

Understanding Gender in the Maldives: Towards Inclusive Development



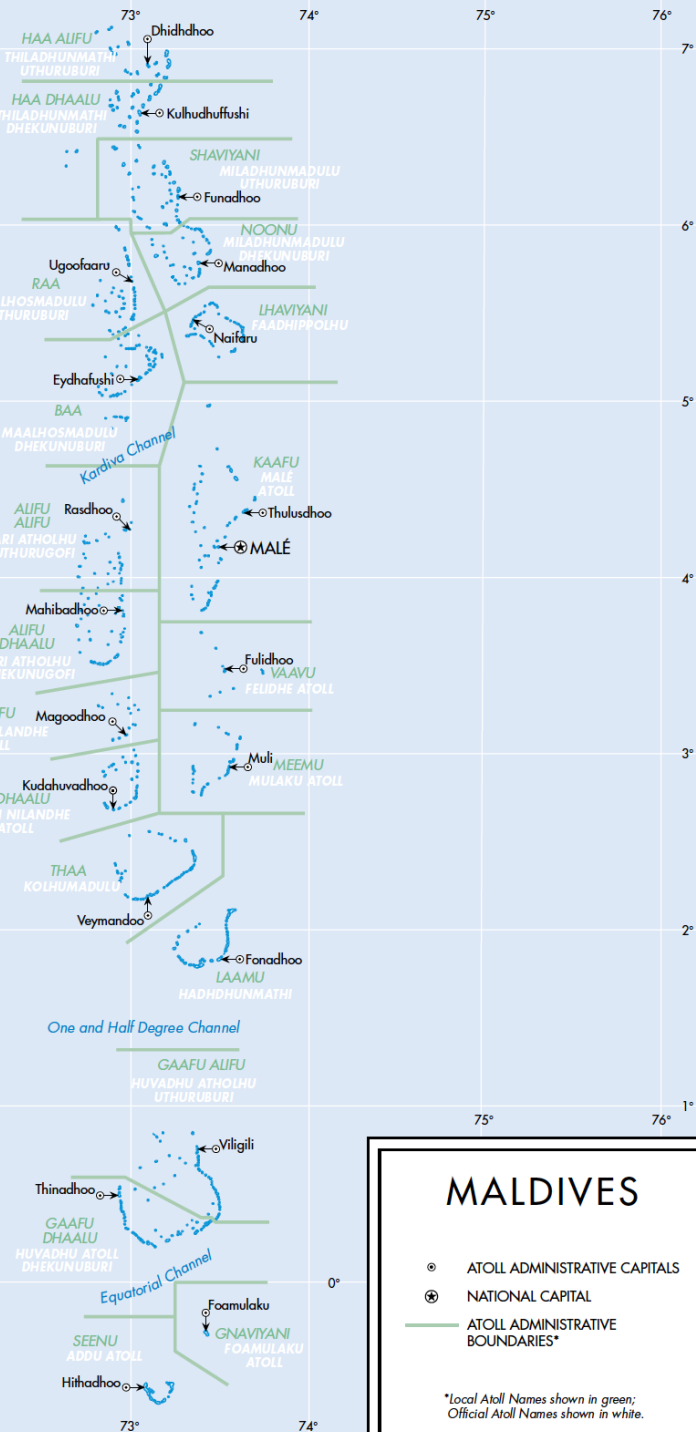
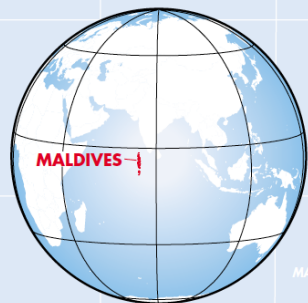
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The World Bank Group

Study Questions

1. What context and institutions underlie gender differentials?
2. How do gender differentials manifest in relations between men and women in the private sphere of the household?
3. How do gender differentials manifest in the interaction between men and women in the public sphere of society, economy, and politics?
4. What do recent trends say about the future of gender equality in Maldives

Quantitative & Qualitative Data

- Analysis of surveys and census data
 - Maldivian government statistics
 - Demographic and Health Surveys
 - Household Income and Expenditure Survey, World Bank
 - Statistics from other international organizations
- Analysis of data and findings from reports
 - ADB gender analysis
 - Maldivian government policy and program reports
 - Maldivian Human Rights Commission
 - Other Maldivian NGOs and international organizations
- Primary qualitative data
 - Key informant interviews: 33 individuals from 16 organizations
 - 2 Focus Group Discussions: young people, owners of resorts
 - Maldives and Washington DC



Maldives: Basic facts

Geography

- 1000 islands in the Indian ocean
- Land area < 300 square km
- 1/3rd population lives in Male in 2 km²

Demography

- 340,000 population
- 50% of population < 25 years of age
- Sex ratio (M:F) = 101.4
- Life expectancy (M/F) = 78.8/76.7

Economy

- GDP annual avg growth rate: 3.7%
- Current GNI p.c.: US 10,799
- Non-inclusive development
 - Between Male & atolls
 - Across sectors
- Macroeconomic, fiscal challenges

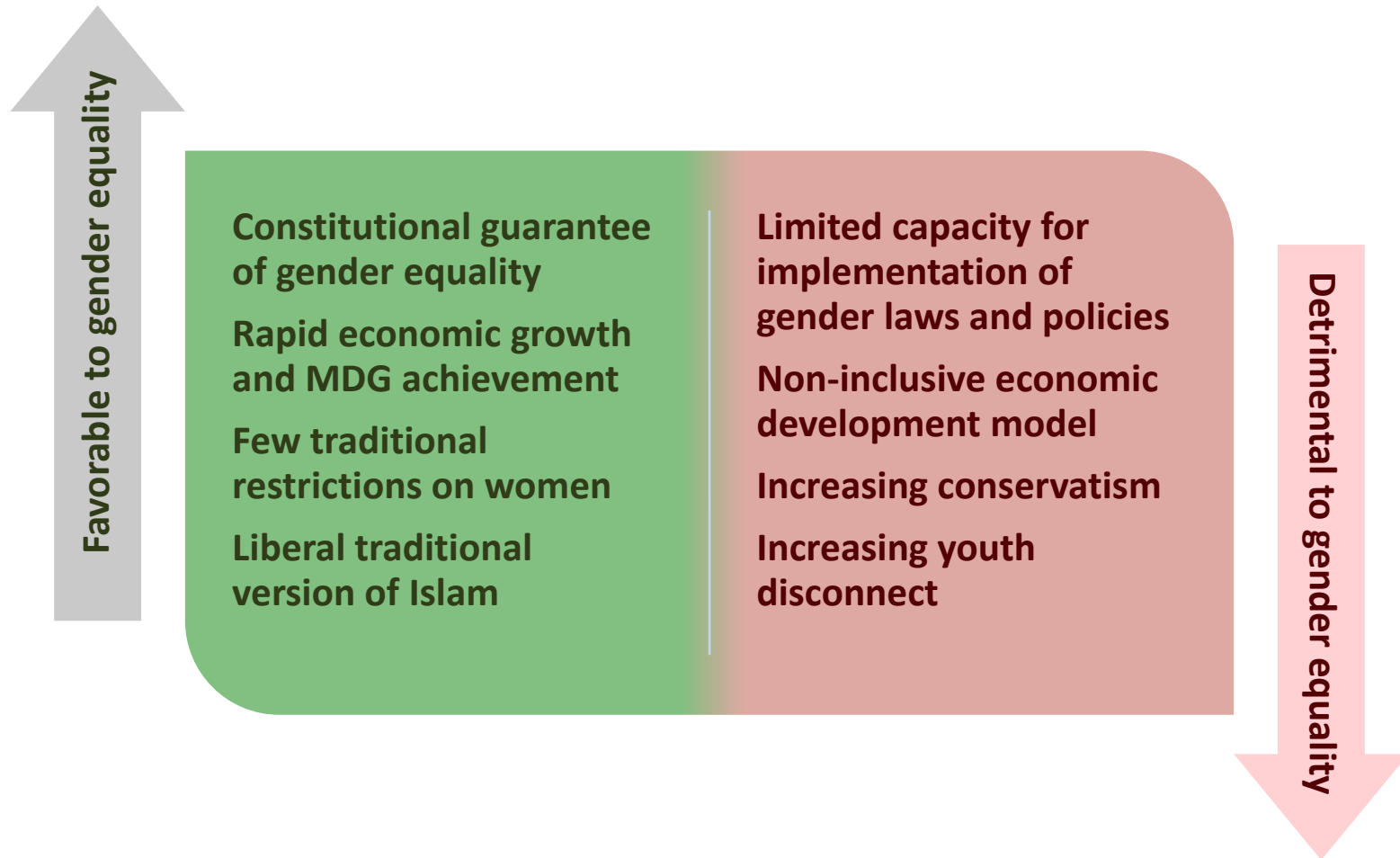
MALDIVES

- ⊙ ATOLL ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITALS
- ⊕ NATIONAL CAPITAL
- ATOLL ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES*

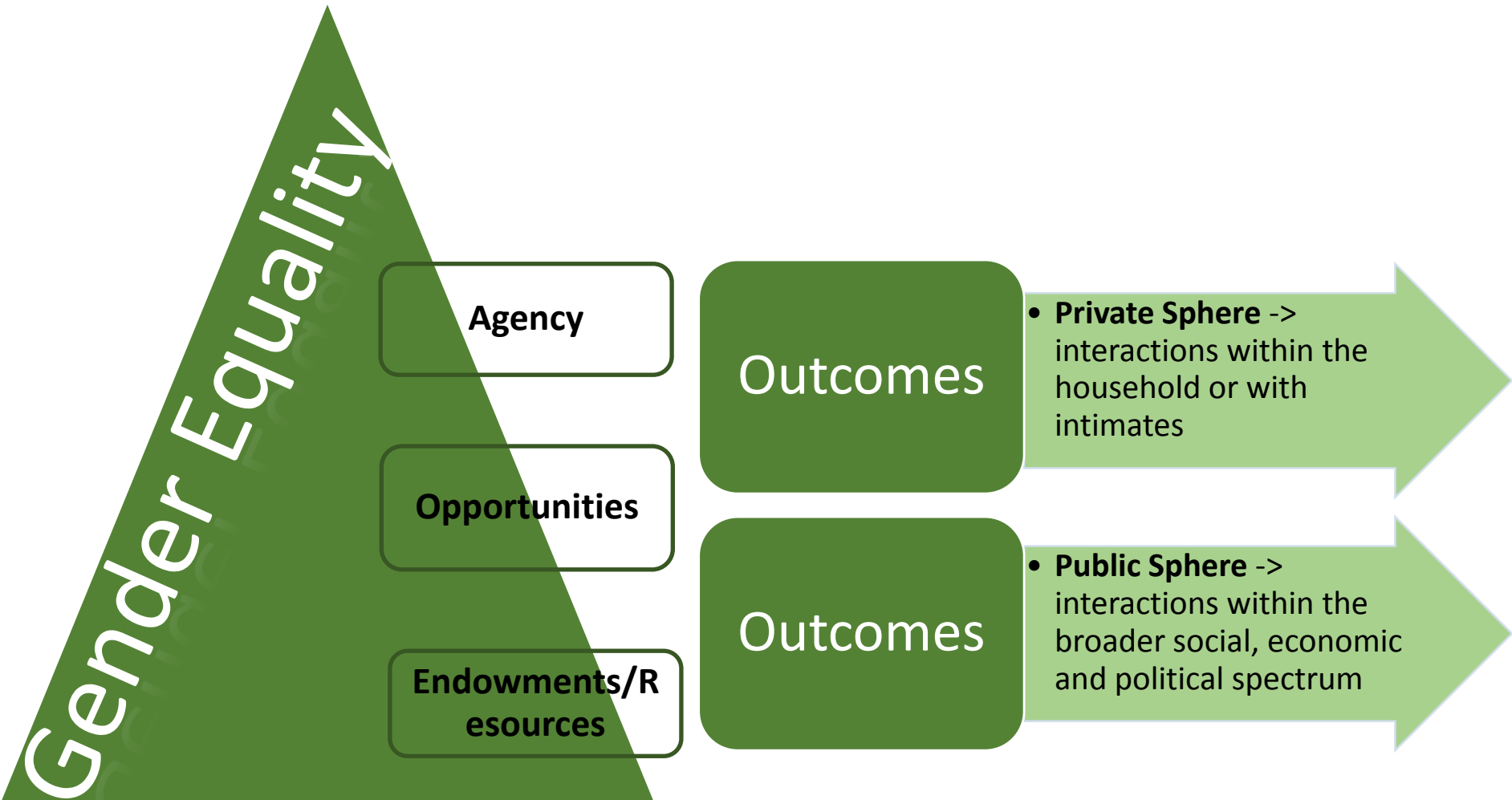
*Local Atoll Names shown in green;
Official Atoll Names shown in white.

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Social-Cultural-Economic-Political Context

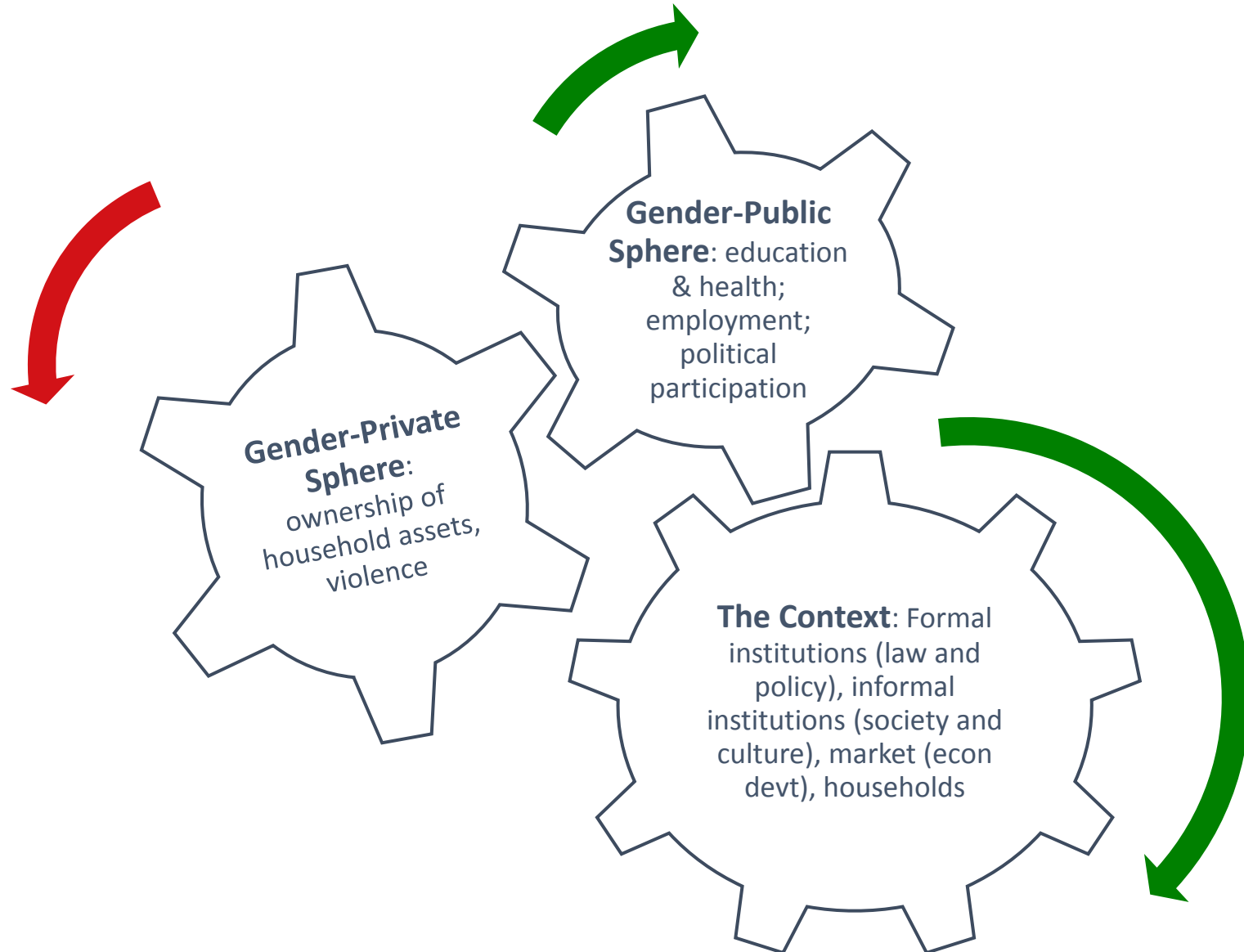


Gender Equality in Maldives Unpacked



Influenced by and influence broader context

Gender and Growth: An Interlinked System

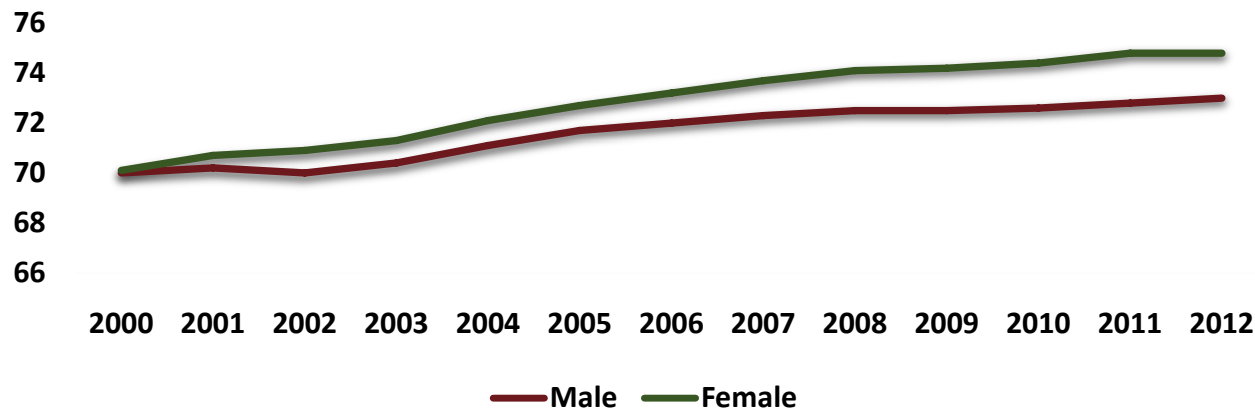


What are the Patterns of Gender Equality in Maldives?



Gender Equality in Basic Wellbeing

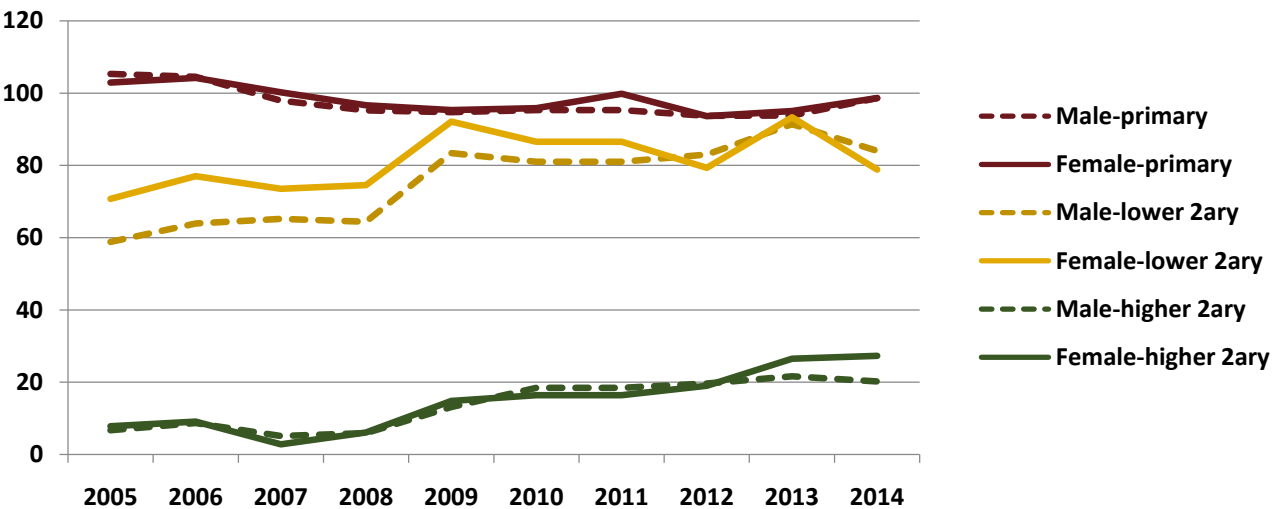
Life Expectancy by Gender in the Maldives



- Success story in South Asia

- No son preference

- Gender equality in survival and schooling



However... MDG 3 to support gender equality is not yet achieved



- 1) Female disadvantage: private and public spheres
- 2) Youth: gendered constraints for women *and* men
- 3) Decline over time in support for gender equality

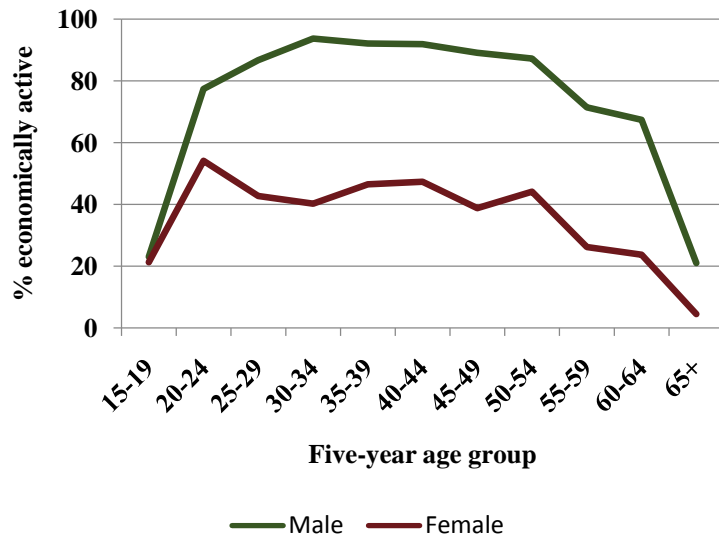
Gender inequality remains an important axis of social exclusion



Gender Inequality: Public Sphere

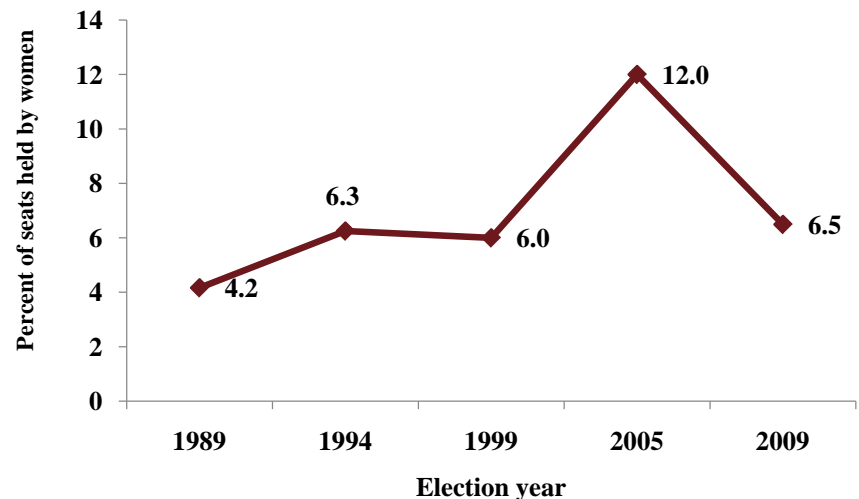
Women's economic participation

- Less likely to be employed than men: 47.6% vs 79.7%
- Average female wages lag behind those of men
- Less access to pension than men



Women's political participation

- 5.1% of city representatives
- 0.5% of atoll representatives
- Maldives 128th of 190 countries in female parliament representation



Areas of Disadvantage for Young Women

Societal expectations

- Mobility constraints for postsecondary schooling and training: **1/3rd** of scholarships to young women
- Household responsibilities: **13%** cite as reason for not working vs. 1% of men

Opportunities

- Limited opportunities in high growth sectors: **almost 0% in fisheries and tourism**
- Currently (2009) neither working nor in school: **27%** vs. 20% of young men

Agency and voice

- Less say than young men in marital partner: **36%** vs. 58% for young men
- Ages 25-29 have highest rates of lifetime partner violence (**30%**)

Rural disadvantage

- Sex ratio of current inactivity higher in rural than urban areas (**60% vs 16%**)
- Least likely to have say in marriage partner (**33%** vs. 40% for urban women; over 50% for urban and rural men)

Areas of Disadvantage for Young Men

Gang participation

- Mostly young men under the age of **25 years**
- 2012: **20-30 gangs in Male**; 40-500 members in each
- **Violence**: inter-personal, political and business-related

Substance abuse

- Tobacco use: **47%** of men, 12% of women
- Drug abuse: **6%** total, mostly men
- **68%** of youth identify drugs as major problem for young men

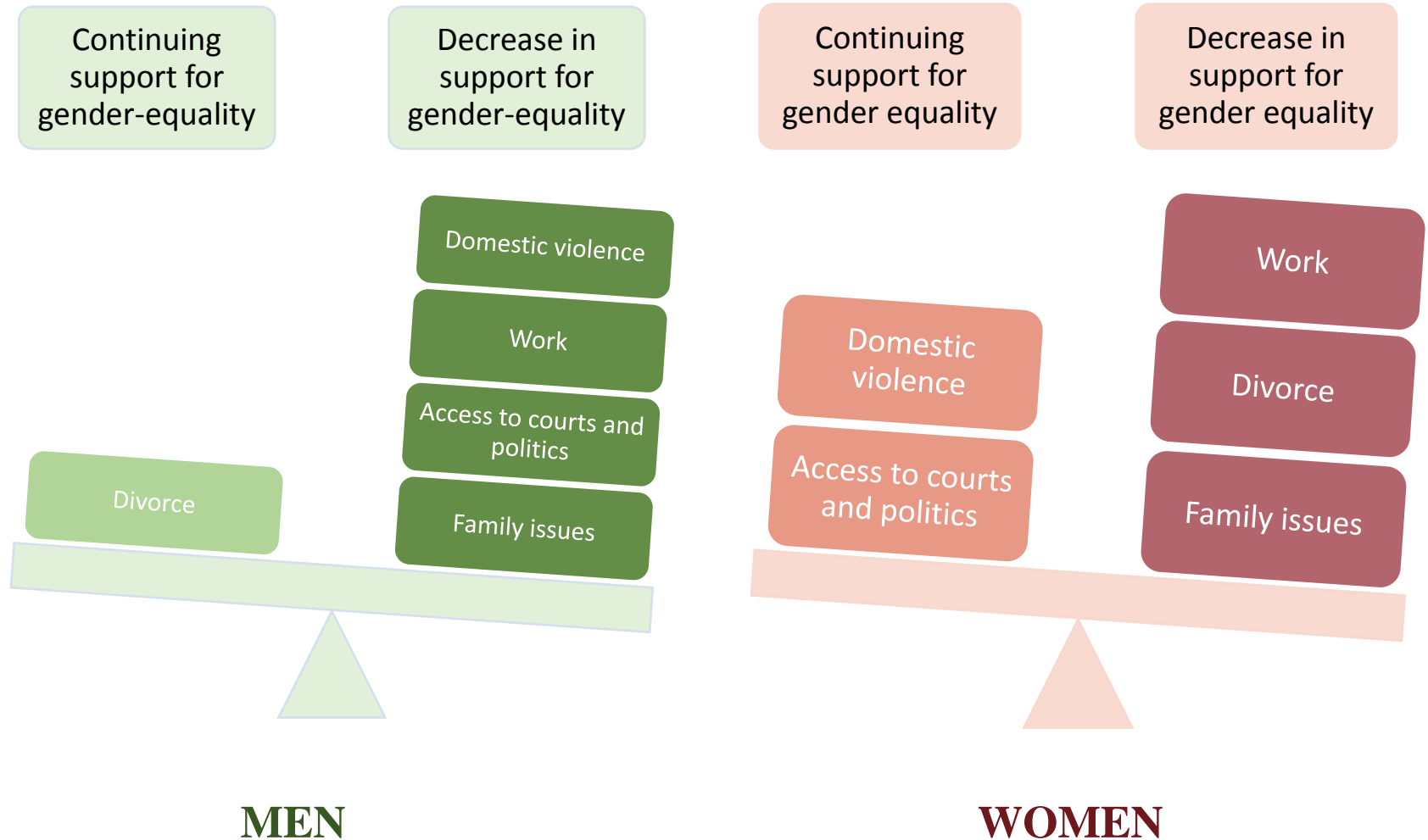
Unemployment

- Ages 15-19: **44%** of men vs. 27% of women
- Ages 20-24: **23%** of men vs. 20% of women

Societal disconnect

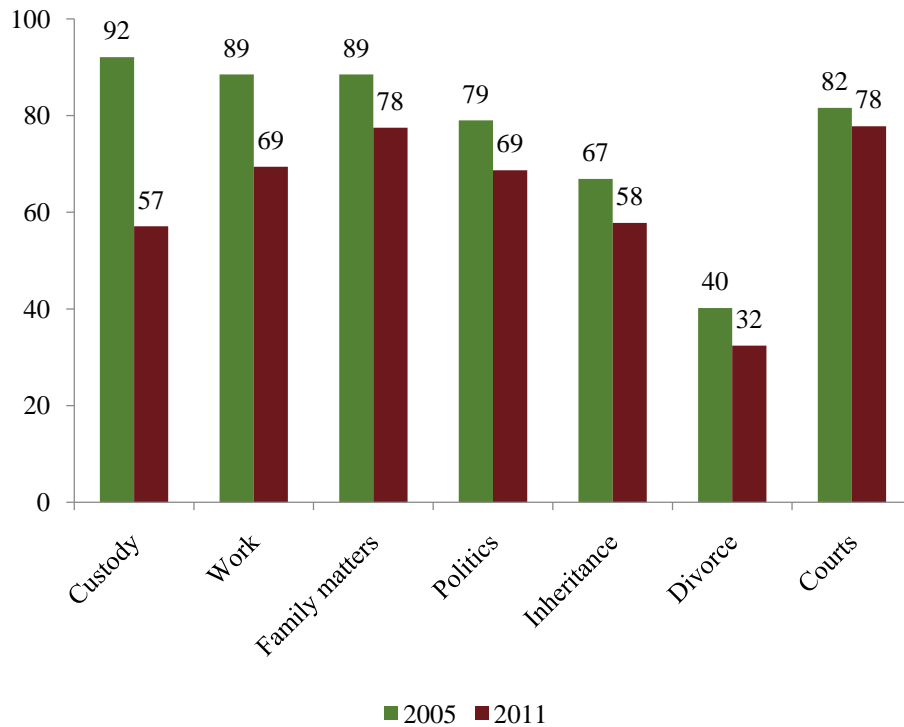
- Disconnect between aspirations and existing opportunities

Tilt Away From Gender Equality: 2005-11

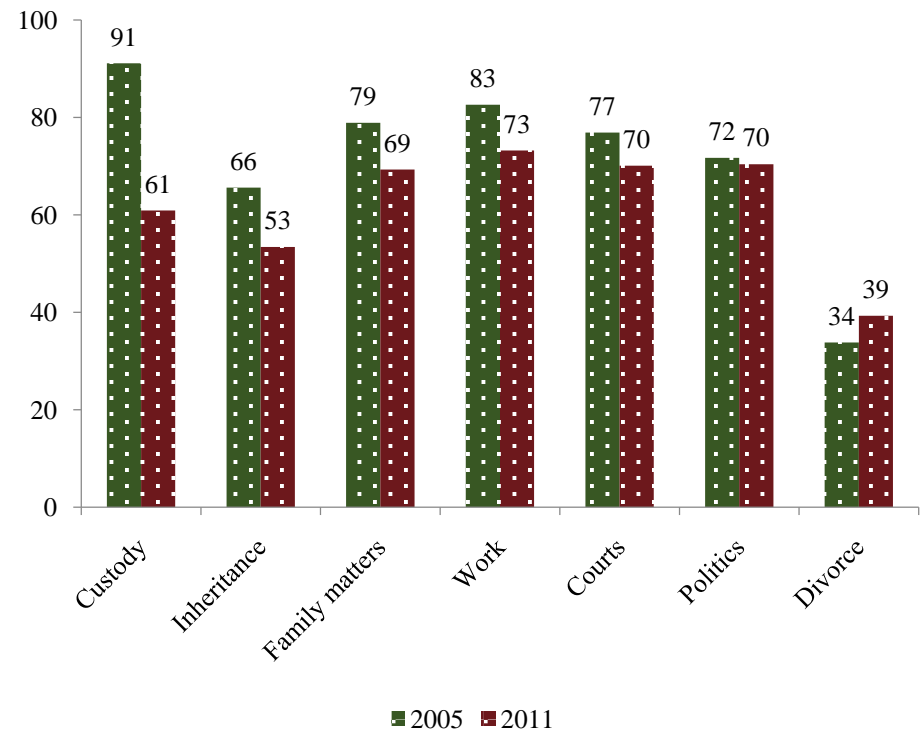


Decline in Support for Women's Rights

RURAL



URBAN



What Next?

- Engage women
 - Opportunities in tourism and fisheries: social norms, child care
 - Technical and skills-based education: social norms, mobility, residential possibilities
 - Build on traditional gender egalitarian norms to resist growing inegalitarian attitudes
- Engage youth
 - The future of the country, the bulk of the country
 - High aspirations + limited engagement & opportunities = social tension
 - Harness power of educated, eager, energetic youth
 - Technical education
 - Work with youth to narrow gap between aspirations and reality
 - Work with employers, parents, educators to change attitudes towards youth
- Strengthen government capacity to mainstream gender
- Improve data on gender concerns
 - Cannot assess progress without data
 - Cannot measure extent of inequality without data
 - Data particularly limited on social exclusion

Achieved tremendous gains in basic wellbeing – build on them

Thank you



Report can be accessed at:

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/24118>