ACCOUNTING FOR WOMEN: MAPPING GENDER VULNERABILITIES OF MACROECONOMIC POLICY IN ASIA-PACIFIC

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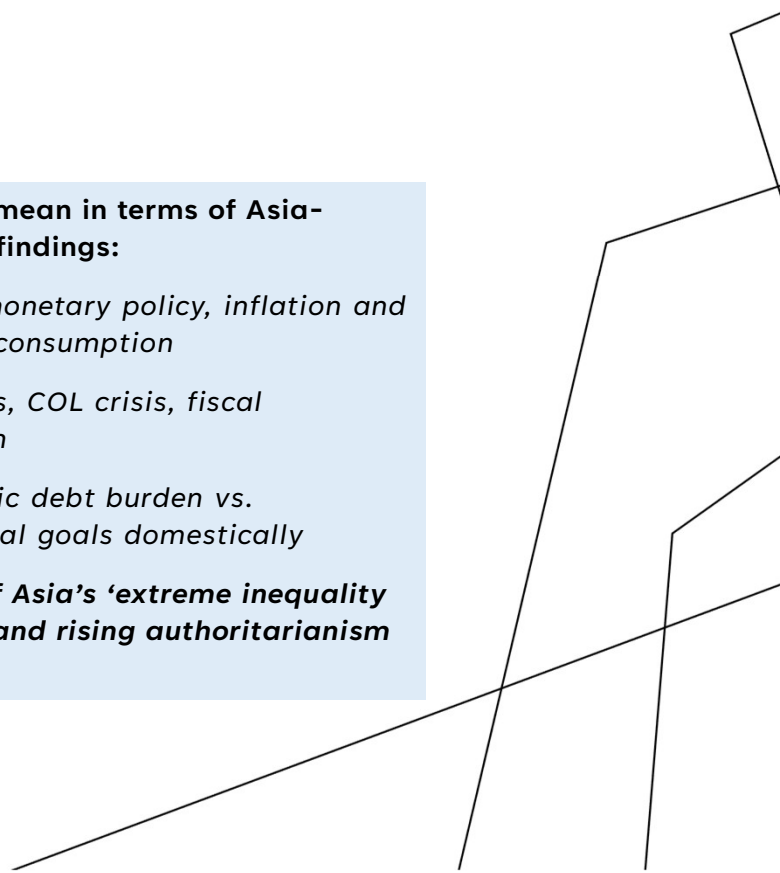
GENDER AND MACROECONOMICS

- Macroeconomic policy goals **narrowly defined**
  - privilege “gender neutral” growth and monetary/ fiscal targets
  - Strong discourse – “fiscal prudence” “sound fiscal policy”
  - In isolation from environmental and political crises
- Gender biases underline **distributive concerns**
  - Wage, Consumption, and Income inequality
- Failure to maximize **fiscal space for gender equality**
  - Disconnect between macroeconomic tools and social outcomes
    - Enhanced by **lack of gender data (and intersectional data)**

What does this mean in terms of Asia-Pacific Outlook findings:

- *Tightening monetary policy, inflation and constrained consumption*
- *Interest rates, COL crisis, fiscal consolidation*
- *High domestic debt burden vs. developmental goals domestically*

in the context of Asia’s ‘extreme inequality crisis’ (Oxfam) and rising authoritarianism (APFWLD)



SOCIAL CONTENT OF MACROECONOMIC POLICIES MATTERS- TWO EXAMPLES

1.Distributional outcomes depend on environment

Women's employment as expansionary v. contractionary

- Expansionary (care-led) – positive consumer demand and increase investments in human capabilities outweigh contractionary impact of decline in profit share
- Contractionary (inequality-led) – higher profit share of capitalist investment demand outweighs negative impact of lower consumer demand and human investments

2. Soundness of macroeconomic policies should be judged in terms of their **capacity to drive social outcomes**.

Physical v. Care Infrastructure Spending

20 billion lira investment in Turkey would generate

- 290k jobs (6% women) if invested in housing construction and infrastructure;
- 719k new jobs (73% women) if invested in childcare centres and preschools

Source: Braunstein et 2021, Elson & Cagatay 2000; Ikkaracan et al 2015

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION LACKS GENDER DATA

*Only 25% of countries in the Asia-Pacific region have **a law on gender statistics***

- *Most countries aren't collecting **sex-disaggregated data**, when they do it isn't*
  - ***Aligned with internationally agreed standards***
  - *collected in a **timely or comprehensive way,** allowing limited scope for analysis.*



GENDER VULNERABILITIES IN ASIA-PACIFIC

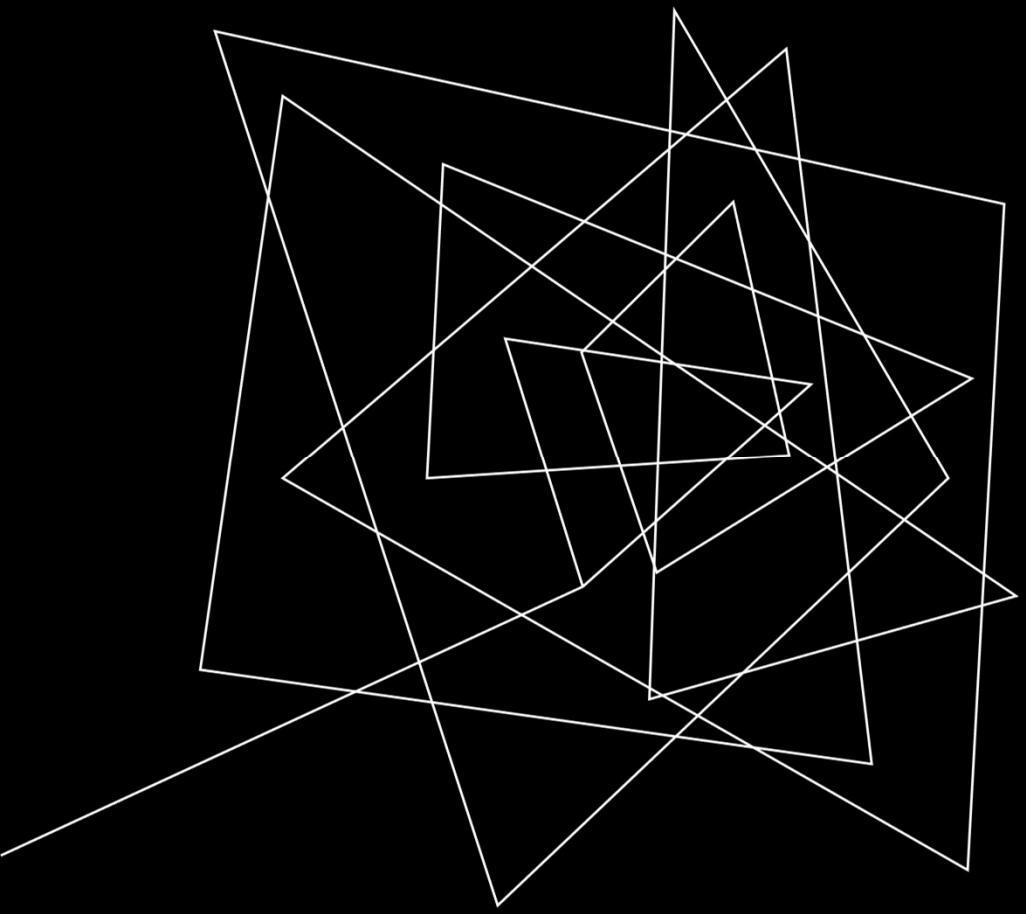
- Designed to address general incompatibility of macroeconomic and gender data points
- Compiled data to highlight gendered "hot spots" in macroeconomic arenas
- Engineered three country groupings based on their achievements in decreasing inequality (including gender)
- Calculated three ratings for gender – high, medium, and low. Country categories aggregated by the number of "low" scores: 0=high vulnerability, 1-2=moderate, and 3-4 = low vulnerability

Data source	High	Moderate	Low
Global Gender Gap Report	X>.660	.659<x<.700	X>.700
GII (UN) 2021	X>.401	.228<x<.400	X<.227
Women, Business and the Law Index (WB)	X<50	50.1>x>75	75.1<x
GINI Index	40.1<x	30.1<x<40	30>x

GENDER VULNERABILITY IN ASIA PACIFIC

High	Moderate		Low
Afghanistan	Azerbaijan	Russia	Armenia
Brunei Darussalam	Bangladesh	Samoa	Australia
India	Bhutan	Tajikistan	Kazakhstan
Indonesia	Cambodia	Thailand	Kyrgyzstan
Iran	China	Timor-Leste	New Zealand
Malaysia	Fiji	Turkiye	Singapore
Marshall Islands	Georgia	Turkmenistan	
Micronesia, FS	Hong Kong, China	Uzbekistan	
Myanmar	Japan	Viet Nam	
Nauru	Kiribati		
Papua New Guinea	Lao PDR		
Sri Lanka	Mongolia		
Solomon Islands	Nepal		
Tonga	Pakistan		
Tuvalu	Philippines		
Vanuatu	Republic of Korea		

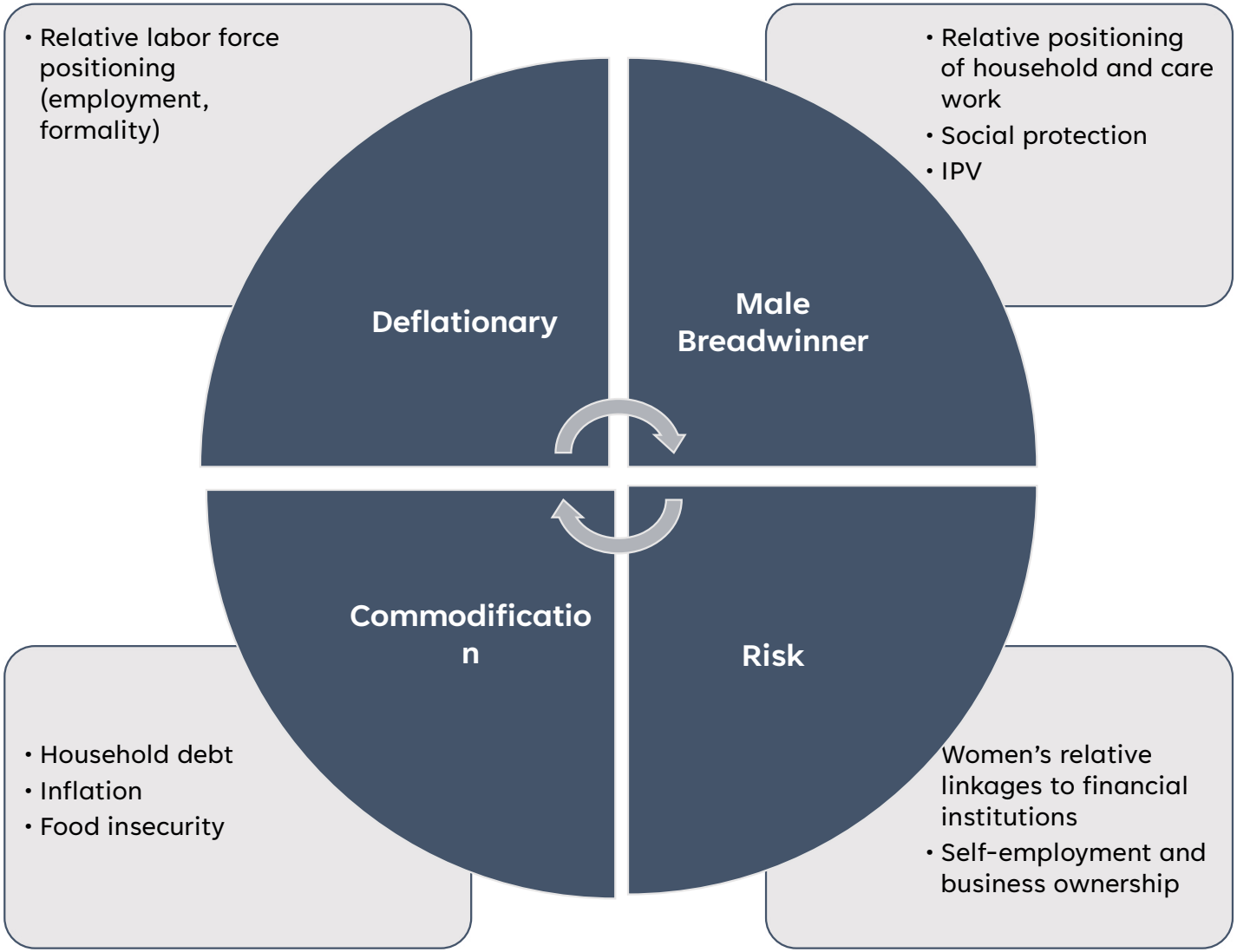




GENDER AND MACROECONOMIC POLICY HEAT MAP

- Where are women in the economy? As labor, creditors, debtors, unpaid labor?
- What are governments doing to establish equality frameworks and minimize inequality?
- How do these two elements illustrate gendered vulnerabilities to macroeconomic policy?

MACROECONOMIC GENDER BIAS INDICATORS

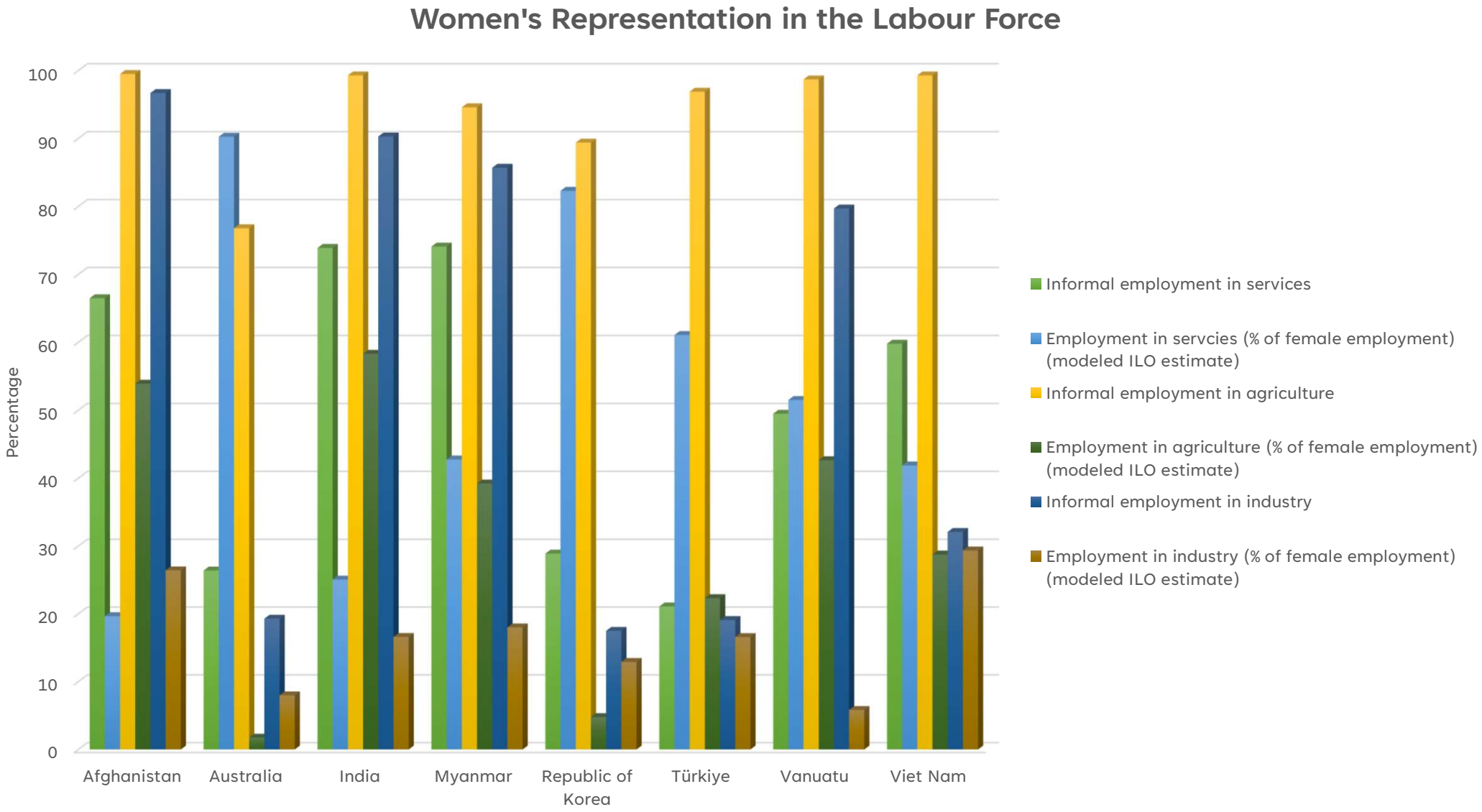


DEFLATIONARY BIAS

- **Investment and growth rates have fallen over period of financial liberalization (intended to attract and retain short-term capital – but also increasingly linked to global crises and austerity)**

  - *Women in formal sector tend to lose jobs faster than men*
  - *Have worse access to social safety nets*
  - *Women are crowded into informal sector*

Country	Female burden of infor employment	Public sector employment, as a share of paid employment gender: Female	Female burden of unemployment (female -male unemployment)	Women's Self Employment(Self-employed, female (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimat MRY	Female Labor Force Participation Rate, Female (% of female population ages 15+) (modeled ILO Estimat	Tally of gender progress across metrics (0-4)
Afghanistan	-14.3	41%	11.193	92.54182	16.463	0
Brunei Darussalam	9.4		4.822	10.82634	55.541	0
India	-3.4	35%	-0.062	77.90015	23.966	0
Indonesia	-2.8	31%	-0.624	60.02757	52.659	0
Iran	0		10.061	39.78838	15.667	0
Malaysia	0		-0.491		52.739	0
Marshall Islands						0
Micronesia (Federated States of)		32%		26.97962		0
Myanmar	-5.8		1.147	66.1918	44.745	0
Nauru	4.3			90.31821		0
Papua New Guinea	0	45%	-1.908	87.09403	46.419	0
Solomon Islands	0		0.948		82.043	0
Sri Lanka	10.4	27%	5.948	40.3507	33.094	0
Tonga	0.2		2.344	52.69393	42.347	0
Tuvalu	2.1					0
Vanuatu	-2.6		-2.091	71.72263	60.455	0
Bangladesh	-2.7	14%	3.759	65.05423	37.695	1
Bhutan	0	50%	0.129	84.85358	53.763	1
Cambodia	0.8	10%	0.052	53.11407	69.596	1
China	0	25%		44.90337	61.067	1
Fiji	3.2		1.84	30.10463	38.092	1
Hong Kong, China	0		-0.998	4.928097	53.821	1
Maldives	-6.8	64%	-0.83	24.50059	42.59	1
Nepal	-9.3	22%	2.814	14.18384	28.603	1
Pakistan	-9.6	26%	3.776	69.43678	24.607	1
Russia	0	55%	1.017	5.527136	55.276	1
Samoa	5.9		9.133	23.00408	41.107	1
Tajikistan	0	49%	-1.501	28.7105	31.325	1
Türkiye	-12.1	24%	3.775	29.93059	34.167	1
Turkmenistan	0		-1.749	30.93172	47.449	1
Uzbekistan	0	50%	3.063	30.76946	40.009	1
Azerbaijan	0		1.65	73.58357	63.666	2
Georgia	2.7	44%	-3.018	44.8844	55.653	2
Japan	0		-0.456	8.201824	53.967	2
Kiribati	9.2					2
Lao PDR	-4.6		-1.483	84.04897	55.438	2
Mongolia	8.3	48%	0.837	44.0326	52.129	2
Philippines	0	22%	-0.589	40.21261	45.955	2
Republic of Korea	-7.4		0.234	20.62803	54.609	2
Thailand	-1.1	22%	0.058	51.92852	58.692	2
Timor-Leste	-5		4.537	79.16976	61.467	2
Viet Nam	4.7	26%	0.033	58.05135	69.1	2
Australia	-0.7	28%	-0.242	12.67559	62.052	3
Kyrgyzstan	3.3		1.005	27.24943	45.388	3
New Zealand	0		0.377	16.34163	66.538	3
Singapore	0		-0.416	7.862177	63.202	3
Armenia	-4.3	43%	-2.387	25.04111	58.067	4
Kazakhstan	0	37%	1.313	20.93688	65.107	4

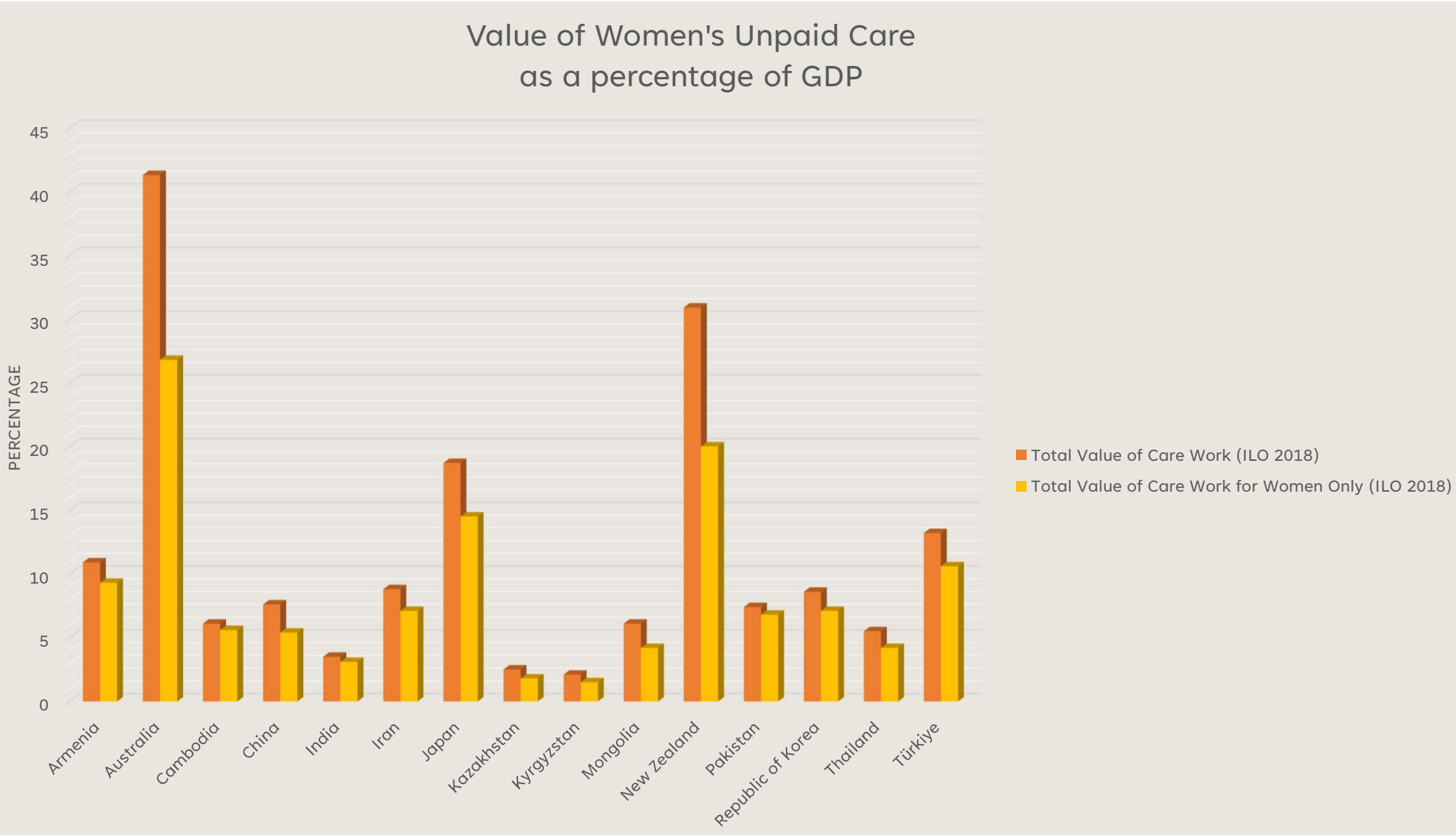

Women's Representation in the Labour Force
Percentage
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Afghanistan
Australia
India
Myanmar
Republic of Korea
Türkiye
Vanuatu
Viet Nam
Informal employment in services
Employment in servcies (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimate)
Informal employment in agriculture
Employment in agriculture (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimate)
Informal employment in industry
Employment in industry (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimate)

MALE BREADWINNER BIAS

Macroeconomic policies that prioritize entitlements through employment and minimize social protection will not be able to overcome women's household responsibilities

- *Assumes nonmarket sphere of social reproduction reflected in male wages*
    - *Claims on state for social benefits focused around full-time formal employment*
- *Effects employment-based avenues to meet goals (income, poverty, social protection)*

Country	Income Classification	Region	Tally of gender progress across metric: 4)	inactive women citing care work as reason for being (of the labor force	SDG 1.3.1 Population receiving at least one social protecti program (MRY)	SDG 5.2.1 IPV (la 12 months)
Afghanistan	Low income	SSWA	0	73.8	7.5	46.1%
Brunei Darussalam	High Income	SEA	0	38.9	34.1	
India	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	0	78.2	24.4	21.8%
Indonesia	Upper Middle Income	SEA	0		27.3	4.9%
Iran	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	0		27.8	
Malaysia	Upper Middle Income	SEA	0		27.3	
Marshall Islands	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		25.2	18.2%
Micronesia (Federated	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		19.4	24.1%
Myanmar	Lower Middle Income	SEA	0	68.3	6.3	11.0%
Nauru	High Income	PACIFIC	0		45.4	22.1%
Papua New Guinea	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		9.6	47.6%
Solomon Islands	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		1.1	41.8%
Sri Lanka	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	0	33.7	36.4	6.0%
Tonga	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		22.2	18.9%
Tuvalu	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		0	25.0%
Vanuatu	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0		57.4	44.0%
Bangladesh	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1	66.6	22.5	26.9%
Bhutan	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1		8.8	5.5%
Cambodia	Lower Middle Income	SEA	1	19.4	6.2	7.7%
China	Upper Middle Income	ENEA	1	35.8	70.8	
Fiji	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	1		58.9	23.7%
Hong Kong, China	High Income	ENEA	1		59.7	
Maldives	Upper Middle Income	SSWA	1		21.2	5.6%
Nepal	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1	39.7	16.9	11.2%
Pakistan	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1	80.5	20.1	14.5%
Russia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	1	40.7	90.1	
Samoa	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	1		21.1	22.4%
Tajikistan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	1		26.6	
Türkiye	Upper Middle Income	SSWA	1		77.4	
Turkmenistan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	1		44.2	
Uzbekistan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	1		42.7	
Azerbaijan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	2		39	
Georgia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	2		97.1	
Japan	High Income	ENEA	2		92.5	
Kiribati	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	2		21	43.4%
Lao PDR	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2		12.1	6.0%
Mongolia	Lower Middle Income	ENEA	2		100	12.7%
Philippines	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2	58.8	36.7	5.5%
Republic of Korea	High Income	ENEA	2	11.5	82.9	
Thailand	Upper Middle Income	SEA	2	42.9	68	
Timor-Leste	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2	6.2	30.6	46.4%
Viet Nam	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2	14.5	38.3	8.9%
Australia	High Income	PACIFIC	3		100	
Kyrgyzstan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	3		41.7	
New Zealand	High Income	PACIFIC	3		100	
Singapore	High Income	SEA	3		100	
Armenia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	4		54.4	
Kazakhstan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	4		100	
American Samoa	High Income	PACIFIC				


Value of Women's Unpaid Care
as a percentage of GDP
PERCENTAGE
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Armenia
Australia
Cambodia
China
India
Iran
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Mongolia
New Zealand
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Thailand
Türkiye
Total Value of Care Work (ILO 2018)
Total Value of Care Work for Women Only (ILO 2018)

COMMODIFICATION BIAS

Prioritization of private sector and market-based individualized entitlements (over state provision)

- *Pressure to minimize deficits, taxation, and public expenditure which raises household pressures for provisioning*
- *Women engaged as provisioners of last resort*
- *Confines women (particularly poor women) to low-paid and insecure forms of work*

	Country	Income Classification	Region	Tally of gender progress across metrics (… 4)	Household Debt, loans and securities % of GDP IMF (MRY, 2020-2022)	Food insecurity SDG 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the adult population (%) Age: 15+ (female)	Inflation, % change (202… only)
2	Brunei Darussalam	High Income	SEA	0			1.7
3	Malaysia	Upper Middle Income	SEA	0	66.88	16	2.857
4	Indonesia	Upper Middle Income	SEA	0	16.24	37.4	3.553
5	Solomon Islands	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0	8.25		4.934
6	Papua New Guinea	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0			4.999
7	Marshall Islands	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	0			5.198
8	Micronesia (Federated	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0			5.341
9	India	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	0	35.55		5.464
10	Nauru	High Income	PACIFIC	0			6.123
11	Tuvalu	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	0			6.207
12	Vanuatu	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	0	32.64		9.292
13	Tonga	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	0			10.172
14	Myanmar	Lower Middle Income	SEA	0	0.93	23.9	14.179
15	Iran	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	0		39.9	47.007
16	Afghanistan	Low income	SSWA	0	54.48	71.5	n/a
17	Sri Lanka	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	0			n/a
18	China	Upper Middle Income	ENEA	1	46.5		0.658
19	Cambodia	Lower Middle Income	SEA	1		45.8	1.961
20	Fiji	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	1			3
21	Maldives	Upper Middle Income	SSWA	1			3.496
22	Tajikistan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	1	6.07		4.617
23	Bhutan	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1			5.24
24	Russia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	1	21.12	14.7	5.277
25	Turkmenistan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	1			5.896
26	Nepal	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1	34.76	32.4	7.843
27	Bangladesh	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1	6.87	33.9	9.016
28	Uzbekistan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	1		20.7	10.21
29	Samoa	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	1	25.11		11.981
30	Pakistan	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	1	2.77		29.181
31	Türkiye	Upper Middle Income	SSWA	1	10.9		51.171
32	Hong Kong, China	High Income	ENEA	1			
33	Thailand	Upper Middle Income	SEA	2	86.9	31.7	1.5
34	Georgia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	2		40.3	2.428
35	Japan	High Income	ENEA	2	68.16	2.3	3.214
36	Viet Nam	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2		17.2	3.351
37	Republic of Korea	High Income	ENEA	2	105.09		3.419
38	Philippines	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2		54.9	5.844
39	Timor-Leste	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2			6
40	Kiribati	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	2			9
41	Azerbaijan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	2		8.8	10.329
42	Mongolia	Lower Middle Income	ENEA	2		25.9	12.267
43	Lao PDR	Lower Middle Income	SEA	2		31.3	28.1
44	New Zealand	High Income	PACIFIC	3	94.45	13.9	4.93
45	Singapore	High Income	SEA	3	48.62	4.5	5.469
46	Australia	High Income	PACIFIC	3	111.75	11.2	5.779
47	Kyrgyzstan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	3		25.1	11.68
48	Armenia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	4		35.8	3.469
49	Kazakhstan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	4	13.65	11	15.012
50	Macao, China	High Income	ENEA				0.9
51	Palau	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC				12.535

RISK BIAS

Policies that reduce the extent to which risk is pooled and measures to protect against it are shared and instead individualize it

- *Likely to see women as riskier borrowers, integrated on less friendly terms*
- *Reduction of state provision for low-income populations and replacement of borrowing/ credit for provision among low-income households*

	Country	Income Classification	Region	Women's Self Employment(Self-employed, female (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimate), MRY	Women's firm ownership (Firms with female participation in ownershi (% of firms)	Women's representation in account ownershi	Women's representaiton in borrowing from formal financial instiution (own calculation)	Tally of gender progress across metrics (
2	Afghanistan	Low income	SSWA	92.54182	2.2	-10.1%	-2.6%	0
3	Brunei Darussalam	High Income	SEA	10.82634				0
4	India	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	77.90015	3.9	0.3%	-3.1%	0
5	Indonesia	Upper Middle Income	SEA	60.02757	22.1	2.4%	7.2%	0
6	Iran	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	39.78838		-10.5%	-5.3%	0
7	Malaysia	Upper Middle Income	SEA		40.9	-1.3%	-0.9%	0
8	Marshall Islands	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC					0
9	Micronesia (Federated States	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	26.97962	86.8			0
10	Myanmar	Lower Middle Income	SEA	66.1919	35.1	-2.7%	0.9%	0
11	Nauru	High Income	PACIFIC	90.31821				0
12	Papua New Guinea	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	87.09409	46.5			0
13	Solomon Islands	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC		47.4			0
14	Sri Lanka	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	40.3507	26.1	0.7%	-0.3%	0
15	Tonga	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	52.69993	65.3	0.0%		0
16	Tuvalu	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC			0.0%		0
17	Vanuatu	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	71.72269	51.4	0.0%		0
18	Bangladesh	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	65.05423	6.7	-14.8%	3.3%	1
19	Bhutan	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	84.85358	43.3	-11.3%	-0.2%	1
20	Cambodia	Lower Middle Income	SEA	53.11407	46.2	-2.8%	5.7%	1
21	China	Upper Middle Income	ENEA	44.90337	64.2	-2.6%	-0.5%	1
22	Fiji	Upper Middle Income	PACIFIC	30.10463	49.1			1
23	Hong Kong, China	High Income	ENEA	4.928097				1
24	Maldives	Upper Middle Income	SSWA	24.50059		-11.1%	-9.4%	1
25	Nepal	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	14.18384	21.8	-6.7%	-2.7%	1
26	Pakistan	Lower Middle Income	SSWA	69.43678	4.9	-9.4%	-0.4%	1
27	Russia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	5.527136	34	1.4%	-1.1%	1
28	Samoa	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC	23.00408	79.8	0.0%		1
29	Tajikistan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	28.7105	22.7	0.9%	-0.5%	1
30	Türkiye	Upper Middle Income	SSWA	29.93059	11.3	-23.0%	-26.5%	1
31	Turkmenistan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	30.93172		-10.2%	0.0%	1
32	Uzbekistan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	30.76946	25.9	-11.4%	-5.7%	1
33	Azerbaijan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	73.58357	15.3	-15.7%	-4.4%	2
34	Georgia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	44.8844	22.4	0.4%	-2.9%	2
35	Japan	High Income	ENEA	8.201824		0.7%	-2.5%	2
36	Kiribati	Lower Middle Income	PACIFIC					2
37	Lao PDR	Lower Middle Income	SEA	84.04897	36.5	1.1%	1.4%	2
38	Mongolia	Lower Middle Income	ENEA	44.0326	43.7	1.7%	-0.3%	2
39	Philippines	Lower Middle Income	SEA	40.21261	69.2	-10.5%	-6.1%	2
40	Republic of Korea	High Income	ENEA	20.62803	19.1	0.0%	-8.8%	2
41	Thailand	Upper Middle Income	SEA	51.92852	64.4	-4.2%	-11.4%	2
42	Timor-Leste	Lower Middle Income	SEA	79.16976	26.9			2
43	Viet Nam	Lower Middle Income	SEA	58.05135	51.1	-7.4%	-1.6%	2
44	Australia	High Income	PACIFIC	12.67559		1.4%	4.4%	3
45	Kyrgyzstan	Lower Middle Income	NCA	27.24943	45	-3.3%	-3.1%	3
46	New Zealand	High Income	PACIFIC	16.34163		1.0%	0.3%	3
47	Singapore	High Income	SEA	7.862177		-0.7%	-4.6%	3
48	Armenia	Upper Middle Income	NCA	25.04111	27.4	-7.1%	-8.0%	4
49	Kazakhstan	Upper Middle Income	NCA	20.93688	30.5	5.3%	0.9%	4
50	American Samoa	High Income	PACIFIC					

CONSIDERATIONS & OUTLOOK (EVOLVING)

Redefine macroeconomic policy goals to include achievement of (women's) social outcomes	Balance fiscal consolidation pressures with awareness of where women are picking up the burden Establish gender focused thresholds (similar to Taylor Rule for inflation)
Prioritize the collection analysis of gender data to deepen macroeconomic analysis	
Recognize the critical importance of unpaid care and domestic work in macroeconomic policy rationale and policymaking	
Maximize fiscal space for investing in women (e.g., GRB) and directing government spending to minimize existing gender vulnerabilities	Infrastructure spending versus household subsidies Identify gendered taxation systems
Monetary policy channels must ensure women's access to credit and the degree to which these channels support improvements in women's well-being and economic activity	

THANK YOU

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