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Voice and Agency

Empowering women
and girls for shared
prosperity

Jeni Klugman

MDB Workshop on
Gender, Voice and
Agency

Opening Session

June 2, 2014



WORLD BANK GROUP

Why voice and agency?

Voice

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

Agency

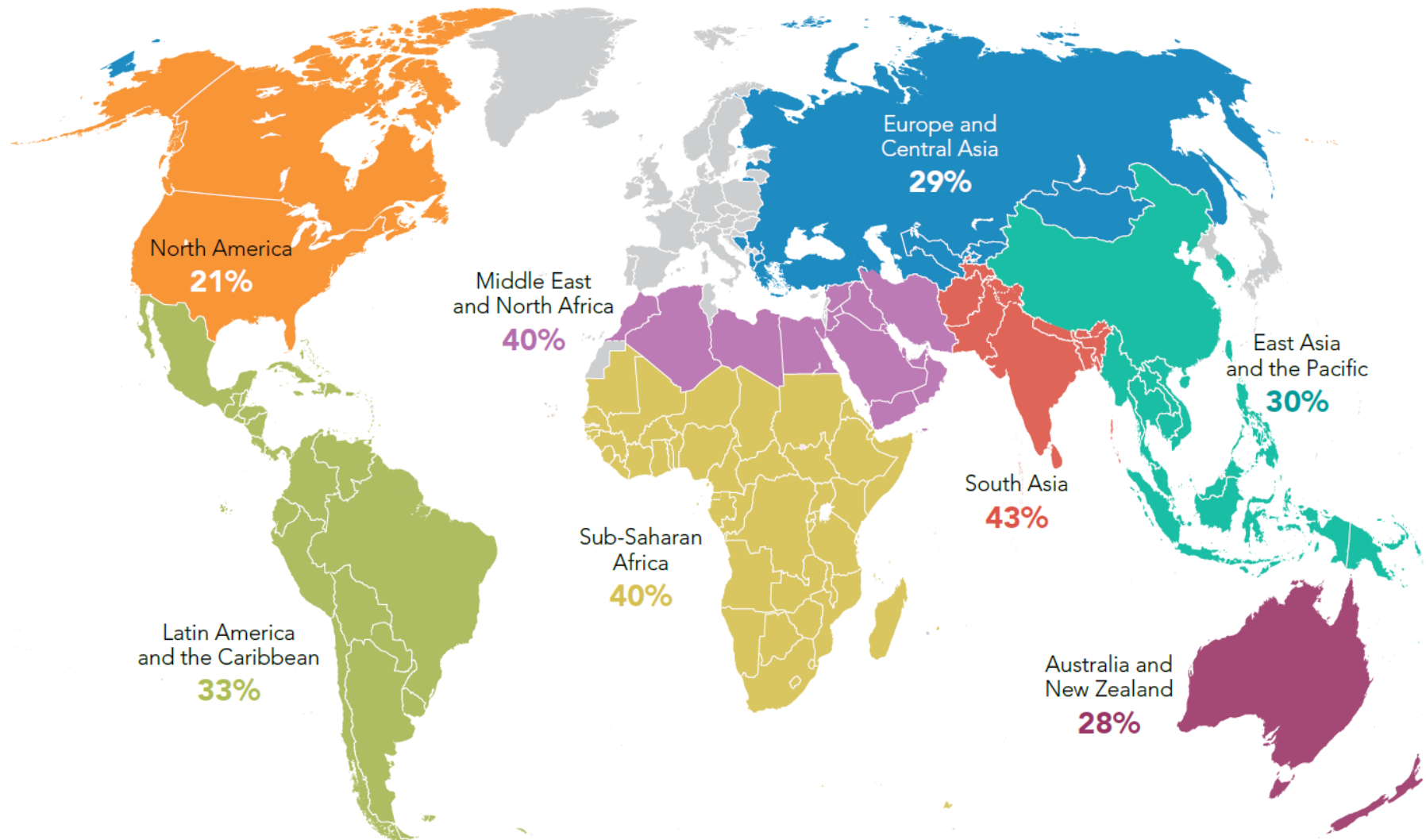
Able to make decisions about one's own life and act upon them to achieve desired outcomes, free of violence, retribution, or fear



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

— Tsikata from Ghana

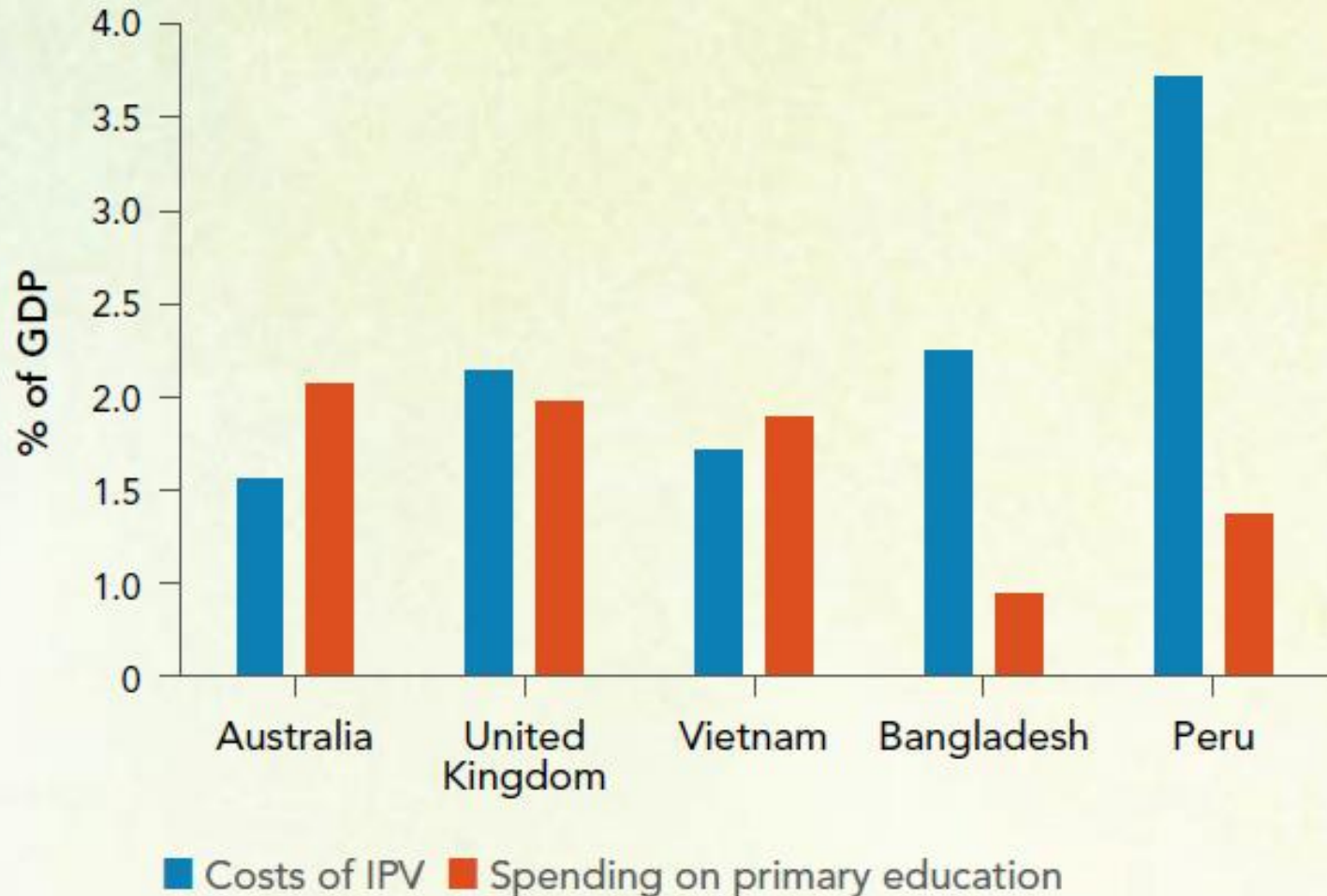
More than 700 million women subject to violence at the hands of a husband, boyfriend or partner in their lifetime



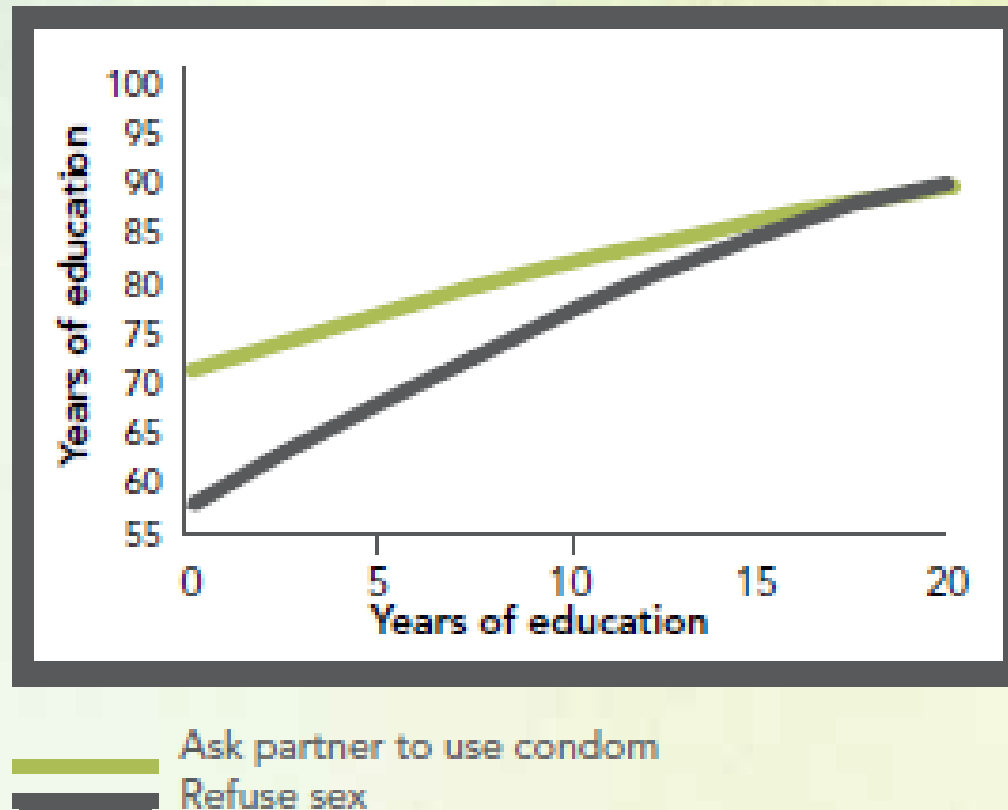
Source: Preliminary analysis of WHO (World Health Organization), global prevalence database (2013) using World Bank regions.

Beyond the human tragedy, violence incurs major economic costs

Often at least what the country spends on primary education



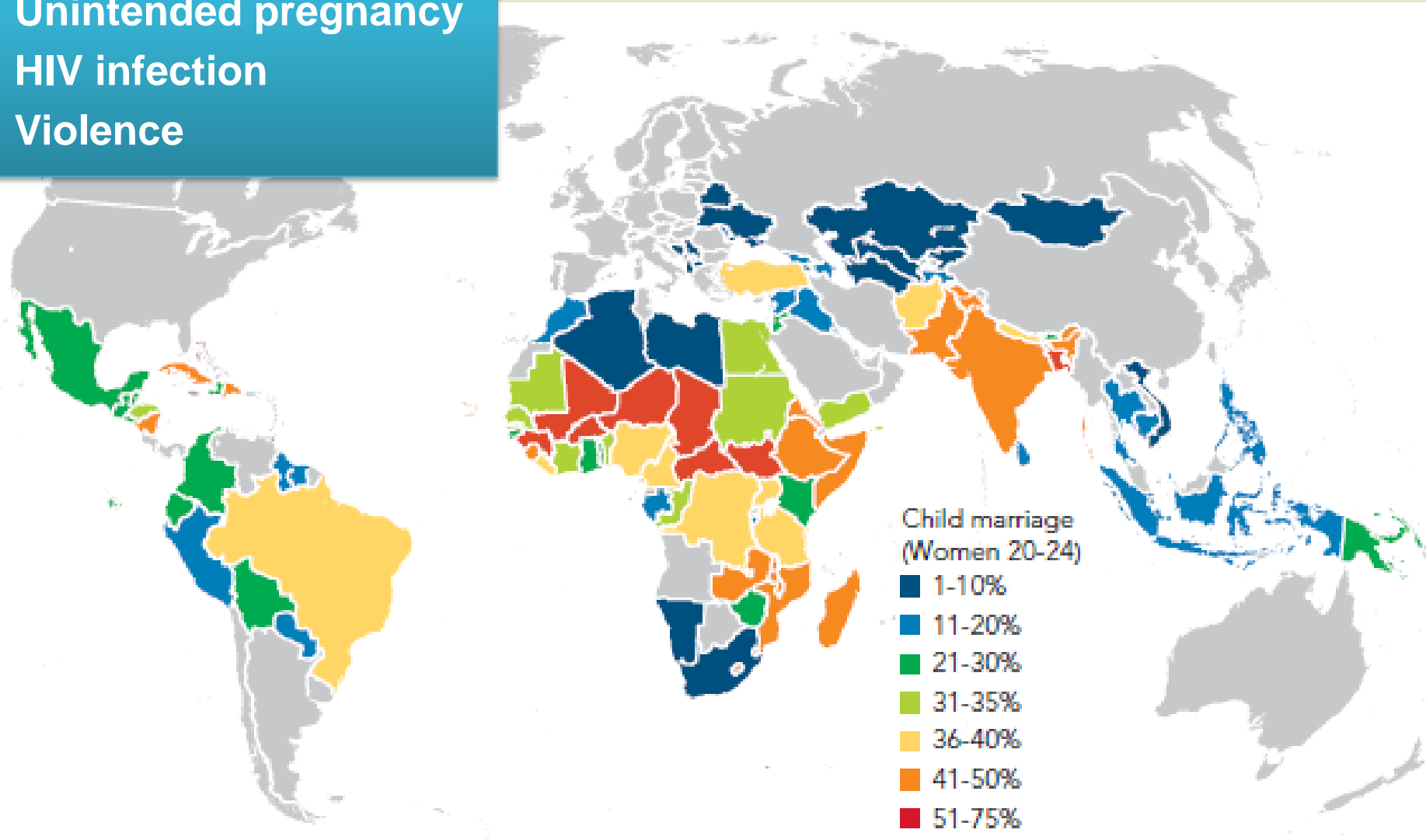
In the area of women's sexual and reproductive agency, education is a key driver



Source: Voice and Agency 2014 team estimates based on DHS for 37 countries, 2006-2012

Child marriage: Adverse repercussions for women's health and development

- Unintended pregnancy
- HIV infection
- Violence

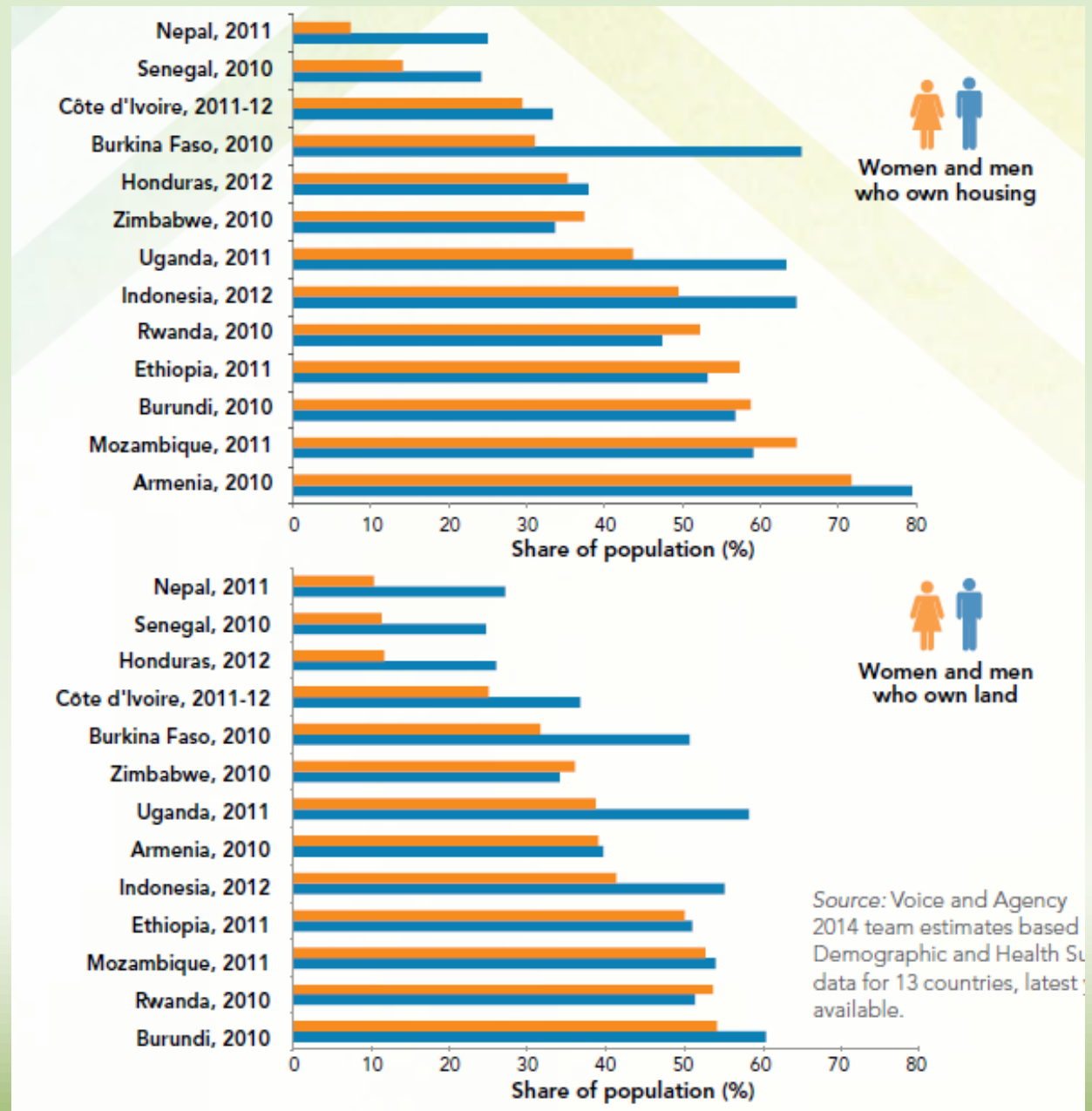


Sources: Voice and Agency 2014 team estimates based on DHS, International Center for Research on Women, and UNICEF using latest available data from 2001-2012. Note: Countries in gray do not have comparable data available.

Control over land & housing can expand women's agency

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

...or land



Women's voices can be transformative

Collective Action

- Women's movements build momentum for legal reform
- Self-help groups increase agency and economic outcomes

Political Participation

- Increases government responsiveness and accountability
- Policy making reflects priorities of families and women

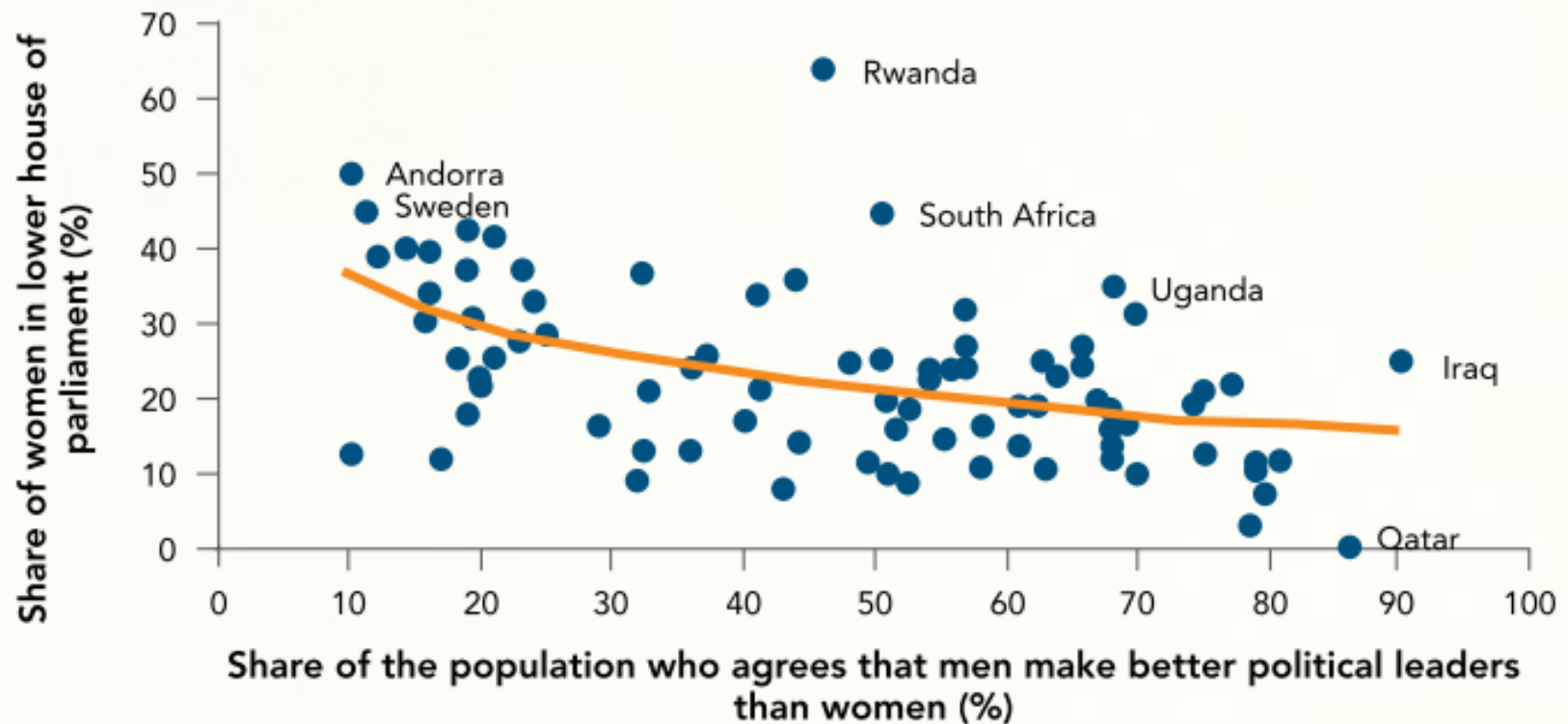
Promising Directions

- Quota's help to change stereotypes
- Financing and training to help level the playing field
- Using ICTs and the media to mobilize people around issues

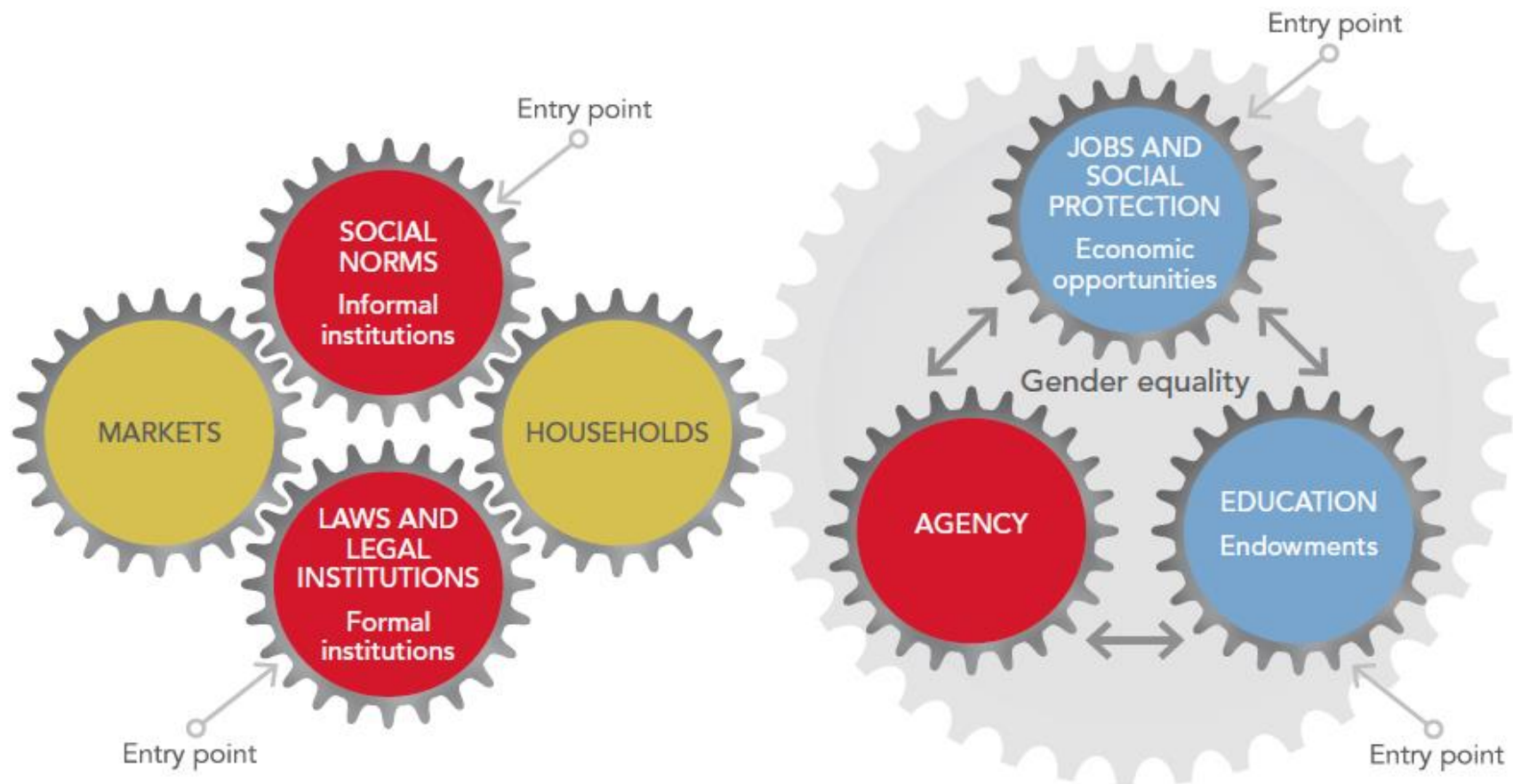


But attitudes are restrictive

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

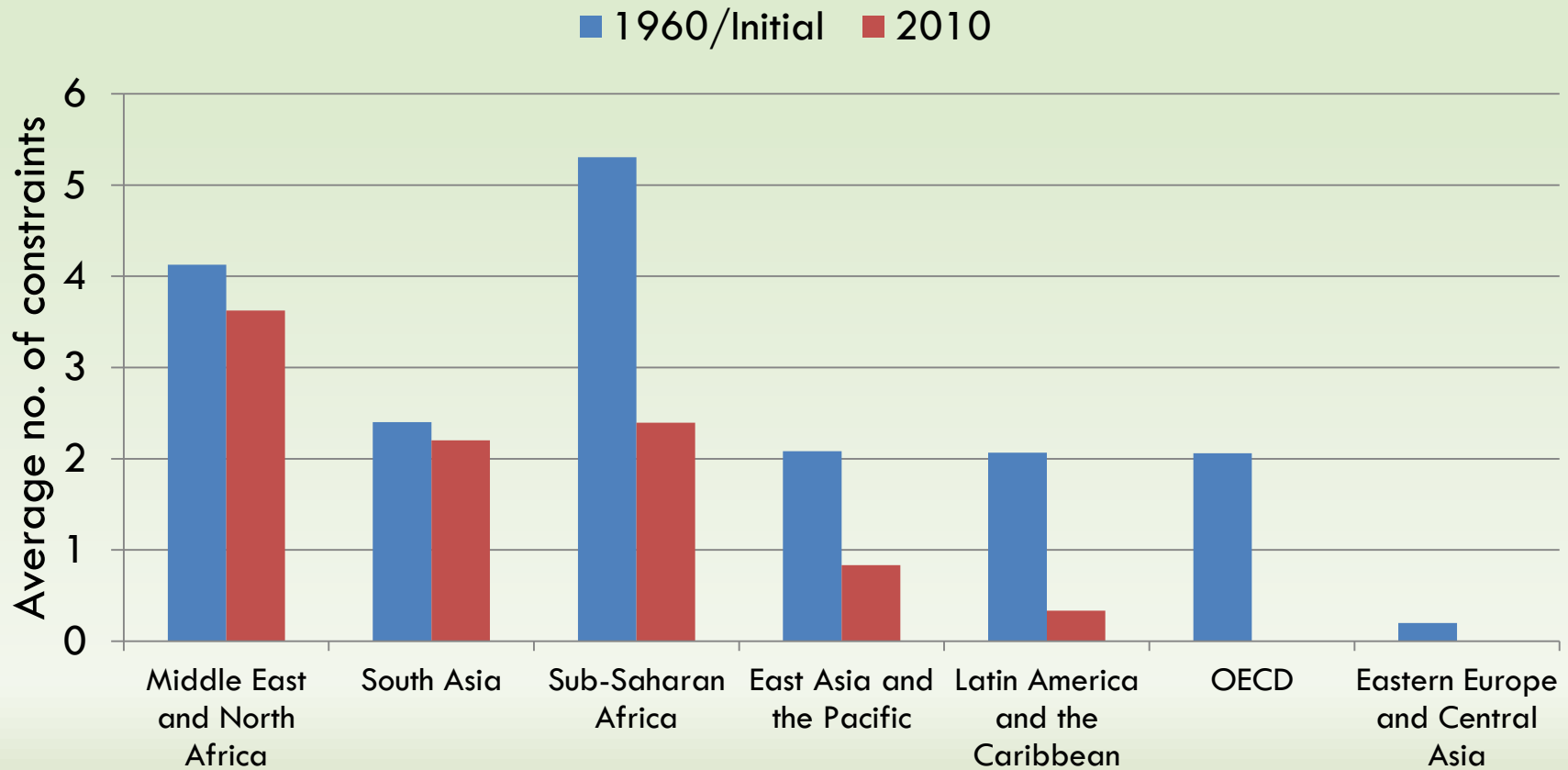


A framework for public action



Regional trends in strengthening women's rights

Changes in average number of constraints by region

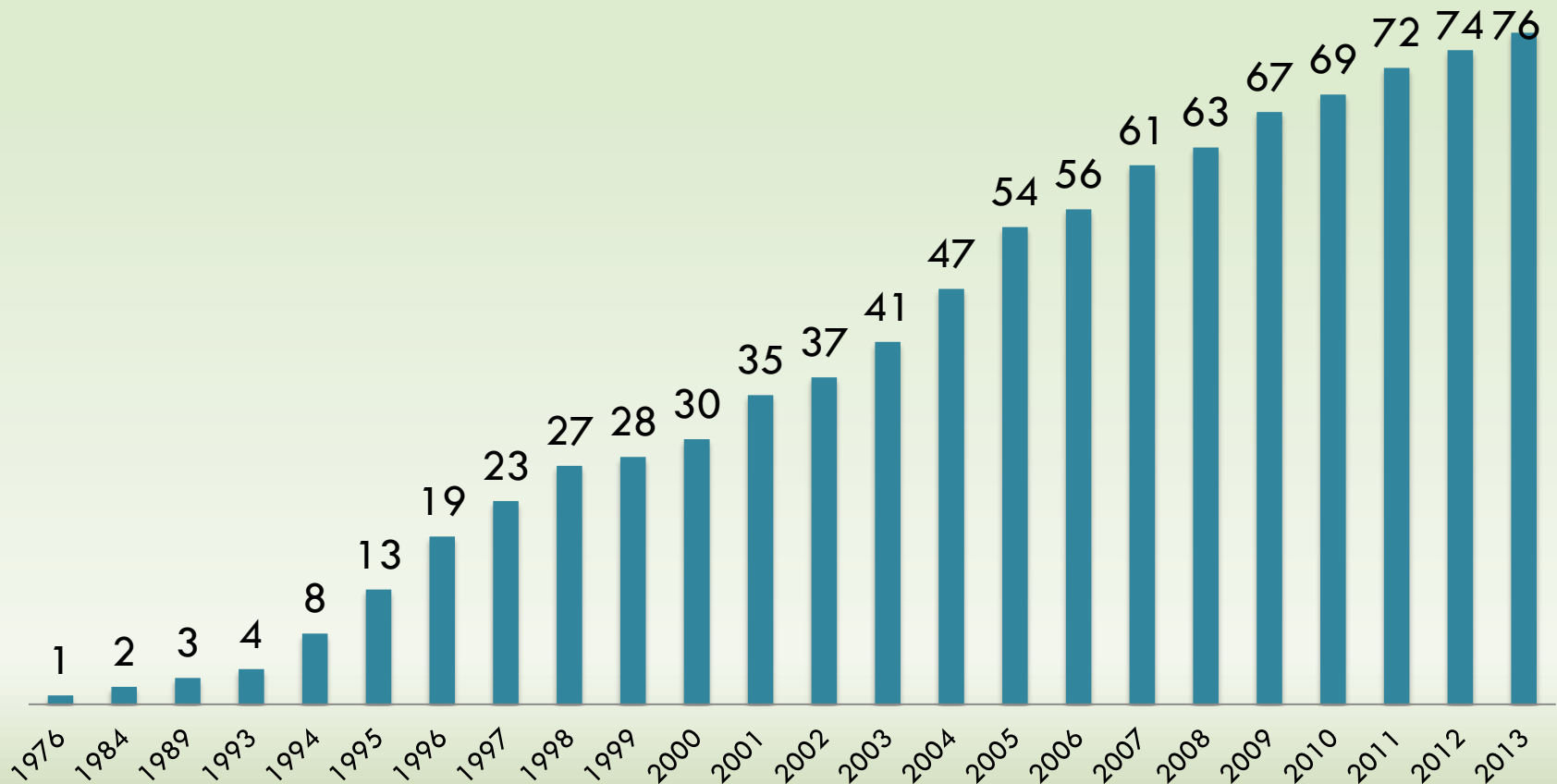


Note: Number of potential constraints equals 11

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

Momentum for change: The case of domestic violence

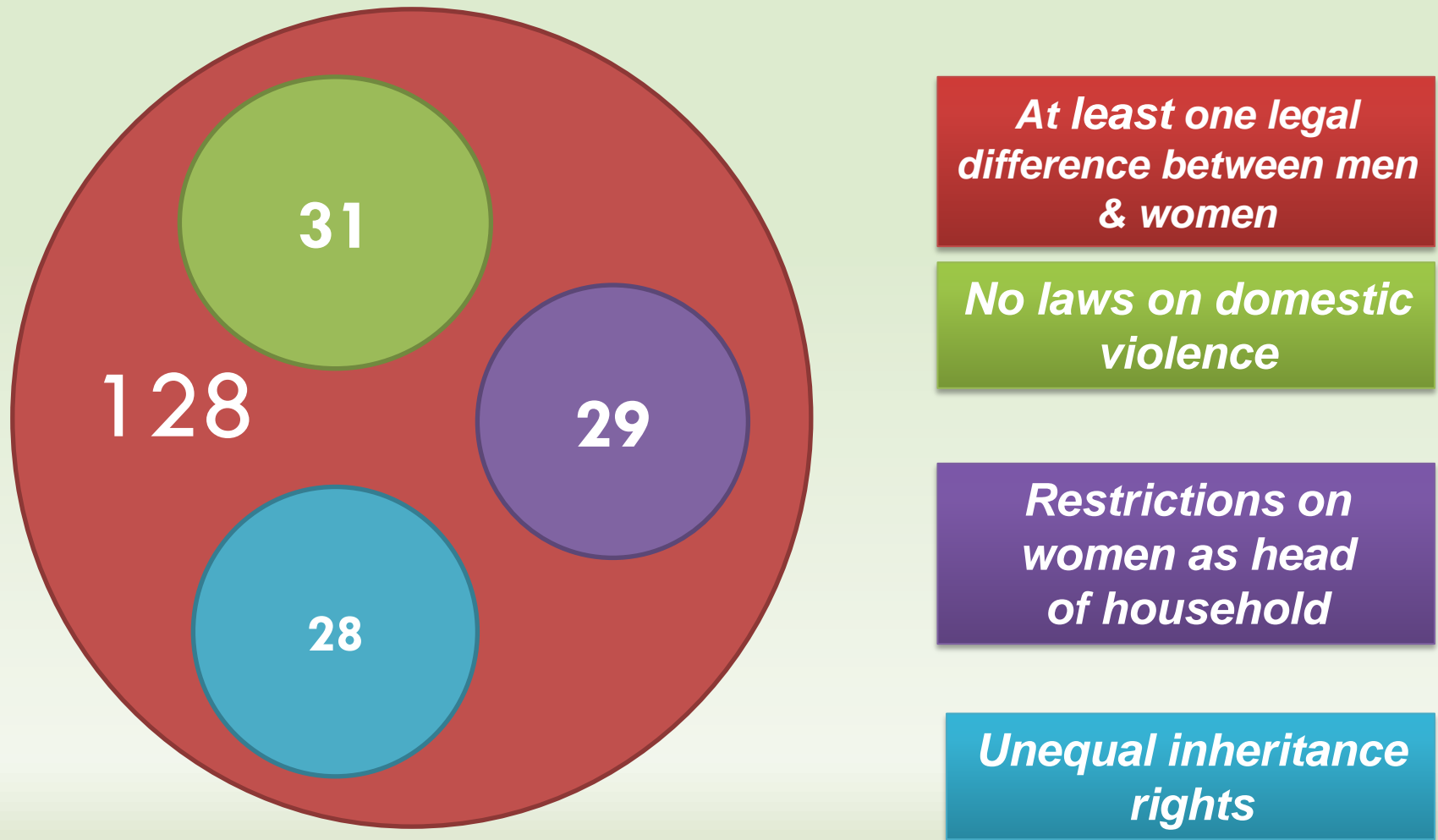
Cumulative number of countries with legislation against domestic violence



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

But much work remains

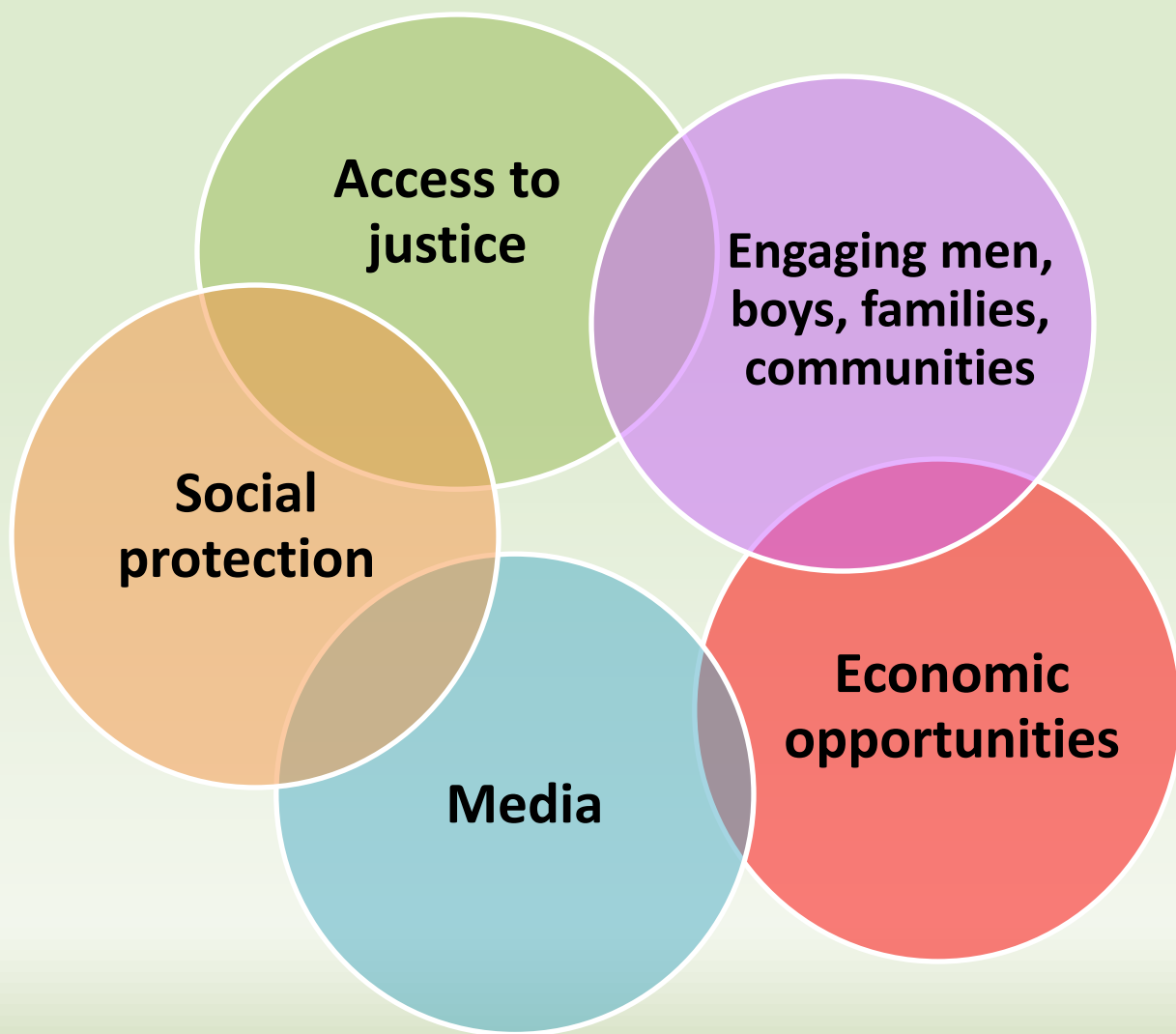
The need for further legal reform



Number of countries

Source: Women, Business and the Law 2014

Promising directions for changing social norms



TOSTAN
*Working with
communities to
eliminate FGC and
child marriage*

SASA!
*Mobilizing
communities to
reduce domestic
violence*

PROGRAM P
*Promoting men's
roles as gender-
equitable caregivers*

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

-Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Gaps

GBV: Prevalence figures are underestimates

Sexual & reproductive health: scarce

Access to land: Data not collected at individual level

Voice: Limited

Selected New Efforts

Data2X

Gender Data Blue Print

- UN Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, US Govt

Evidence on Data and Gender Equality (EDGE)

- UN Women, UNSD, ECD, World Bank

Indicators on violence against women

Partnership to pilot agreed indicators
- UNSD, UN Women, World Bank



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#WomenCan