

# SIGI – a new composite indicator to measure gender equality

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## Measuring gender equality

- Most commonly used indices of gender equality measure **inequality outcomes**
  - UNDP-GDI: inequality in health, education and economic participation
  - UNDP-GEM: women's social and political rights
  - World Economic Forum's GGI: multidimensional measure of gender differences

# The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)

- The SIGI measures the **root causes of gender inequality by focusing on social institutions**
- Social Institutions : long lasting codes of conduct, norms, traditions, informal and formal laws contributing to gender inequality in all spheres of life.
- The settings in which these codes of conduct shape gender roles and lead to discrimination (family, community, violence...)

# Why does focusing on social institutions matter?

- Form basis for human behavior and social interaction
  - Shape social and economic opportunities for men and women
  - Building blocks for social stratification systems, including gender
- Strong link to outcomes

# Selection of indicators for SIGI

- Theoretical justification
  - Must be clearly linked to an underlying social institution, but not be an *outcome* of that institution
- Data quality and coverage
  - Coverage must be global and reliable

# SIGI Indicators

## Social Institutions Variables

### Family Code

- Early marriage
- Polygamy
- Parental authority
- Inheritance

### Physical Integrity

- Female genital mutilation
- Violence against women

### Son Preference

- Missing women

### Civil Liberties

- Freedom of movement

### Ownership Rights

- Access to land
- Access to bank loans
- Access to property

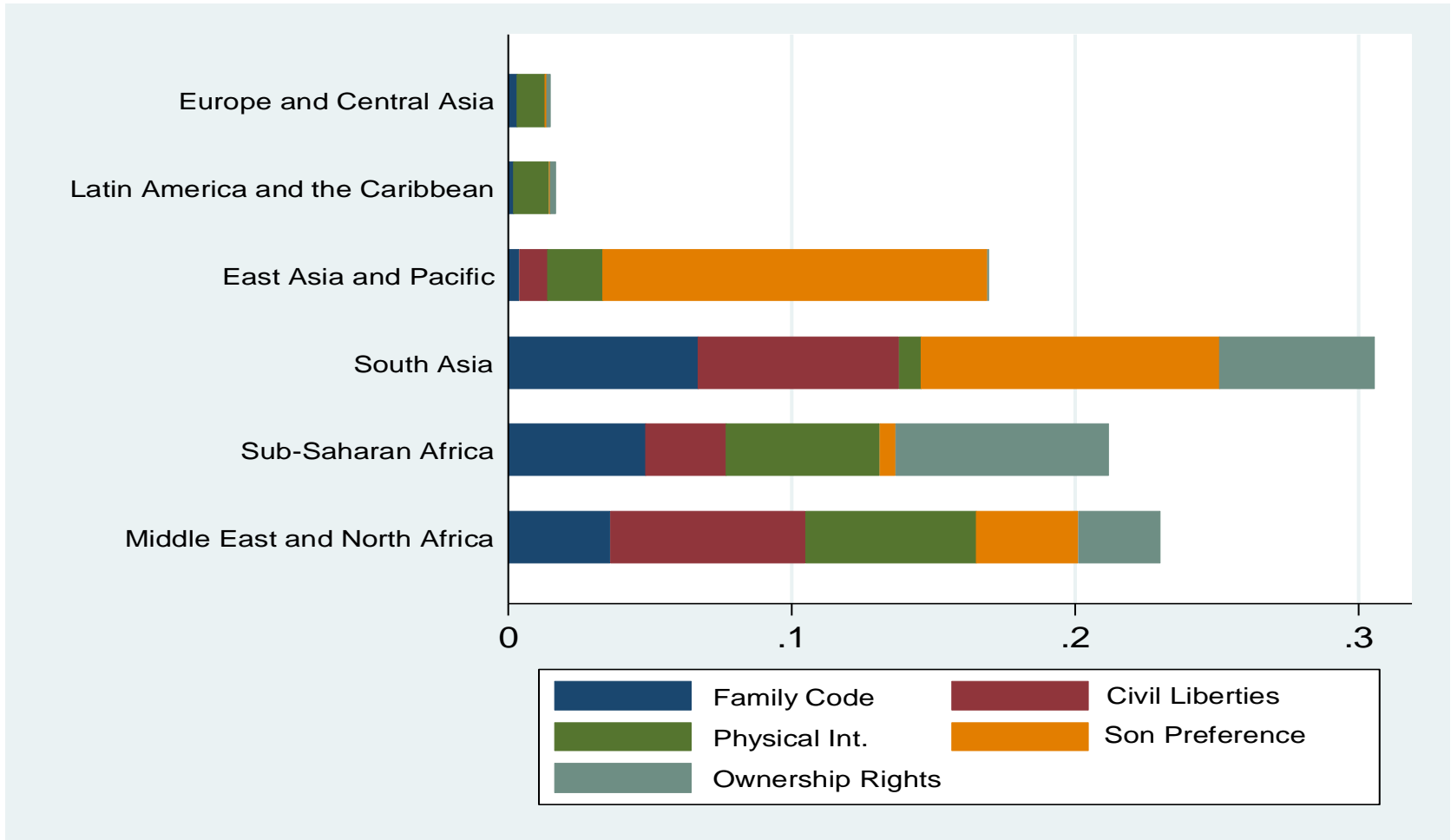
## Creation of SIGI sub-indices

- Sub-indices created for each dimension of inequality (family code, civil liberties, physical integrity, son preference, and ownership rights)
  - Each coded based on combination of reported data and qualitative evaluation of ‘real’ situation in each country
  - Individual indicators assigned ‘weight’ using PCA and standardized
  - Value for each indicator ranges between 0 (no inequality) and

# Creation of overall SIGI

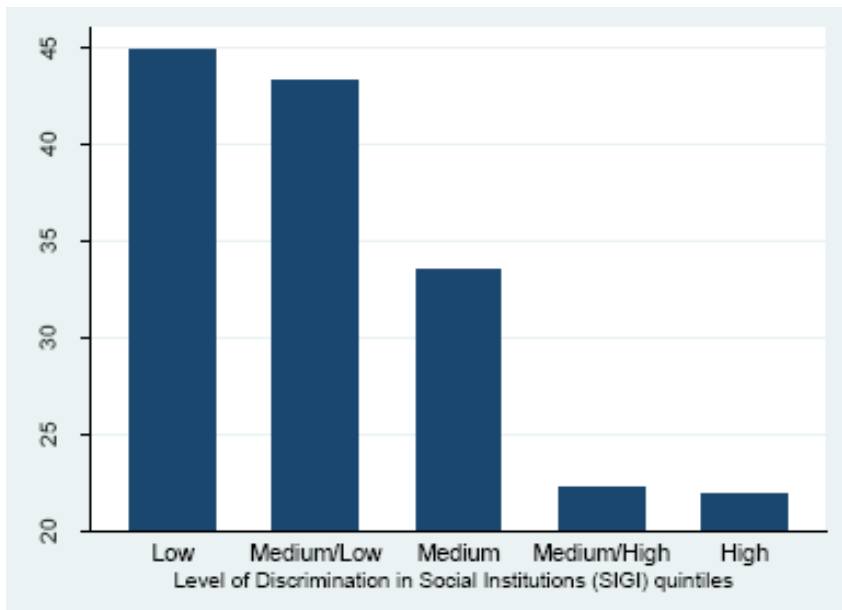
- All sub-indices combined to create composite index
  - Unweighted average of sub-indices, with partial compensation
  - Range between 0 and 1 for each country
  - This allows countries to be ordered by their standing on the SIGI, or on specific sub-indices

# What does SIGI tell us about patterns of gender inequality?



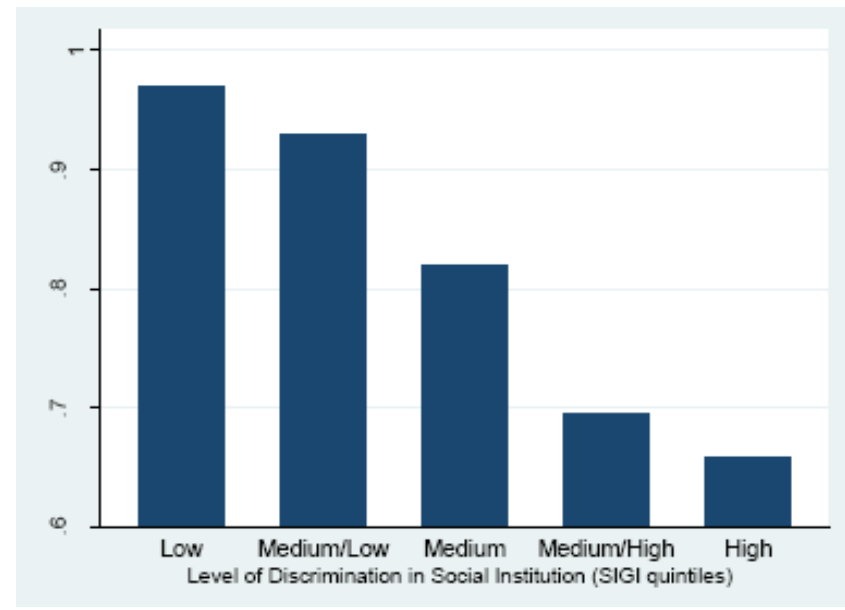
# How well does the SIGI map onto outcomes?

## Labour Force Participation



The higher the discrimination in social institutions, the lower female labour participation

## Ratio of Female to Male Literacy



The higher discrimination in social institutions, the lower female to male literacy ratios

# What next for the SIGI?

- Include OECD countries
- Identify potential new indicators on a conceptual level
- Identify new or updated sources of data that can be used
  - opinion/attitudinal data
  - rights of women across a broad range of dimensions
  - time-use data
  - increased use of prevalence data to supplement current indicators
- Refine scoring process for individual indicators

# Sources of Information on SIGI

- [www.genderindex.org](http://www.genderindex.org)
- [www.oecd.org/dev/gender](http://www.oecd.org/dev/gender)



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