court case found that stipulations in African customary law that only males could inherit were invalid and unconstitutional. As a result of the constitutional court's decision, the government introduced reforms so that the rights of women to inherit property under customary law are now governed by the Intestate Succession Act and this includes the recognition of polygamous marriages. The country has laws to criminalise domestic violence and rape, including spousal rape. The domestic violence law gives the police authority to arrest alleged perpetrators without a warrant at the scene of the incident on suspicion that they have committed a violent offence. South Africa has created care centres to support sexual assault victims, improve conviction rates and reduce delays in legal proceedings. They are staffed 24 hours a day by specialist medical staff, social workers and police, and they deal with around 20% of all victims of sexual offences in South Africa. The centres in Soweto have seen conviction rates reach up to 89%, compared to a national average of 7%. There have also been positive developments to address discrimination against women in the public sphere: women make up 41% of national parliamentarians and there are quotas for women's representation at the sub-national level. In spite of these positive developments, there is still great room for improvement. Rape is reported as widespread, laws criminalising violence against women need better enforcement and new laws to ensure women's inheritance and property rights also need to be accompanied by awareness-raising and enforcement efforts.

# How can the SIGI be used?

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The rankings and country data of the SIGI are available on [www.genderindex.org](http://www.genderindex.org) and also through the OECD Statistics portal as the Gender, Institutions and Development Database. There are several ways in which the 2012 SIGI and its data can be used to better understand discrimination against women and its implications.

## **Build your own Social Institutions and Gender Index** ([www.my.genderindex.org](http://www.my.genderindex.org))

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The [www.my.genderindex.org](http://www.my.genderindex.org) site allows you to change the sub-indices that are included in the SIGI and change the weightings. The rankings and presentation of the findings on a map are updated automatically and the results can be filtered by region.

## **Gender, Institutions and Development Database**

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The Gender, Institutions and Development Database, available on the OECD Statistics portal, contains all the data relating to the SIGI, its sub-indices and variables for the 2009 and 2012 editions. Researchers and policy makers can download data in multiple formats to undertake analysis and comparisons related to discriminatory social institutions for over 100 countries.

## **Applying the SIGI data to understand gender and development outcomes**

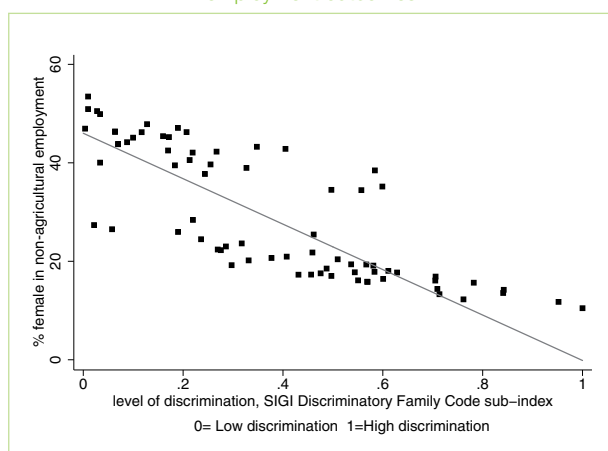
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Applying the SIGI can illuminate the relationship between discriminatory social institutions and development outcomes, particularly those related to gender equality. Understanding the connections between discrimination against women and development is critical for the design of effective policies and the allocation of donor resources that target the drivers of gender inequality. Too often, policies and programmes fail to tackle the deeply embedded social norms and practices that continue to undermine progress towards gender equality. Here, we share a few examples of how discriminatory social institutions relate to women's employment outcomes, educational attainment, health outcomes and the environment.

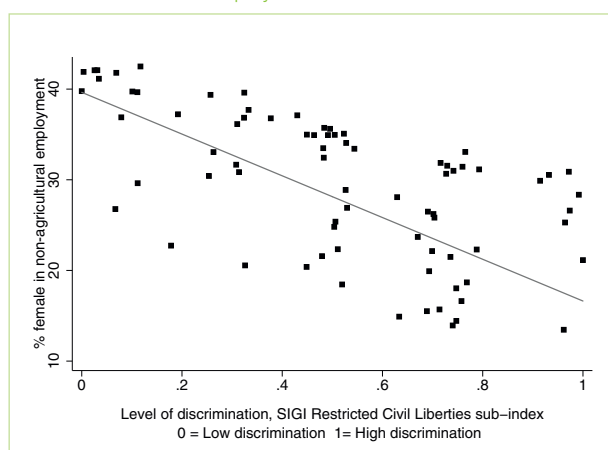


## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT

Discrimination in the family and women's employment outcomes



Women's access to the public sphere and employment outcomes



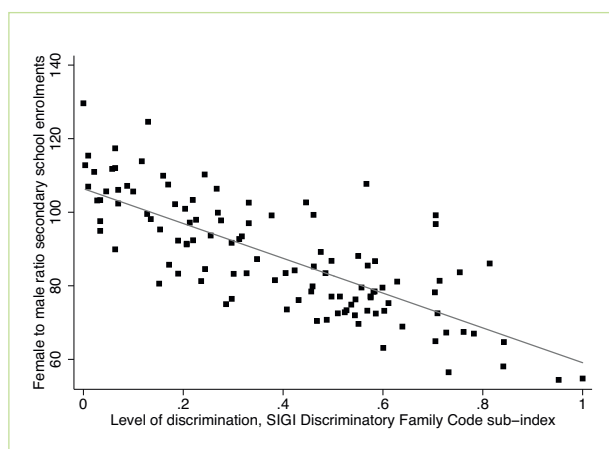
Source: 2012 Gender Institutions and Development database (OECD) and *World Development Indicators* (World Bank, 2011)

One of the indicators for Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is the share of women in non-agricultural employment. In many developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, women are concentrated in agricultural employment, often working in vulnerable positions such as unpaid family workers. Improving women's participation in non-agricultural employment is important for improving their own social and economic status and the health and welfare of their families. Discriminatory social institutions often reflect social norms that reinforce stereotypes of women as inferior, less able or less deserving of quality jobs. Discriminatory social institutions which undermine women's position in the family may mean that women are less able to negotiate paid work with caring responsibilities or have little power in determining household resources. Similarly, restrictions on women's access to public space such as the law providing that husbands have the sole authority to choose the place of residence can shape women's employment opportunities.

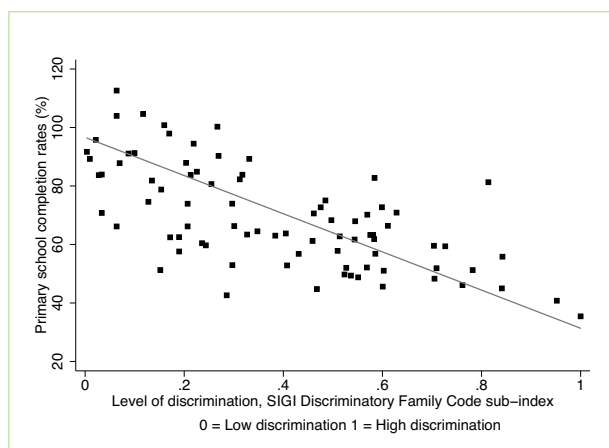
Examining the relationship between the 2012 SIGI, its sub-indices and the share of women in non-agricultural employment shows a strong correlation between the SIGI and the share of women in non-agricultural employment. Countries with higher levels of discrimination have a lower share of women in non-agricultural employment. Taking the analysis further to the sub-index level, the Discriminatory Family Code and Restricted Civil Liberties sub-indices bear the strongest relationship with the share of women in non-agricultural employment, indicating that discrimination in the family and restrictions on women's participation in the public sphere are important factors in shaping women's employment outcomes. The relationship holds even when controlling for GDP per capita, women's education level and the percentage of the population living in urban areas.

## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Discrimination in the family and the gender gap in education



Discrimination in the family and educational attainment

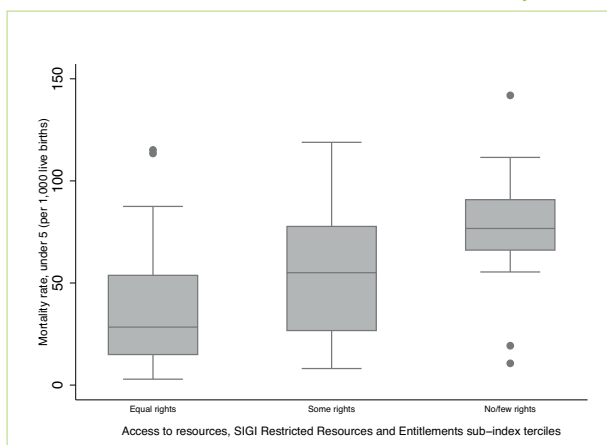


Source: 2012 Gender Institutions and Development database (OECD) and World Development Indicators (World Bank, 2011)

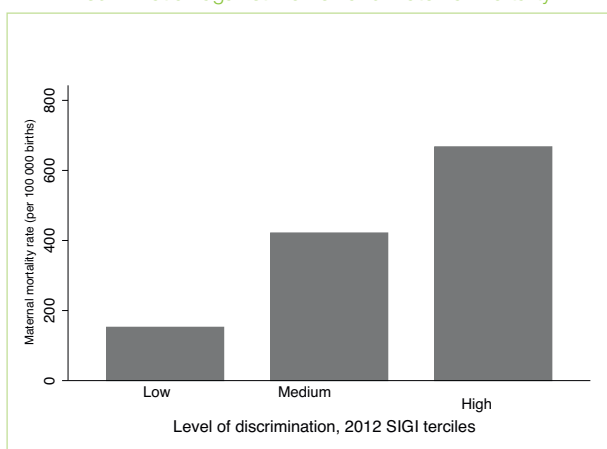
Education is a cornerstone of the MDG framework, recognising that investing in human capital is a gateway to poverty reduction and development. Discriminatory social institutions can negatively influence education attainment in several ways. Firstly, discriminatory practices such as early marriage or sexual harassment can lead to girls leaving their studies early. Secondly, son preference can manifest in parents prioritising the education of boys over girls. Finally, discrimination against women in the family and household limits their ability to make choices to safeguard the health, education and welfare of their children, thereby having a negative inter-generational effect on educational attainment.

Examining the relationship between the 2012 SIGI, its sub-indices and indicators of educational attainment shows a strong correlation between discriminatory social institutions and educational attainment. With respect to the gender gap in education, countries with higher levels of discrimination are those with a greater gender gap in secondary school enrolments. Looking at primary school completion rates more generally, discrimination in the family appears to be a particularly pertinent dimension of discrimination against women linked to poor primary school completion rates, indicating that where women have greater status and power in the family, children are more likely to complete primary school. As such, the benefits of changing discriminatory social institutions are two-fold: first, in closing the gender gap in education and second, in improving education outcomes overall.

### Women's access to resources and child mortality



### Discrimination against women and maternal mortality



Source: 2012 Gender Institutions and Development database (OECD) and World Development Indicators (World Bank, 2011)

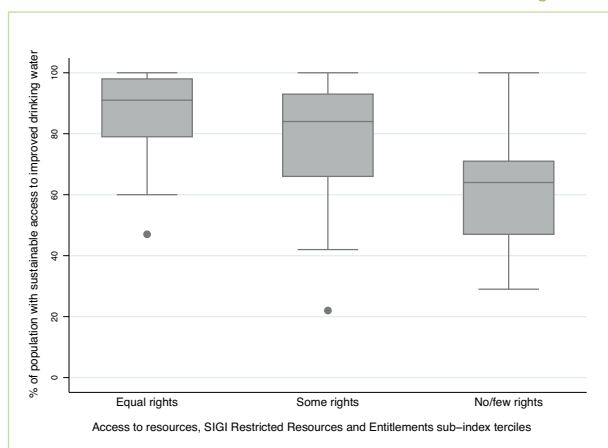
## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

As noted above, women's decision-making power and status in the family is important for fostering positive health and welfare outcomes for their children. However, applying the SIGI data also indicates that women's access to assets and productive resources is also a critical factor for improving child health outcomes. Countries where women have greater access to resources such as land, property and credit have lower child mortality rates, even where country income level is taken into account.

Reducing maternal mortality is also an MDG target and is in fact one of the goals which is most off track. Although maternal mortality is caused by a myriad of factors including access to health services, discriminatory social institutions can have a negative impact in preventing women from accessing services and making their own decisions about health care. Applying the SIGI shows that countries with higher levels of discrimination against women are more likely to have a higher maternal mortality rate. This relationship holds when country income level is taken into account.

## DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### Women's access to resources and access to safe drinking water



Source: 2012 Gender Institutions and Development database (OECD) and World Health Organisation (2006 data)

As the links between gender equality and sustainability gain prominence, policy makers are recognising the need to develop gender-sensitive responses to the challenges posed by climate variance. It is widely accepted that those who are most vulnerable and marginalised are likely to experience the harshest impacts of changing climates and food insecurity – women's greater vulnerability to poverty, combined with women's responsibility for family nutrition, means that discrimination against women needs to be taken into account. Evidence suggests that women tend to invest resources into families and communities, therefore ensuring women's access to resources is important for mitigating the negative effects of climate variance and shocks. One of the indicators of the MDG goal on the environment and sustainability is access to safe drinking water. Controlling for country income level, the SIGI bears a strong negative relationship between women's access to productive resources and access to safe drinking water. While this analysis doesn't attribute discrimination against women as a cause of poor access to safe drinking water, the strong relationship indicates that women's access to resources should be taken into account in the design of interventions to ensure environmental sustainability.

# Appendix A

## 2012 SIGI VARIABLES AND DATA SOURCES

The following guidelines apply to the scoring process for SIGI variables:

- ◆ In cases where no or insufficient information exists, variables are not assigned a value;
- ◆ The legal indicators are assessed based on all applicable legal frameworks, including civil law, religious law, customary law and traditional law; and
- ◆ Where data is only available for one component of a variable, the score is based on the component where data is available.

### DISCRIMINATORY FAMILY CODE

Variable and what it measures	How the variable is coded and data sources
<b>Legal Age of Marriage</b> <i>Measures whether women have the same rights with respect to the legal minimum age of marriage</i>	Assigned a score based on one component: minimum legal age of marriage. 0: The law on the minimum age of marriage does not discriminate against women 0.5: The law on the minimum age of marriage discriminates against some women, for example through customary, traditional and religious law 1: The law on the minimum age of marriage discriminates against all women or there is no law on the minimum age of marriage <i>Data from country specific sources</i>
<b>Early Marriage</b> <i>Measures the prevalence of early and forced marriage</i>	Percentage of women married between 15-19 years of age. <i>Data from UN World Marriage data (2008) and other sources including Demographic Health Survey data and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey data</i>
<b>Parental Authority</b> <i>Measures whether women have the same right to be a legal guardian of a child during marriage, and whether women have custody rights over a child after divorce</i>	Score based on an average of two components: legal guardianship of a child during marriage and custody rights over a child after divorce. 0: Equal rights for women and men 0.5: (Some) women have (some) rights, but less than men 1: Women and men have unequal rights <i>Data from Country-specific sources</i>
<b>Inheritance</b> <i>Measures whether widows and daughters have equal rights to their male counterparts as heirs.</i>	Score based on an average of two components: inheritance rights of spouses and inheritance rights of daughters. 0: Women and men have equal rights of inheritance 0.5: (some) women have (some) rights, but less than men 1: Women and men have unequal rights of inheritance <i>Data from country-specific sources</i>

## RESTRICTED PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

Variable and what it measures	How the variable is coded and data sources
<p><b>Violence against Women</b>  <i>Measures the existence of women's legal protection from rape, assault and sexual harassment, the prevalence of domestic violence and attitudes towards domestic violence</i></p>	<p>The Violence Against Women variable is based on the average of three components:</p> <p><b>a) Laws</b>  <b>b) Attitudes towards domestic violence</b>  <b>c) Lifetime prevalence of domestic violence</b></p> <p><b>a) Laws</b>  Score based on an equally-weighted average of three components: existence of laws against sexual assault or rape; existence of laws against domestic violence; and existence of laws against sexual harassment. Value based on following scale:  0: There is specific legislation in place  0.25: There is specific legislation in place, but there are widespread reported problems with implementation  0.5: There is general legislation in place, or specific legislation is inadequate (e.g. rape laws do not criminalise marital rape)  0.75: Legislation is being planned, drafted or reviewed or existing legislation is highly inadequate  1: No legislation  <i>Data from country specific sources</i></p> <p><b>b) Attitudes towards domestic violence</b>  Percentage of women who agree that a husband/partner is justified in beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances.  <i>Data from Demographic Health Surveys or Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys.</i></p> <p><b>c) Life time prevalence of domestic violence</b>  Percentage of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner at some time in their life.  <i>Data from UN WOMEN compilation of violence against women prevalence for Progress of the World's Women (2011) and country specific sources.</i></p>
<p><b>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</b>  <i>Measures the prevalence of female genital mutilation</i></p>	<p>Percentage of women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation  <i>Data from World Health Organization, Population Reference Bureau, Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys, Demographic Health Surveys</i></p>
<p><b>Reproductive Integrity</b>  <i>Measures the extent to which women can exercise reproductive autonomy</i></p>	<p>Percentage of married women aged 15-49 with unmet need for family planning. Defined by the Demographic Health Surveys and World Health Organization as married women who do not want any more children for the next two years and not using contraception.  <i>Data from Demographic Health Survey data, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, World Health Organization data and other reproductive health surveys</i></p>

## SON BIAS

Variable and what it measures	How the variable is coded and data sources
<p><b>Missing Women</b></p> <p><i>Measures gender bias in mortality due to sex selective abortions, female infanticide or insufficient care given to baby girls</i></p>	<p>Score calculated by Professor Stephan Klasen, based on analysis of sex-ratio data for ages 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-64, 65+.</p> <p>The analysis is based on considering expected age-specific sex-ratios and comparing them to actual ones and is based on methods discussed in Klasen and Wink (2002, 2003).<sup>28</sup></p> <p>The variable assigns a value of either 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 or 1, based on a scale where 0 indicates that missing women are not a problem, and 1 indicates a severe incidence of missing women. The score is particularly influenced by sex-ratios in young age, although adult sex-ratios are also considered as secondary information.</p> <p><i>Sex-ratio data from UN Population Division and Central Intelligence Authority (2011)</i></p>
<p><b>Fertility Preferences</b></p> <p><i>Measures gender bias in fertility preferences using the share of males as the last child</i></p>	<p>Percentage share of males as the last child in the household, calculated from household surveys. <i>Data from Demographic Health Surveys, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and selected household surveys</i></p>

## RESTRICTED RESOURCES AND ENTITLEMENTS

Variable and what it measures	How the variable is coded and data sources
<p><b>Access to Land</b></p> <p><i>Measures women's access to agricultural land</i></p>	<p>Score based on women's legal rights and <i>de facto</i> rights to own and/or access agricultural land.</p> <p>Value based on the following scale:</p> <p>0: Women have the same legal rights as men to own and access land</p> <p>0.5: Women have equal legal rights with men to own and access land, but discriminatory practices restrict women's access to and ownership of land in practice</p> <p>1: Women have no/few legal rights to access or own land or access is severely restricted by discriminatory practices</p> <p><i>Data based on country-specific sources</i></p>
<p><b>Access to Credit</b></p> <p><i>Measures women's access to bank loans and other forms of credit</i></p>	<p>Score based on women's legal and <i>de facto</i> access to credit.</p> <p>Value based on the following scale:</p> <p>0: Women have the same rights to access credit and bank loans as men</p> <p>0.5: Women only have the right to access some kinds of credit (for example only through microcredit), or they have rights but in practice they face discrimination in accessing credit</p> <p>1: Women have no/few rights to access credit or access is severely restricted by discriminatory practices</p> <p><i>Data based on country-specific sources</i></p>
<p><b>Access to Property other than Land</b></p> <p><i>Measures women's access to other types of property, especially immovable property</i></p>	<p>Score based on women's legal and <i>de facto</i> access to property other than land.</p> <p>Value based on the following scale:</p> <p>0: Women have equal legal rights to own and administer property other than land as men</p> <p>0.5: Women only have rights to own and administer some kinds of property (<i>i.e.</i> goods they received from their parents such as inheritance or dowry) or they have equal legal rights but in practice they face socio-cultural discrimination to owning and administering property</p> <p>1: Women have no/few/unequal legal rights to own or administer property other than land or their access is severely restricted by discriminatory practices</p> <p><i>Data based on country-specific sources</i></p>



## RESTRICTED CIVIL LIBERTIES

Variable and what it measures	How the variable is coded and data sources
<p><b>Access to Public Space</b>  <i>Measures the restrictions limiting women's freedom of movement and access to public space</i></p>	<p>Score based on legal restrictions or discriminatory practices affecting women's access to public space, for example the restrictions on women's choice of domicile, restricted ability to visit family and friends, requirements for husband's approval apply for a passport or widespread threats of political violence  Value based on the following scale:  0 : No legal restrictions and no discriminatory practice is reported  0.5: No legal restrictions, but discriminatory practices widely reported  1: There are legal restrictions or discriminatory practices are widespread  <i>All data based on country-specific sources</i></p>
<p><b>Political Voice</b>  <i>Measures the level of discrimination against women with respect to political participation</i></p>	<p>Variable based on average of two components:  <b>a) Political participation</b>  <b>b) Quotas</b></p> <p><b>a) Political participation</b>  Percentage of women in national parliament (inversed to fit 0-1 scale where 0 represents equality)  <i>Data from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (February 2012)</i></p> <p><b>b) Quotas</b>  Score assigned based on the existence of legal quotas to promote women's political participation at national and/or sub-national levels.  0: There are legal quotas to promote women's political participation at national and sub-national levels  0.5: There are legal quotas to promote women's political participation at national or sub-national levels  1: There are no legal quotas to promote women's political participation  <i>Data from The Quota Project (International IDEA and Stockholm University) or UN Women Progress of the World's Women 2011 report</i></p>

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## WEBSITES

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