



CSW66 PARALLEL SESSION

21 March 5pm ET // 22 March 8am AEDT & SBT

Accelerating women's economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data



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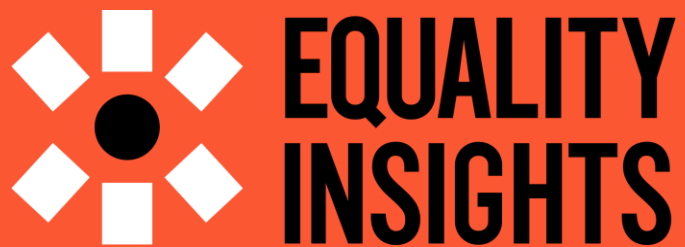
KIM ROBERTSON

The Pacific
Community (SPC)



CHRIS RYAN

UNESCAP



Accelerating women's economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data

CSW 66

22 March 2022

Understand Poverty.
Inspire Change.

Joanne Crawford Special Adviser, Equality Insights



Overview

- Why strengthening economic pathways to empowerment need a focus on systems
- How data makes it more difficult to see systemic impacts
- What can we do to improve outcomes by improving data
- The role of gender-sensitive measurement of poverty and inequality in revealing barriers to inform change



- 'Women's economic empowerment' initiatives often focus on individual women.
- But many barriers women face are systemic and structural.
- Systemic change requires bringing visibility to the diversity of women's lives

**SYSTEMS AND
STRUCTURES
SHAPE
INDIVIDUAL LIVES**



Data gaps slow gender equality

- Numerous priorities and finite resources make evidence of scope and scale vital
- Individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional poverty data can help to reveal the barriers facing individuals and how these vary.
- Connecting policy to people's lived experience matters for effectiveness and legitimacy.



MIND THE GAP



Measuring the poverty of households hides who experiences it

SDG Indicator 1.1.1.: Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)

COVID-19 has led to the first rise in extreme poverty in a generation.

*“The estimates presented so far are based on rich **household survey data** available at most until 2018 leaving a considerable uncertainty over the state of global poverty in more recent years.”*

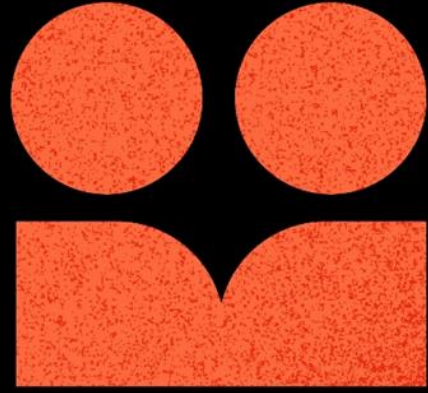
The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021



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AN ADDITIONAL
119 - 124
MILLION
PEOPLE WERE PUSHED
INTO EXTREME POVERTY
IN 2020





RELATIONSHIPS

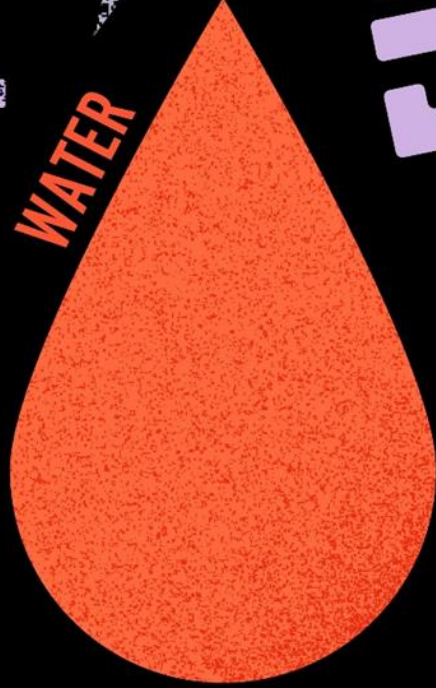


FAMILY PLANNING

HEALTH



WATER

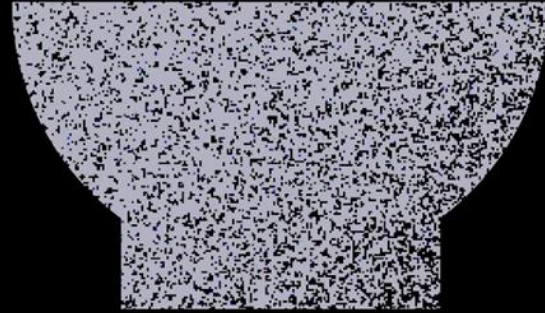


ENERGY

SAFETY



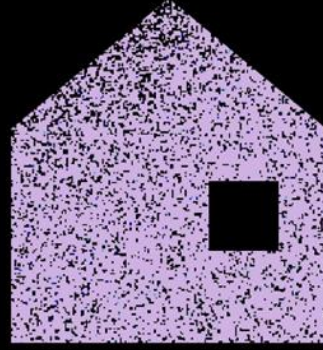
FOOD



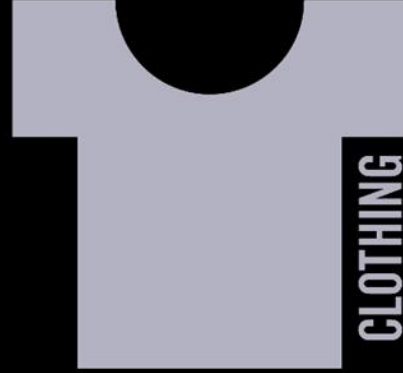
ENVIRONMENT



SHELTER



CLOTHING



WORK

TIME-USE



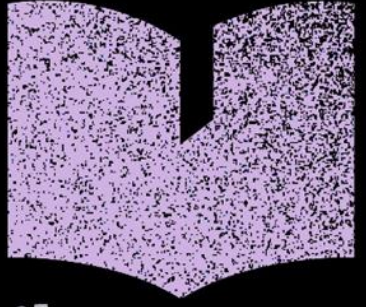
SANITATION



VOICE



EDUCATION



A new approach to measuring poverty



Purpose-built survey



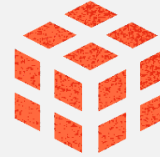
Grounded in participation



Individual-level sampling strategy



Gender-fit data



Multidimensional



Gender-sensitive



Scalar



Intersectional



Within household

Economic empowerment

'Economic empowerment' comprises two inter-related components:

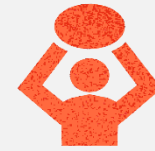
1. economic advancement and
2. economic-related power and agency.

Equality Insights collects information relevant to both

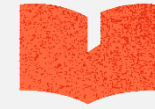
- Economic advancement can be measured by opportunities to engage in paid work (which are influenced by education and time use)
- Power and agency can be measured by voice in the household and public domain
- These influence asset ownership and control



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WORK



EDUCATION



VOICE



TIME USE



ASSETS

Adapting to COVID-19

Equality Insights *Rapid*

- Data collection needs to adapt to the pandemic context
- Gendered poverty data is vital to understand impacts and focus recovery efforts
- *Rapid* developed as a brief, and robust survey that addresses the COVID context
 - in its implementation
 - in its outcome
- A 'red-flag tool' to highlight where deprivation is concentrated
- Data collection anticipated April/May 2022

Equality Insights Rapid

14 Year History

14 year history of foundational work that established the conceptual frame and the survey tool for *Equality Insights Rapid*.

Technical

A robust, complementary measure of poverty and inequality that makes the gendered aspects of this experience visible.

Normative

Shift understandings of data adequacy, both in what gets measured (multidimensional) and in how it gets measured (individual-level, gender-sensitive).



Towards systemic change

- There are significant direct and opportunity costs to collecting data that is gender insensitive by design.
- These costs have been normalised to the point of invisibility.
- Making them visible is part of the change process
- Money spent on gender unaware data is money not available to support gender transformative data.
- Shifting standards about what constitutes adequate data will accelerate the availability of gender data and gender equality.



**GENDER DATA
CAN SUPPORT
SYSTEMIC
CHANGE**



ACCELERATING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: THE ROLE OF GENDER- SENSITIVE POVERTY DATA

Asia-Pacific regional gender
data and statistics ecosystem

21st March 2022

By Chris Ryan
Statistician
ESCAP Pacific Office

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SDG PROGRESS REPORT 2022

Widening disparities amid COVID-19

The Pacific

[Link to SDG Progress Report](https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2022)

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2022>

[Link to SDG Gateway](https://data.unescap.org/)

<https://data.unescap.org/>

The Pacific

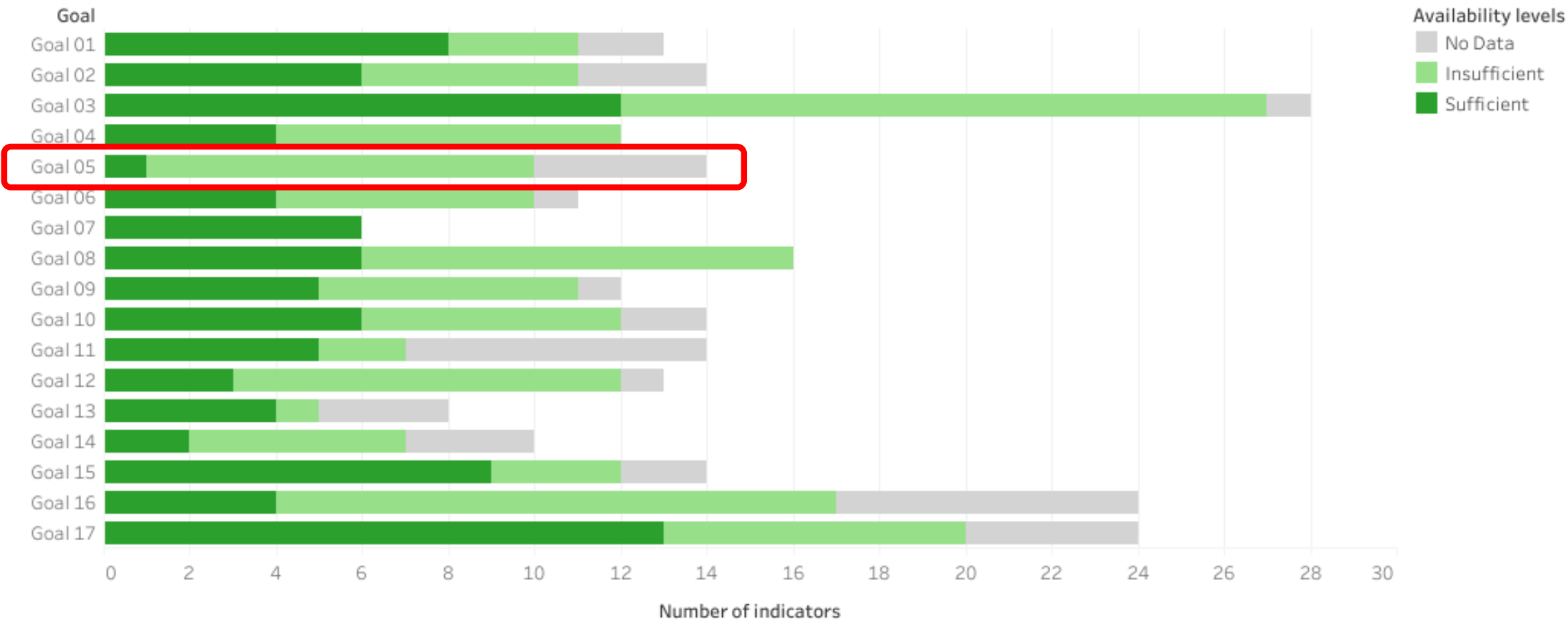
Progress in 2022



SDGs – Data availability by Goal

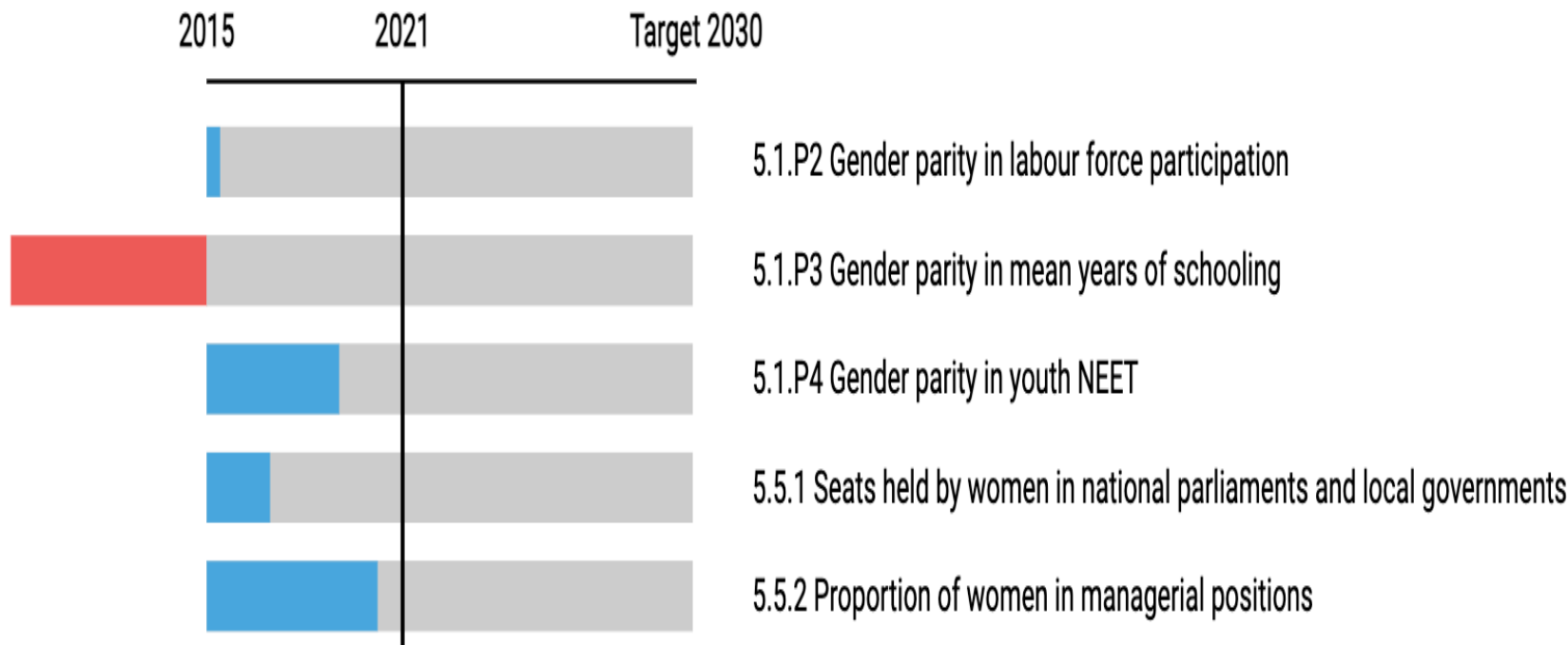
Pacific 2022

Pacific availability by Goal in 2021



SDG Progress – Selected Indicators

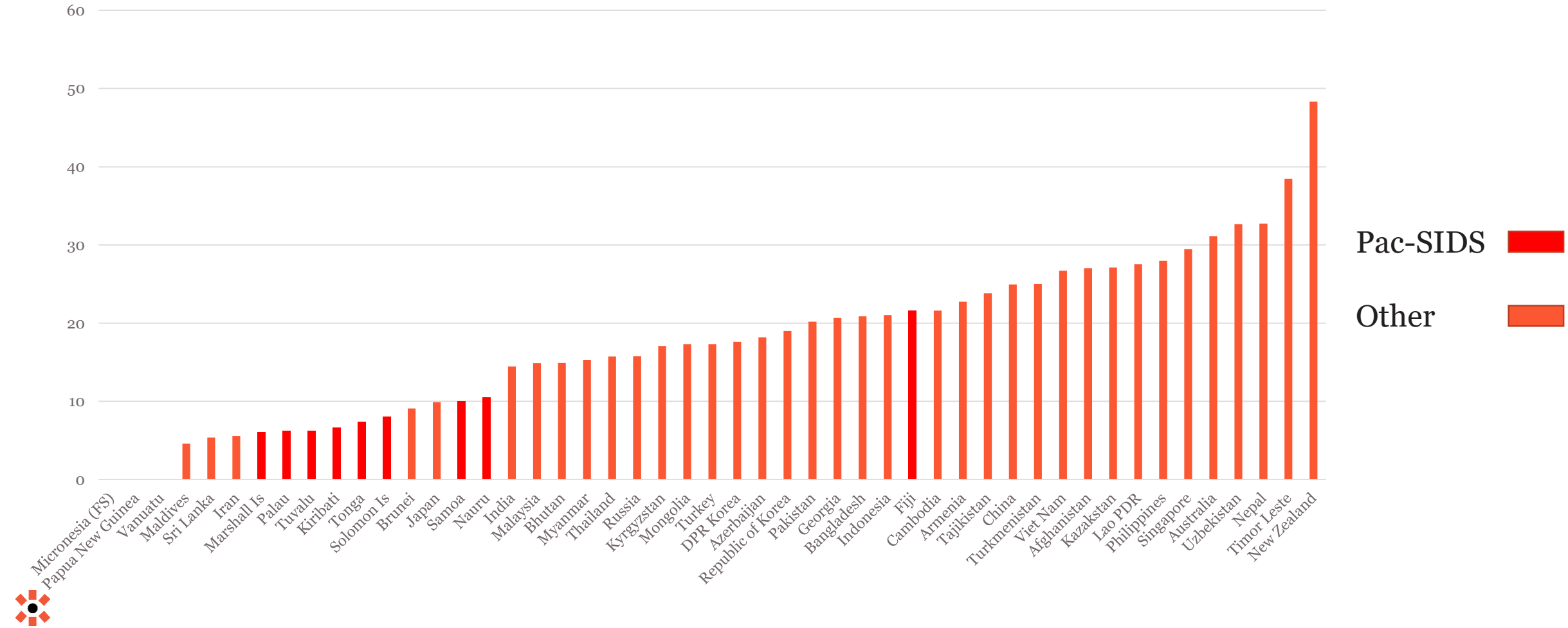
Pacific 2022



SDG Progress – Selected Indicators

5.5.1: Seats held by women in parliament - Pacific SIDS v Asia

Seats held by women in National Parliament (% of seats), 2021



SDG Progress – Selected Countries

5.5.2: Women share in employment – managerial positions

Country	Time Point 1		Time Point 2		Increase
Cook Is	36.1	2001	59.8	2019	23.7
Fiji	27.2	2004	38.9	2016	11.7
Kiribati	27.3	2005	37.2	2015	9.9
Palau	26.8	2000	29.9	2014	3.1
Tonga	26.6	2003	41.6	2018	15
Tuvalu	24.6	2002	35.9	2016	11.3
Vanuatu	16.0	2006	22.1	2010	6.1
Samoa	28.5	2001	43.1	2017	14.6



THANK YOU

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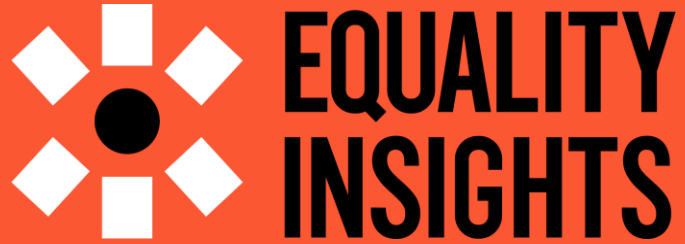


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Accelerating women's economic empowerment: the role of gender-sensitive poverty data

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Understand Poverty.
Inspire Change.

Data for insight and action

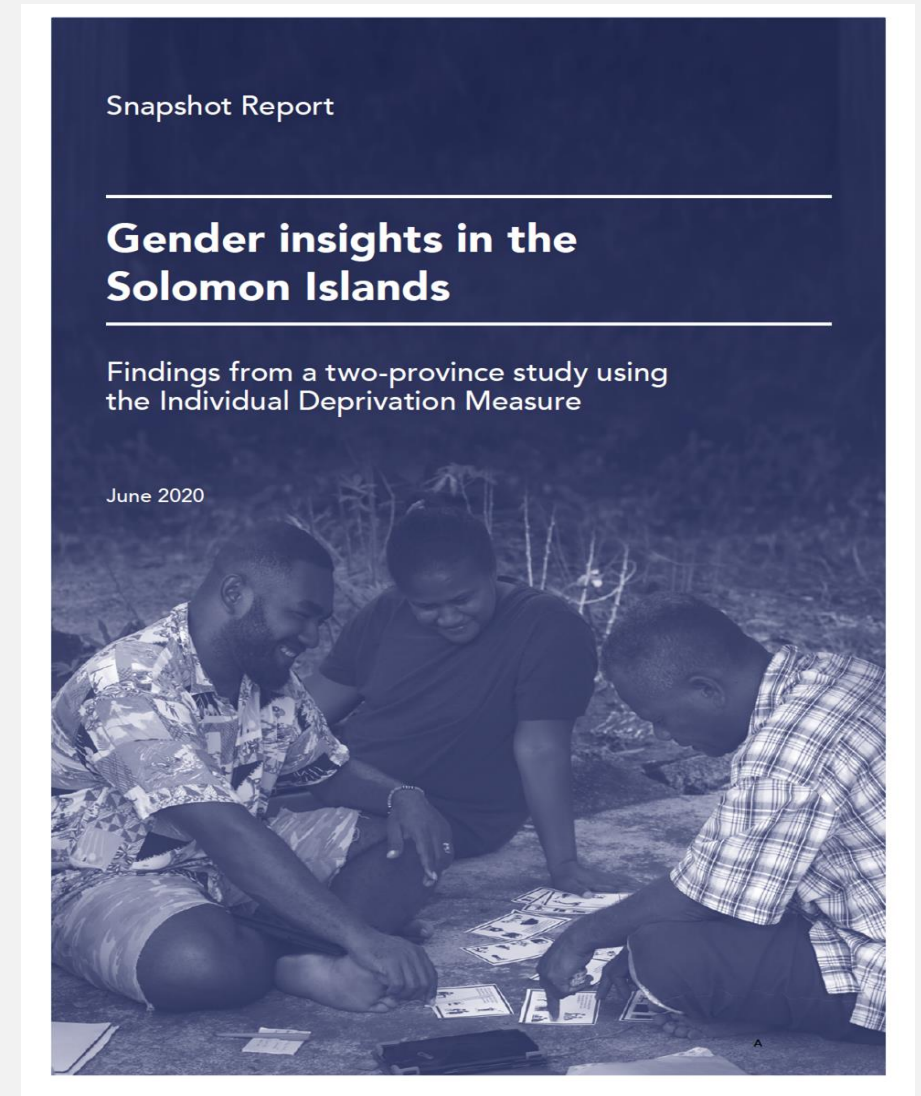
Individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional data about poverty and inequality:

- Illuminates inequalities, and associated barriers to help target efforts
- Shows who is most affected, in what ways and to what extent
- Without disaggregated data it is more difficult to
 - ✓ Act
 - ✓ Prioritize gender equality
 - ✓ Allocate needed resources
 - ✓ Mainstream gender



Data for insight and action

- Data collected March to April 2020, in two provinces of the Solomon Islands
- 1862 respondents from 849 households, equal numbers of men and women
- Aim: To gain insights into the economic, social, political, and environmental dimensions of the lives of men and women in Central and Guadalcanal provinces.



Economic empowerment

'Economic empowerment' comprises two inter-related components:

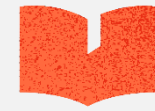
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Equality Insights collects information relevant to both

- Economic advancement can be measured by opportunities to engage in paid work (which are influenced by education and time use)
- Power and agency can be measured by voice in the household and public domain (which influence asset ownership and control)



WORK



EDUCATION



VOICE



TIME USE



ASSETS





Education

- More women (40%) than men (24%) were 'most deprived' in educational attainment
- More men (10%) than women (8%) were 'most deprived' in functional skills (field literacy and numeracy tests)
- Education deprivation increased with age
- The gender gap increased at each age group

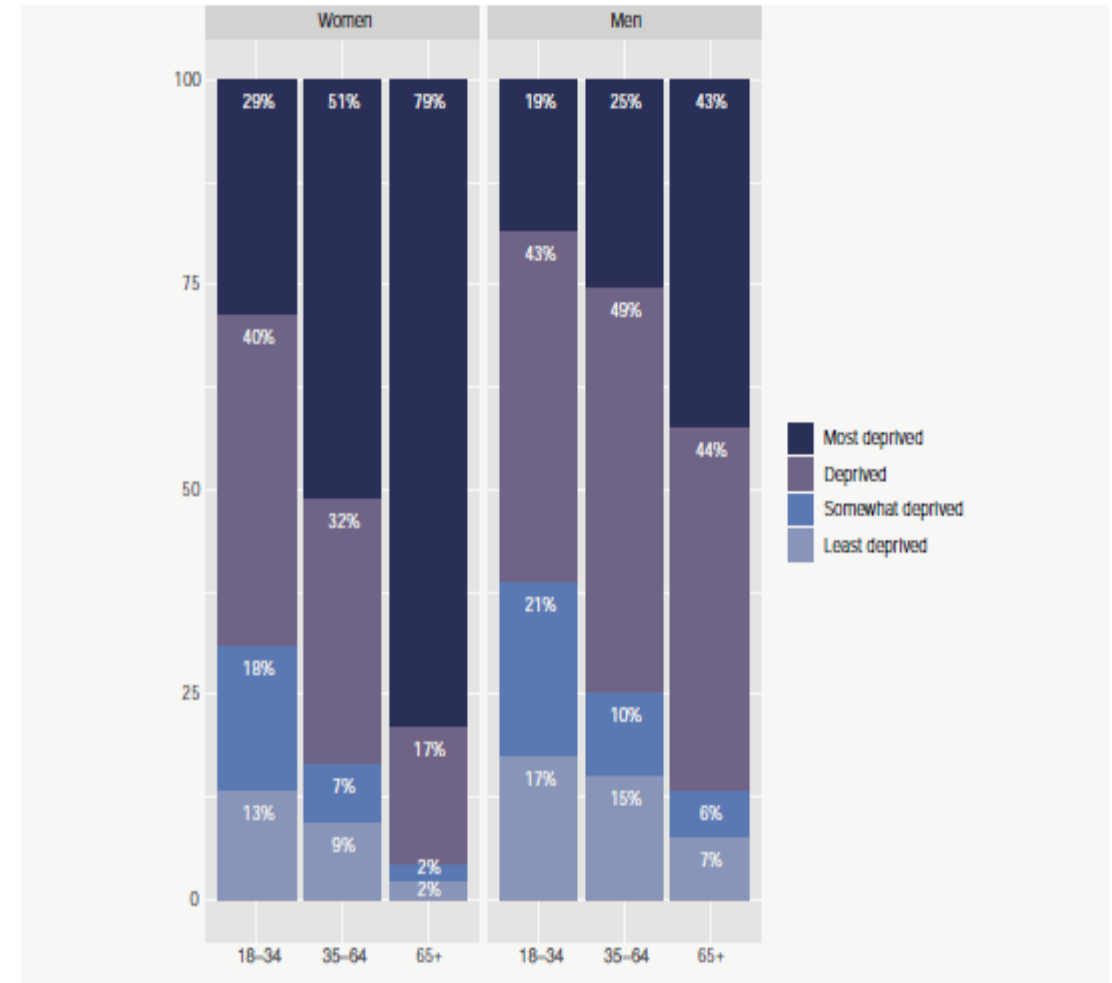


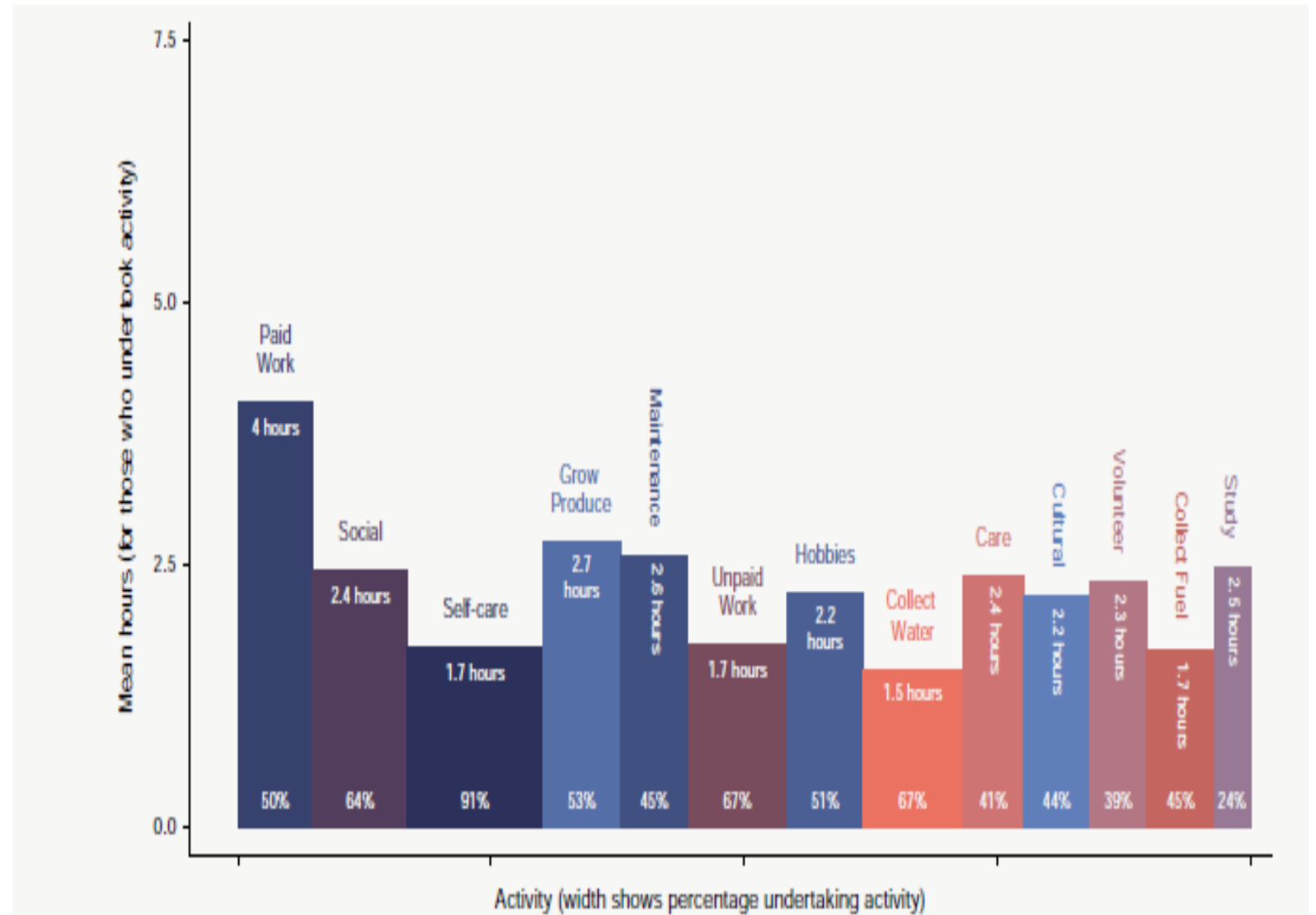
Figure 68. Percentage of men and women in each category of education deprivation by age group





Time use: men

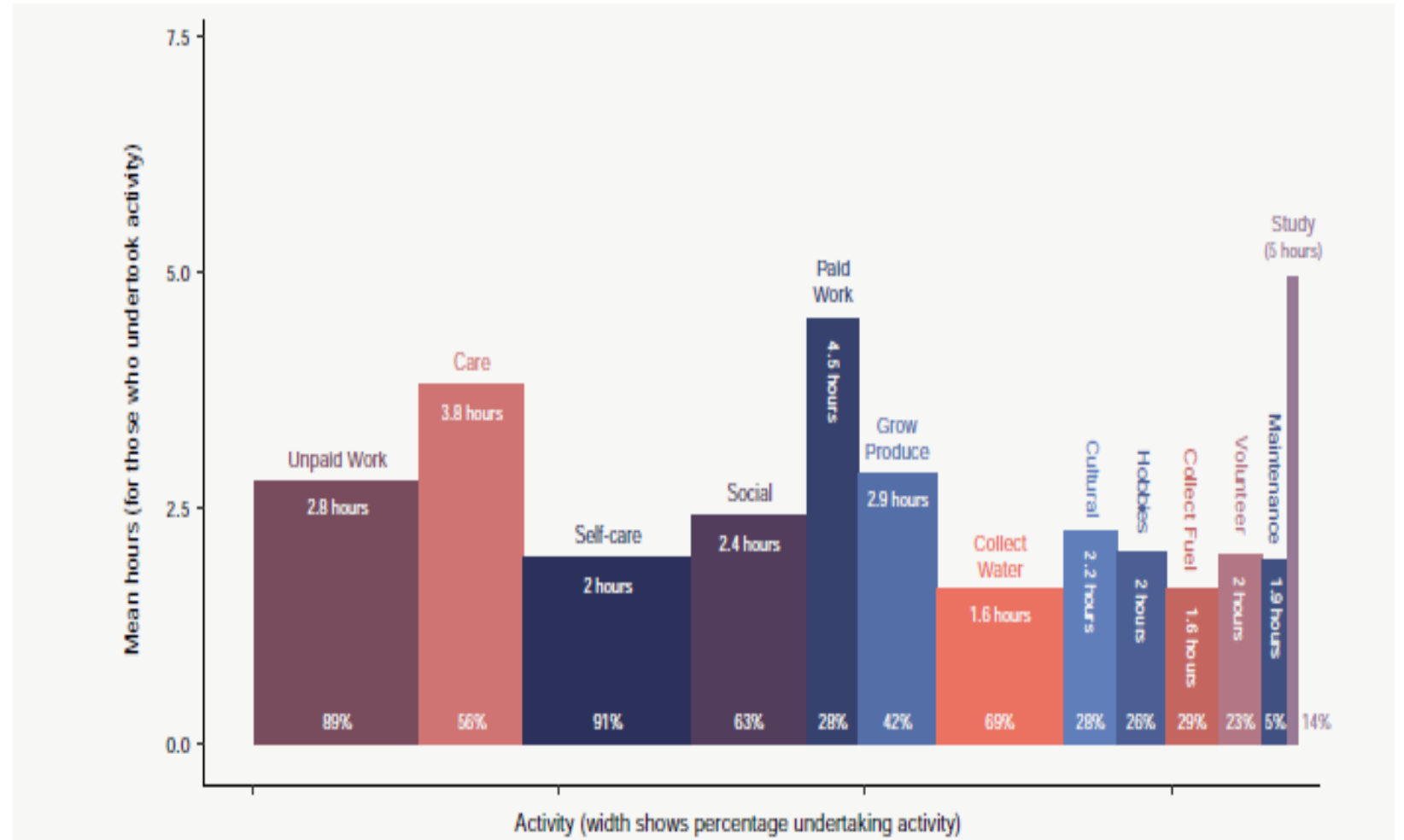
- Primary activities undertaken by men during waking hours were paid work
- Followed by socialising and self-care





Time use: women

- Primary activities undertaken by women during waking hours were unpaid work, followed by care work
- Women were far more likely to have a child in their care while doing other activities





Paid work and unpaid care work

- Women spent more time on unpaid work and care than men, regardless of paid work status
- On average, women spent 2 more hours on unpaid domestic work and care than men
- **Women** without paid work spent 38 more minutes on unpaid domestic work and care than women in paid work
- **Men** without paid work spent 6 more minutes on unpaid domestic work and care than men in paid work

Gender	Paid work status	Mean hours of unpaid work and care
Women	Paid work	4 hours 31 minutes
	No paid work	5 hours 9 minutes
Men	Paid work	2 hours 42 minutes
	No paid work	2 hours 48 minutes

Voice

- Voice revealed some of the largest gender differences
- More women (34%) than men (19%) were in the lowest two categories of deprivation, with little voice in public or household domains
 - And significantly more men (23%) than women (11%) were in the least deprived category
- More men than women had sole decision making power over household finances, large purchases, duration of their work, duration of their study and social commitments

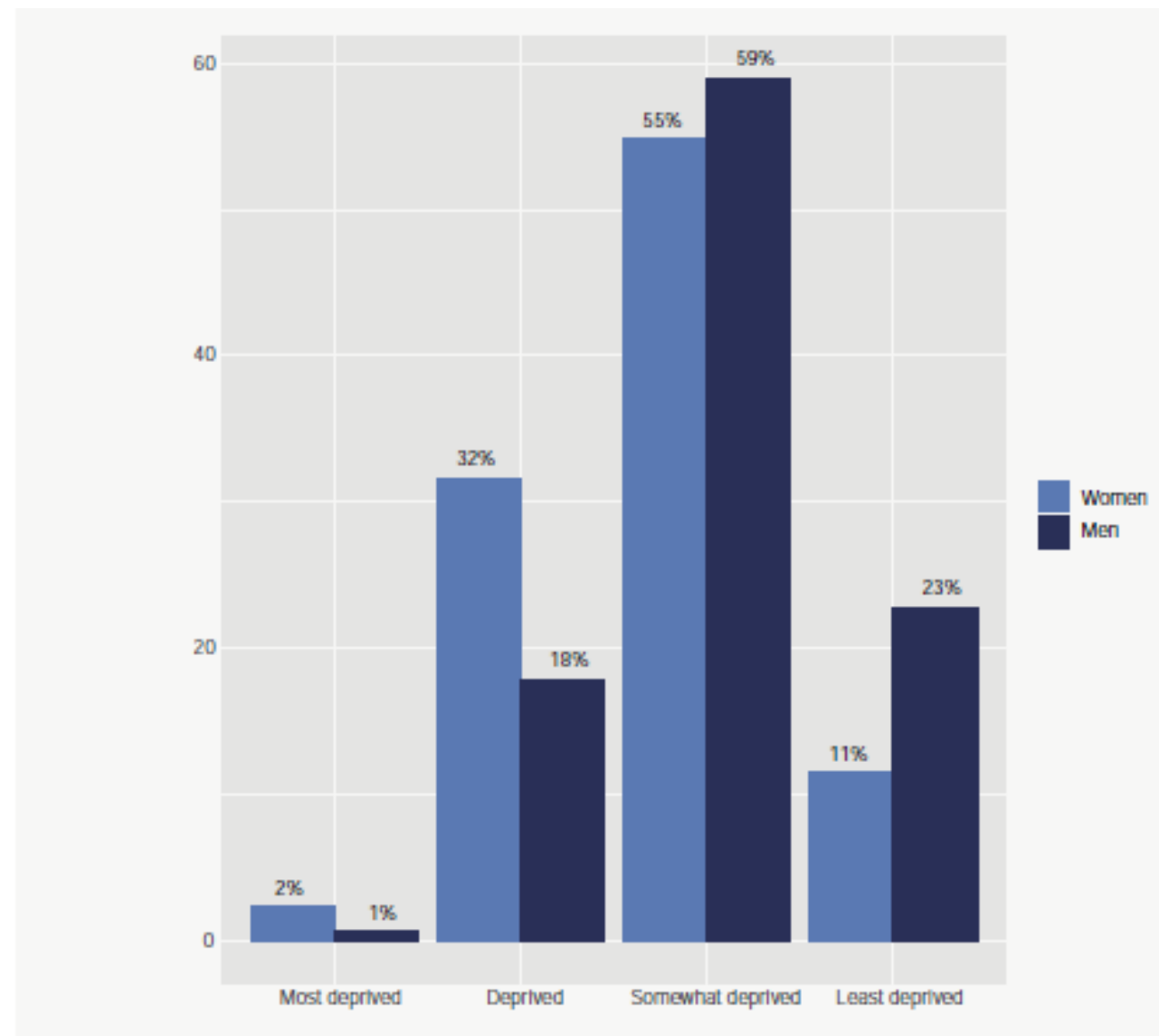


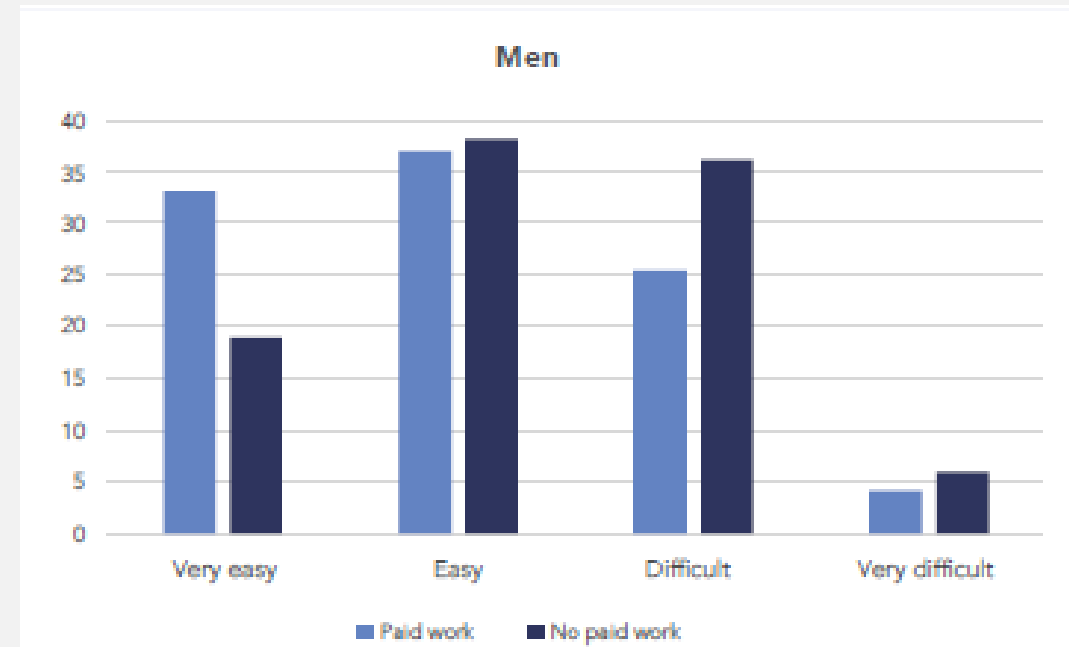
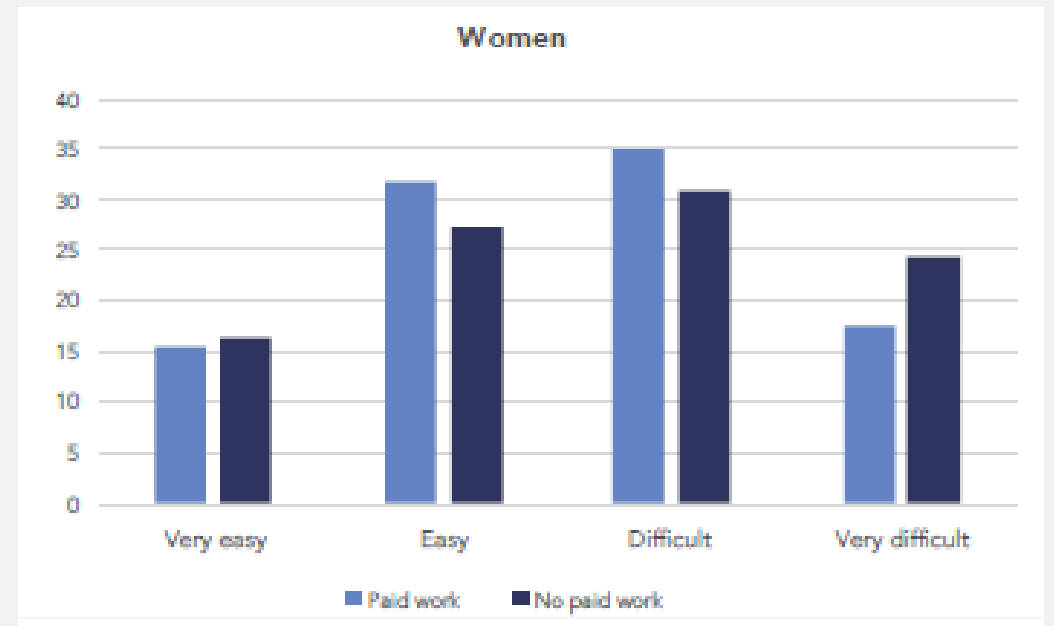
Figure 53. Percentage of men and women in each category of voice deprivation





Voice and paid work

- Paid work had a large impact on men's perceived ease of raising concerns
- Men engaged in paid work were significantly more likely to say raising concerns at the local level was very easy, than men not in paid work
- Women in paid work were more likely to say raising issues in public was 'difficult' than 'very easy'
- Women who did not engage in paid work were more likely to say raising concerns was very difficult, relative to those in paid work
- This finding points to the relevance of other factors such as discriminatory gender norms



Different lives, different options

Differences in women's and men's lives influence patterns of asset ownership

Men were more likely to own:

- Assets tied to productive activities
- Transport-related assets, with implications for time-use
- Assets relevant to participating in business activities, e.g. mobile phone, computer, internet connection, and general business equipment
- Radios and TV, for accessing information

The only asset owned by more **women** than men was a sewing machine

Assets relevant to participation in economic activities - percent ownership by men and women

Cellphone	Own by myself	Men	54
		Women	38
	Own with others	Men	1
		Women	3
Business equipment	Own by myself	Men	8
		Women	3
	Own with others	Men	2
		Women	3
Computer	Own by myself	Men	7
		Women	5
	Own with others	Men	1
		Women	3
Internet connection	Own by myself	Men	2
		Women	0
	Own with others	Men	0
		Women	0





Land/dwelling ownership

- Nearly the same number of men (64%) and women (62%) said that they owned the dwelling at which the interview took place
- But far more men (74%) than women (26%) owned the dwelling alone

Assets relevant to land and housing ownership

Dwelling	Own	Men	64	Same
		Women	62	
	Owned alone	Men	74	Big gap
		Women	26	
	Owned with others	Men	26	
		Women	74	
Land	Own	Men	42	gender gap
		Women	34	
	Owned alone	Men	28	bigger gap
		Women	12	
	Owned with others	Men	72	
		Women	88	

Supporting data use

- Data needs to be used to make a difference
- Linking data producers and users supports data relevance and use
- Solomon Islands Steering Committee brought together Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, the National Statistics Office, relevant line departments, and CSOs



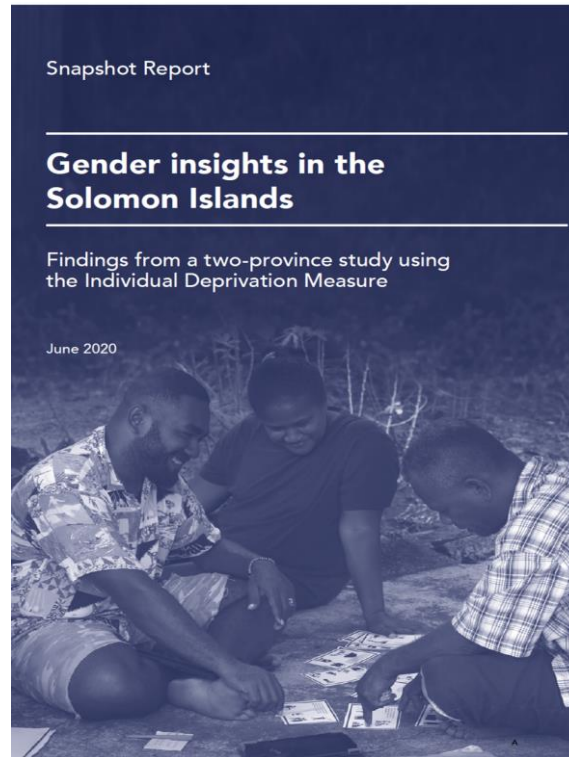
Gender data is vital for COVID-19 recovery

- COVID-19 has underlined the importance of disaggregated data
- The Solomon Islands Government's COVID-19 priority is recovery
- Comprehensive, disaggregated, gender-sensitive data is crucial to support a more gender-equal recovery
- Which is why we advocated for further data collection in Solomon Islands
- Looking forward to having *Equality Insights Rapid* data in the next few months

**GENDER DATA
FOR GENDER
RESPONSIVE
RECOVERY**

For more Solomon Islands findings

Equality Insights Website: <https://equalityinsights.org/resources/>





**EQUALITY
INSIGHTS**

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Director & Founder,
Dignity Pasifik



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Gender data context in the Solomon Islands

Lack of gender data, limited focus on gender indicators since Independence in 1978

Consequences can include

- Filling knowledge gaps with assumptions and stereotypes
- Relying on gender norms
- Using out-of-date information
- Ignoring differences eg between urban/rural, or younger/older women

Gender data gaps hinder progress on gender inequality, limiting evidence for policy development and advocacy



Showing what is possible

Data collected by *Dignity Pasifik* in Central and Guadalcanal Provinces in 2020 confirmed the value of individual-level, gender-sensitive, multidimensional data

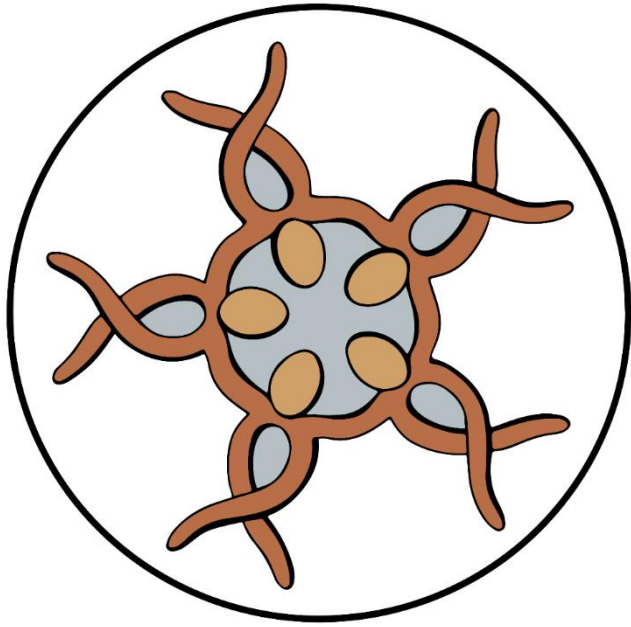
Revealing inequalities, the multiple and interconnected barriers experienced by particular groups, to enable targeted advocacy and action



Making the invisible visible

- Prior to 2020, little information about gender dynamics inside households and implications for options and opportunities
- Understanding differences inside households provides a more complete understanding of women's and men's lives, and how their circumstances vary





Dignity Pasifik:

Connecting gender data and
gender-informed data collection

Economic
empowerment



Data quality



Dignity Pasifik researchers, 2020

Establishing and growing a women-led data collection organisation

Dignity Pasifik was established in the belief that quality data collection should be operated and owned locally.

Being embedded in the community supports inclusive data and can complement “official statistics”.

Close, trusted relationships support growth



Why does this matter?

- Gender bias can influence data collection
- Women-led research firms can be a mechanism for closing gender data gaps
- Employing single mothers, young women, and women and men with disabilities provides economic opportunities and wider empowerment benefits through the data collection process and can shift perceptions in the community



Next: Equality Insights *Rapid*

- The COVID context makes data about individuals' circumstances and the inter-related challenges they face even more vital
- But undertaking a phone survey in the Solomon Islands is challenging
- A story of geography, communications infrastructure, remoteness, limited mobile phone penetration
- Expect to be in the field April/May 2022
- Excited to be part of the first use of this new tool

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