



# GENDER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

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- I. Women's access to food and nutrition: its direct and instrumental value**
- II. The many faces of discrimination**
  - 1. Women as food producers
  - 2. Women's access to employment
  - 3. Transformative social protection
- III. Looking forward: Key Recommendations**

- 1. Women's access to food and nutrition: its direct and its instrumental value**

**AVAILABILITY – increased production and imports**

**ACCESS**

**Own-production**

**Income-generating  
employment**

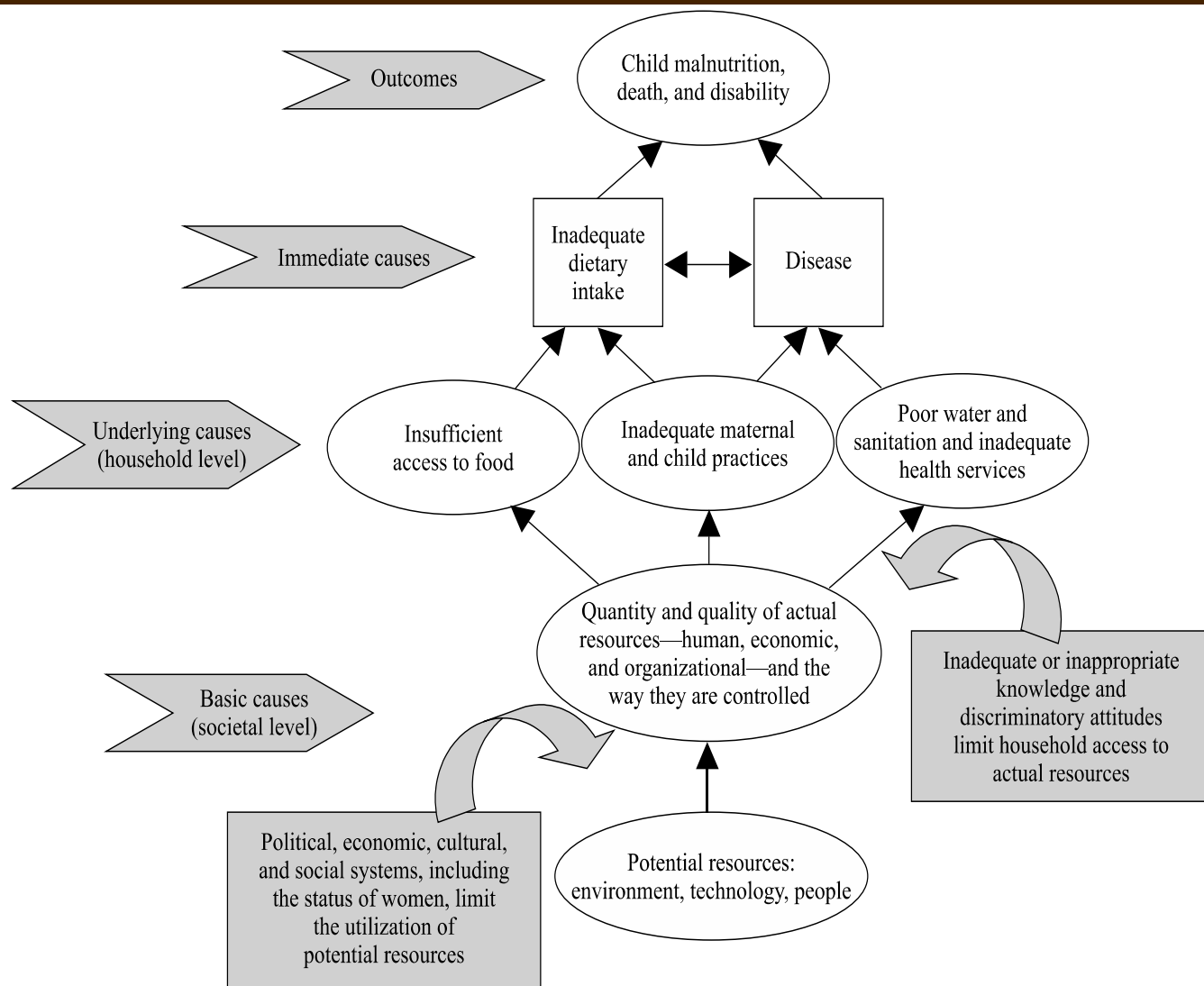
**Social protection  
through solidarity  
networks or State**

**ADEQUACY – diversity of diets**

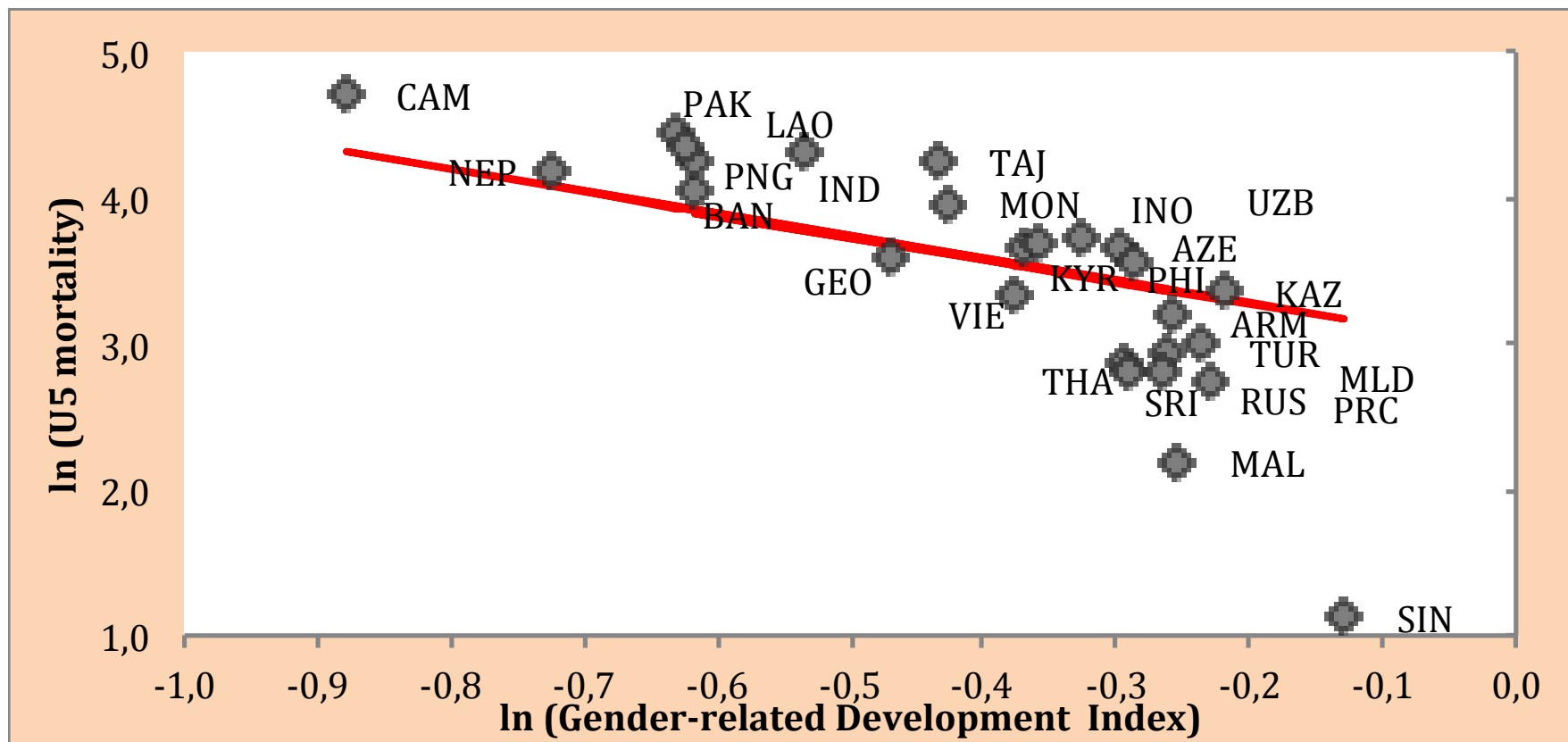
**UTILIZATION – feeding practices, health and sanitation**

**The right of women and girls to adequate food and nutrition**

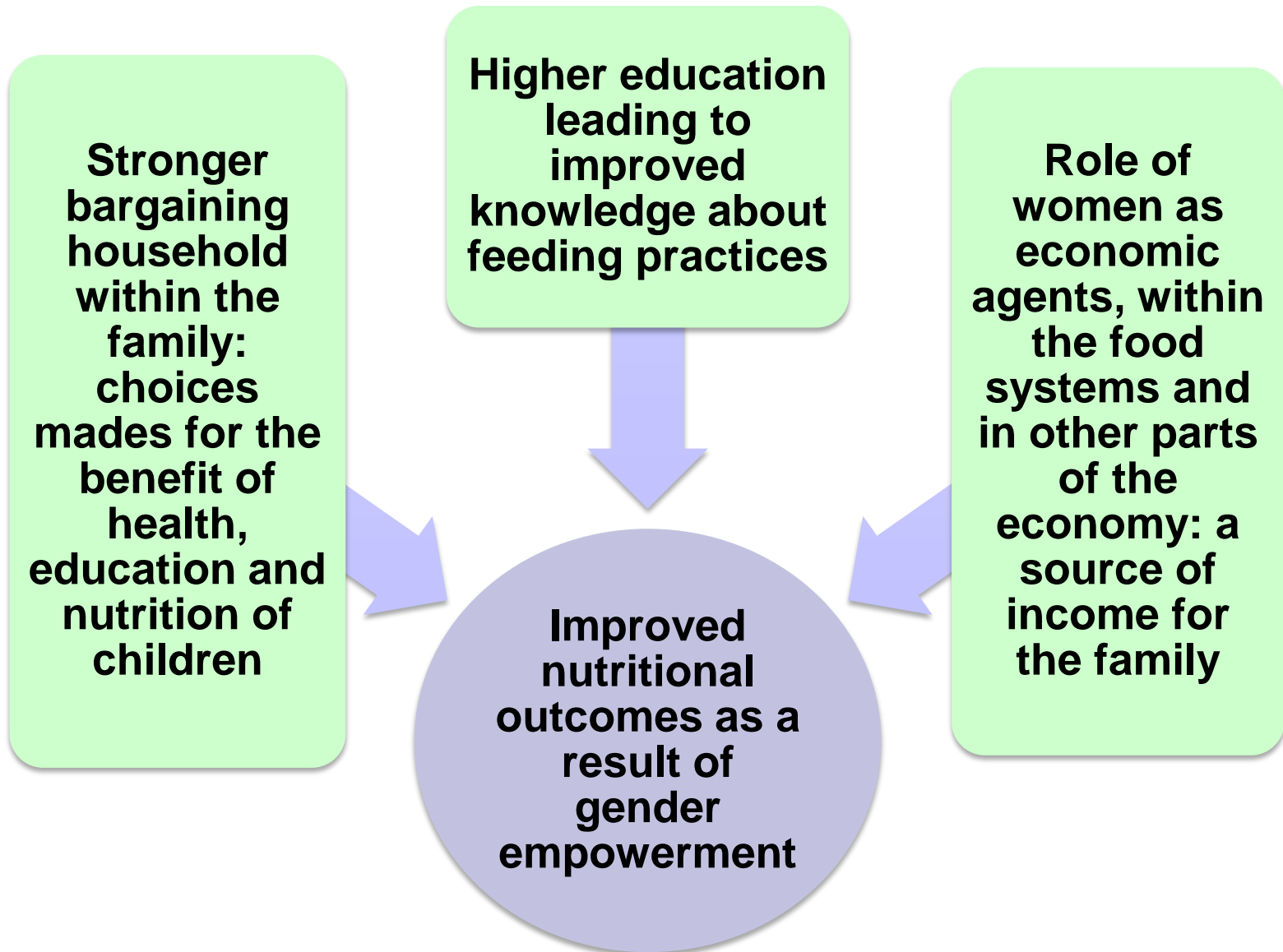
**The instrumental value of gender equality**



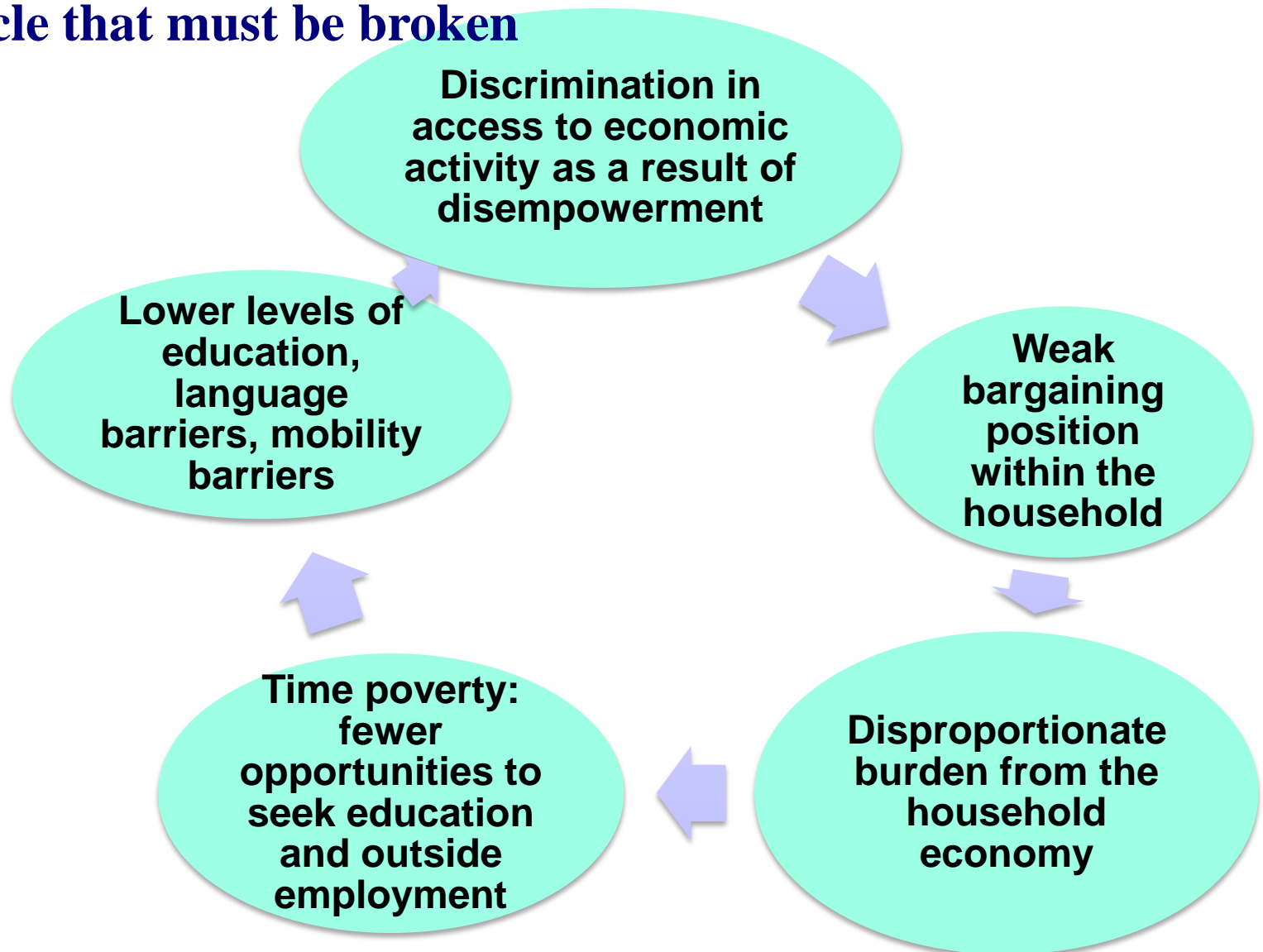
Source: UNICEF, *The state of the world's children 1998*



**Cross-country variation in child mortality explained by differences in gender development.** *Source: Turner (2012), compilation based on data from the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report (various issues) for Gender related Development Index and UN MDG Database for child mortality.*



## The cycle that must be broken





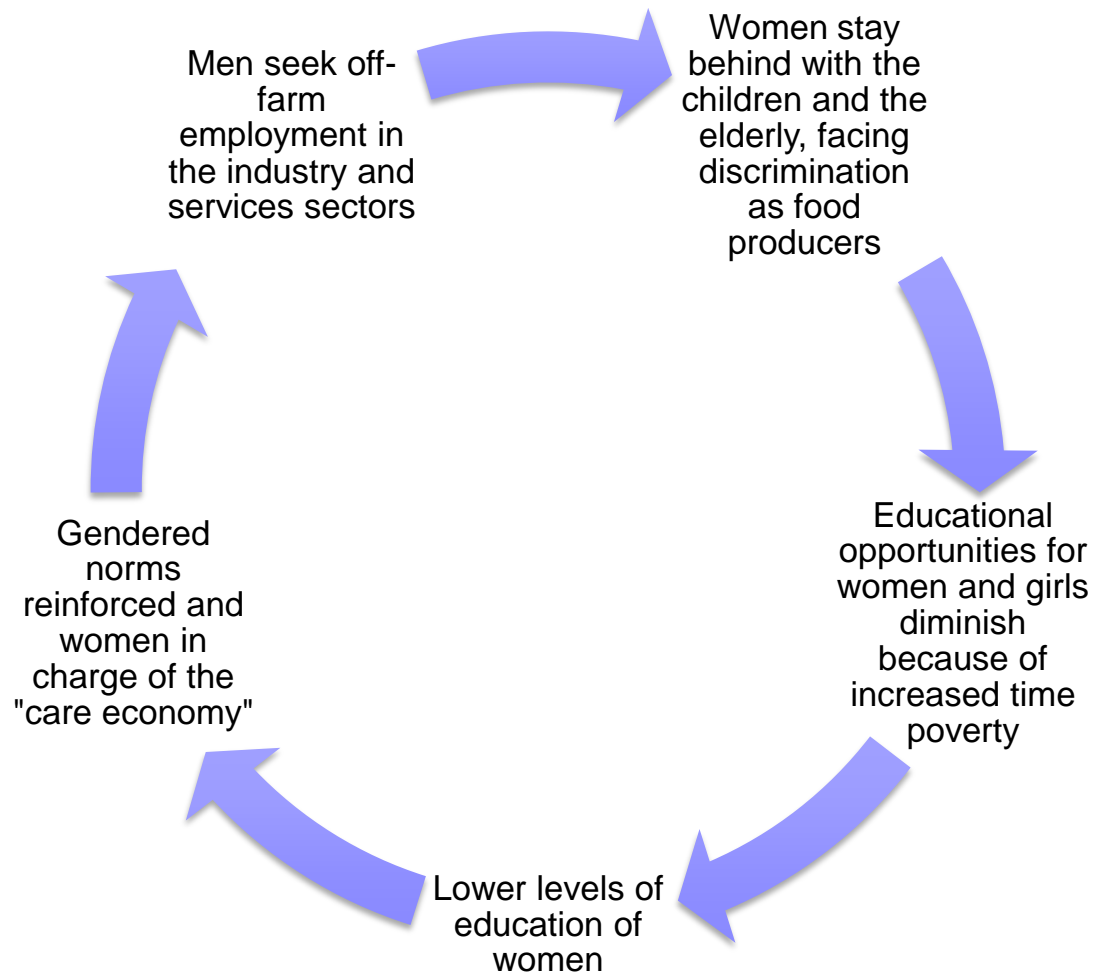
**Recognition: acknowledge the time and mobility constraints women face**

**Relief: provide services that can relieve women from the burden they shoulder**

**Redistribution: challenge the gender roles – and involving men in the change**

## **II. The many faces of discrimination**

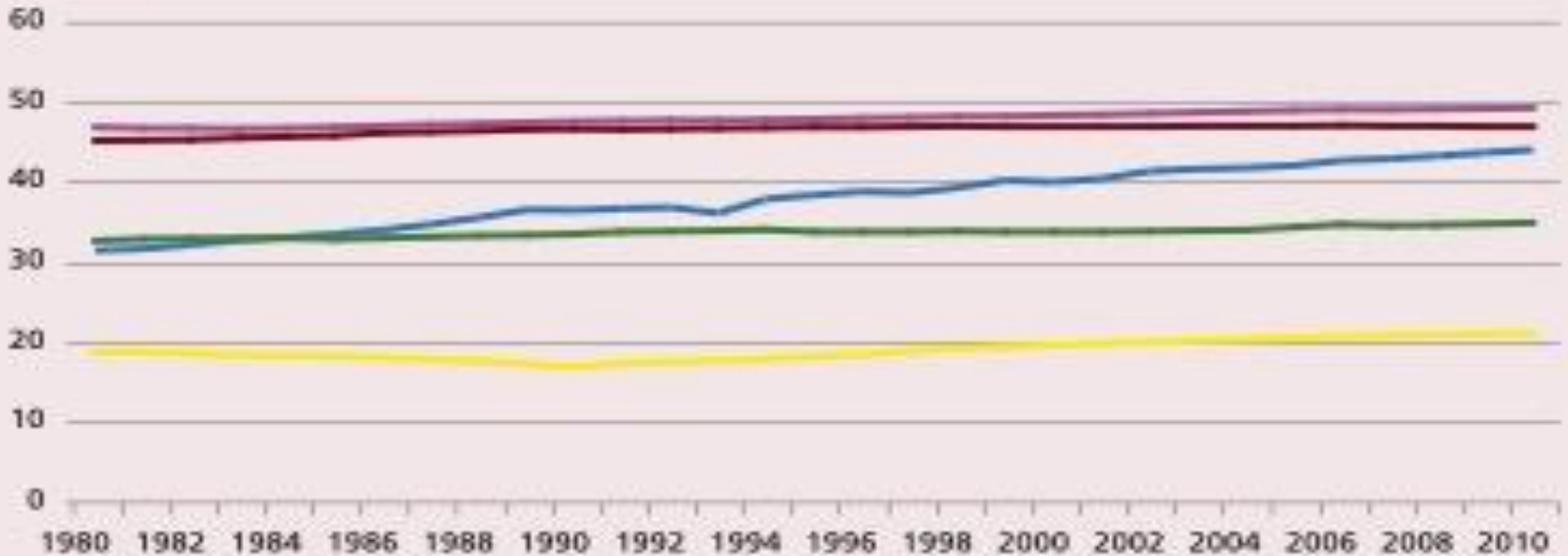
1. Women as food producers
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## The gendered nature of the agrarian transition

### Female share of the agricultural labour force

Percentage



— Eastern and Southeastern Asia

— Latin America and the Caribbean

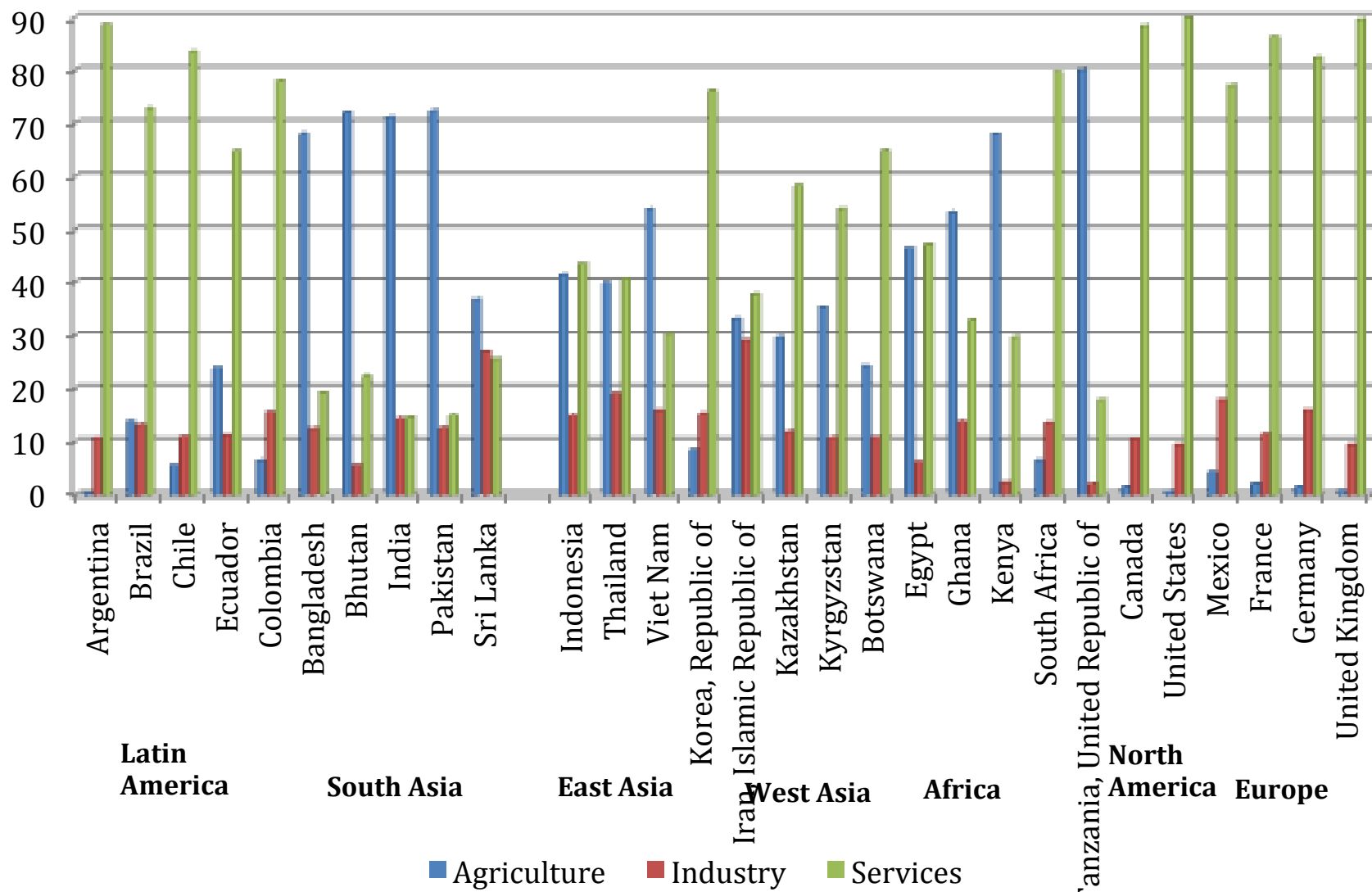
— Near East and North Africa

— Southern Asia

— Sub-Saharan Africa

**Source** : FAO, State of Food Insecurity 2011 (fig. 1)

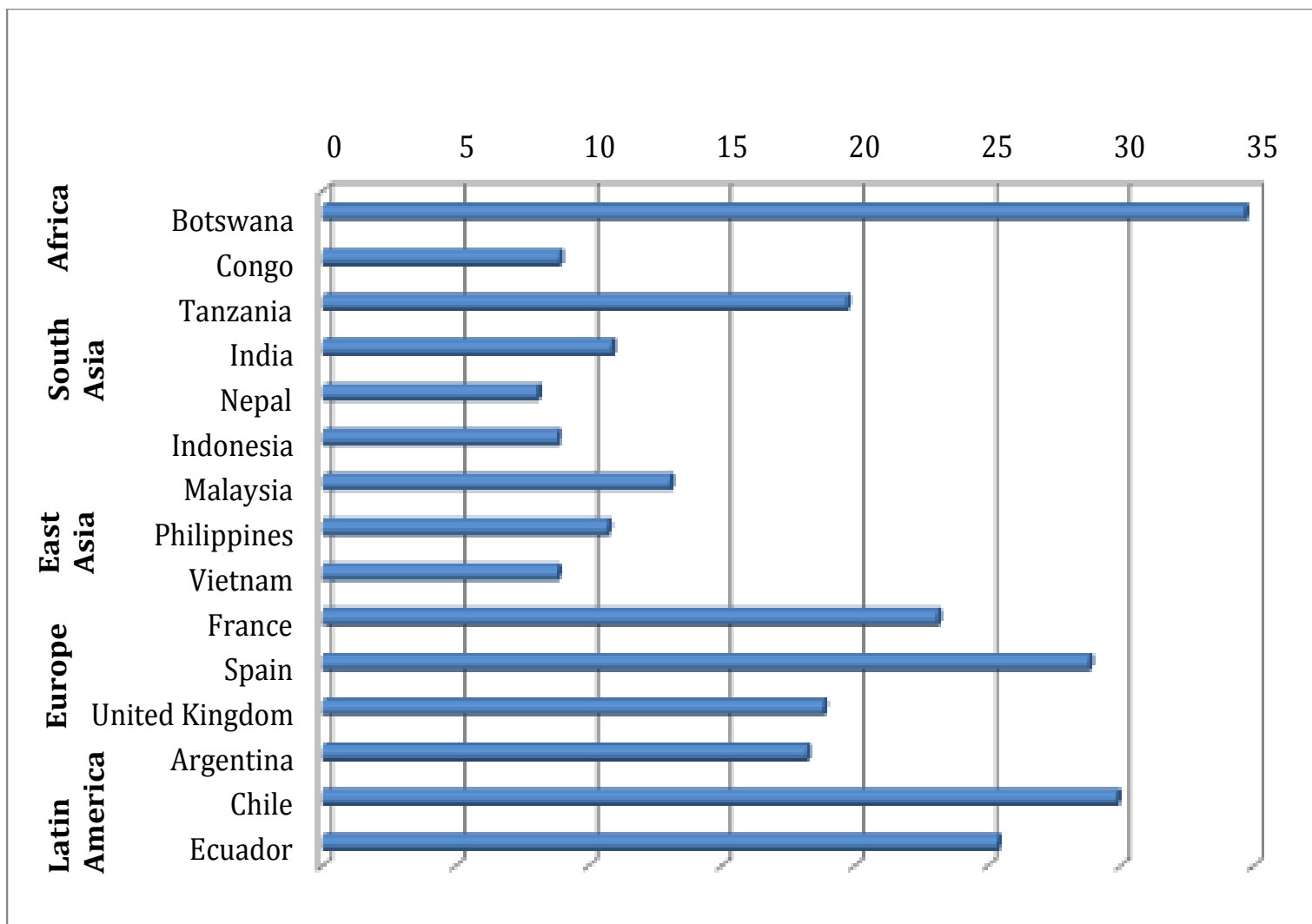
Female share in agriculture : total number of women active in agriculture / total population active in agriculture. Regional averages weighted by population.



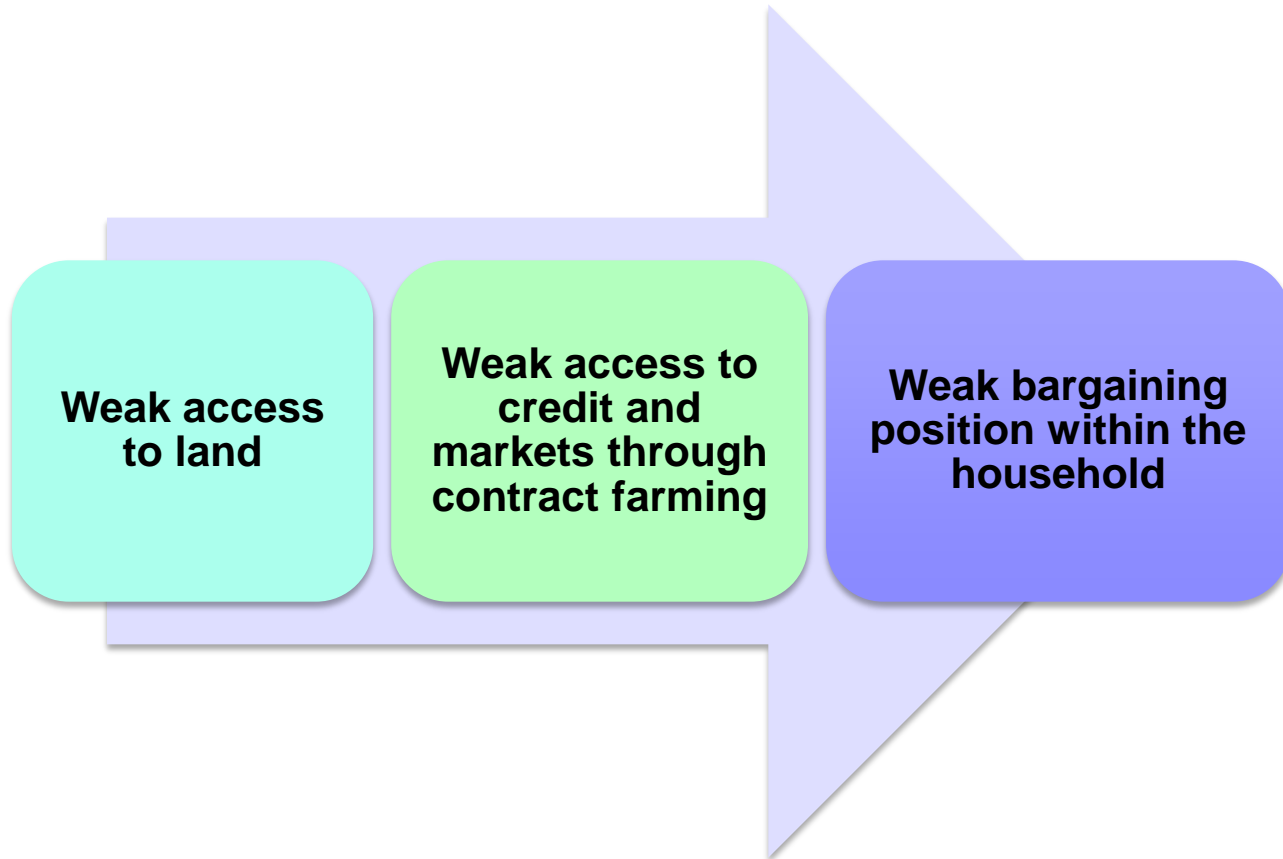
Percentage of economically active women per sector, selected countries

## **Discrimination women face as independent food producers:**

- 1. Access to land**
- 2. Access to inputs, technology (agricultural research and development), and services (extension services and credit)**
- 3. Access to markets**

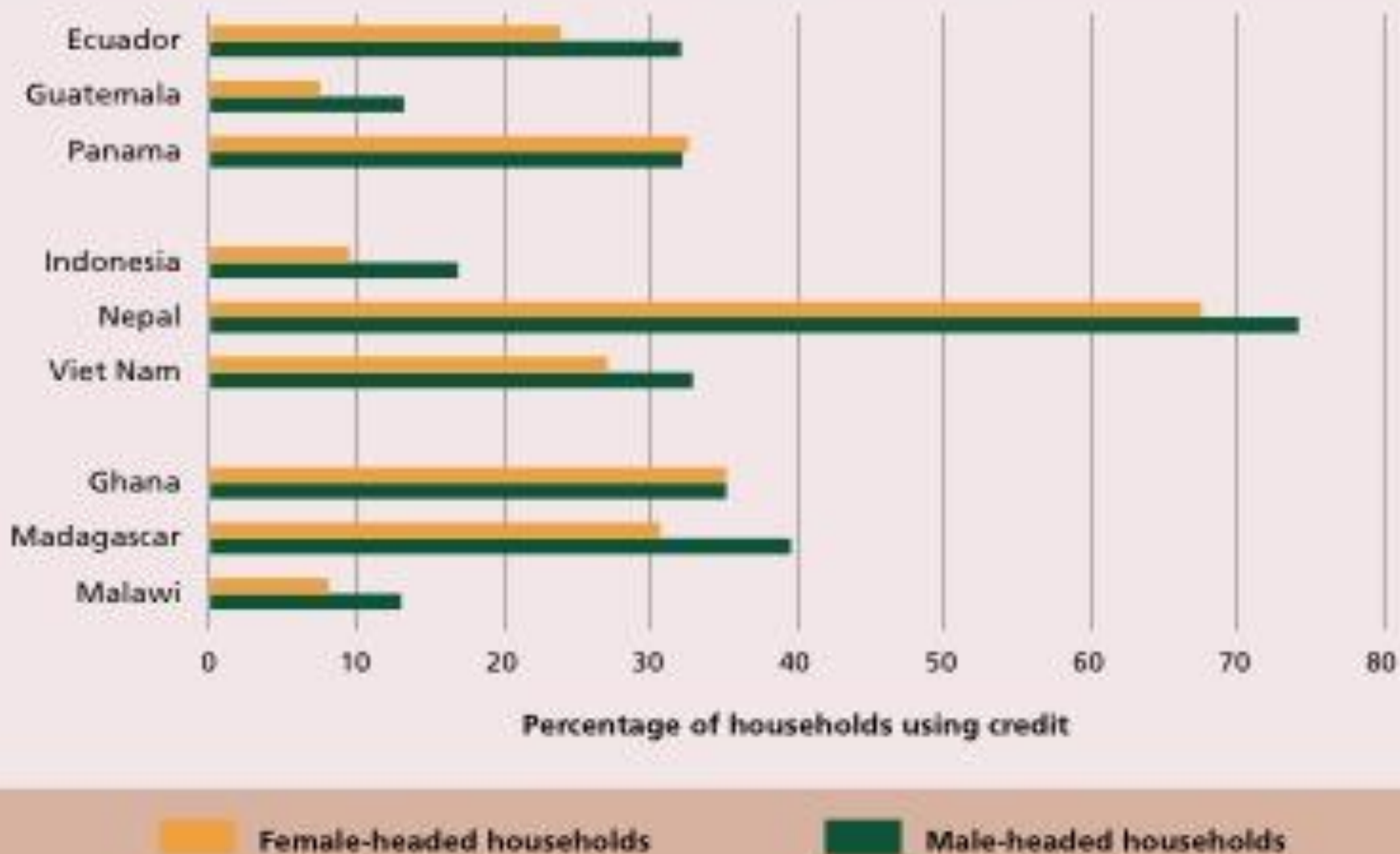


**Ownership of land among women (percentage of women land holders among all landholders, selected countries, 2012).** Based on FAO data.





### Credit use by female- and male-headed households in rural areas



## **Discrimination in access to markets: the case of contract farming**

- Women “largely excluded because of lack of control over land, family labour and other resources required to guarantee delivery of a reliable flow of produce” (SOFI 2011, p. 13)
- Women are fewer than 10 percent of contract farming schemes in Kenyan fruit and vegetable export sector
- Only 1 of 59 farmers in Senegal producing French beans for export was a woman
- While the contracts are controlled by men, most of the work is performed by women as family labourers

	<b>Dominant model</b>	<b>Remedial (gender-sensitive) measures</b>	<b>Alternative model</b>
<b>Knowledge</b>	Extension services populated by men, with men as main receivers (as heads of households or members of producers' organisations)	Increased representation of women among advisors Targeting women as receivers through women organisations Training taking into account time poverty and mobility constraints of women	Prioritizing farmer-to-farmer (horizontal) transmission of knowledge, through farmer field schools or farmers' organisations, particularly women's organisations
<b>Financial services</b>	Weak access to credit for small-scale food producers. Microfinance, even targeted at women, (i) may lead to loans being controlled by men; and (ii) may not reach the poorest women	Access to credit by women through social collateral (group lending), e.g. through women's cooperatives	Low-cash agriculture (limited use of external inputs to reduce need for/dependency on credit)

<b>Agricultural research and development</b>	Focus on high-yielding and high-value crops, in monocropping schemes	Focus on crops that are easier to cultivate for women (requiring less labour, e.g.)	Focus on food crops that are easiest to prepare and to preserve, and that are the most nutritious or taste better; multicropping schemes
<b>Markets</b>	Markets insufficiently hospitable to women: buyers turn to men and time and mobility constraints women face reduce their ability to sell	Improved infrastructure and information about prices, and selling through cooperatives, facilitate access particularly for women farmers	Production primarily geared towards own consumption (meeting the family and community needs); surplus sold on local markets

**Removing constraints to women’s entrepreneurship ... or acknowledging the specificity of homestead farming prioritizing own-consumption?**

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## Women's status as agricultural workers

« CORE » SEGMENT	« PERIPHERY »
Permanent employment (year-round) Formal contract	Seasonal Casual
Fixed wages	Payments on a piece-rate basis – combined with the lack of childcare services in rural areas, leading to child labour in agriculture



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## Transformative social protection

<b>Cash transfers</b>	Women beneficiaries – but (i) little control over spending, (ii) conditionalities may reinforce gender stereotypes	<i>Oportunidades</i> (Mexico), <i>Bolsa Familia</i> (Brazil), <i>Pantawid Pamilya</i> (Philippines) (« 4Ps »)
<b>Public works</b>	(i) Quotas for women, combined with (ii) childcare facilities, and (iii) building assets/infrastructure that can relieve women – and (iv) « role-shifting » in the allocation of tasks	MGNREGA (India), Rural Maintenance Program (Bangladesh)
<b>Asset transfers</b>	(i) Assets adapted to time constraints, (ii) stipends until assets can generate income, (iii) training	Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction(CFPR), BRAC (Bangladesh)
<b>Schoolfeeding</b>	(i) Combine school meals with take-home rations to increase girls' attendance, (ii) recruit poor women as cooks, (iii) women suppliers	Midday schoolmeals (India)



## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Remove all discriminatory provisions in the law, particularly concerning access to productive resources (Art. 14 CEDAW)
2. National strategies that are (i) multisectoral (ex. schoolfeeding, public works, access to markets), (ii) supportive of women's collectives, (iii) participatory (for both women and men), (iv) phased (from recognition and relief to redistribution), (v) rights-based
3. At project level, participation of women (i) beyond community meetings (focus groups, household surveys), (ii) based on an understanding of entitlements and alternatives (against the danger of adaptive preferences), and (iii) sensitive to the different groups within society

**THANK YOU**

