



# EMPOWERED WOMEN, EMPOWERED CHILDREN

A Critical Dialogue on advancing the need for  
Women's Empowerment and Gender-  
Transformative Interventions

2 MARCH 2022





# HOUSEKEEPING RULES



This meeting is being recorded



The recording and slides will be available on WVI website and shared with all attendees



All audience members are being muted



Please type your questions in the chatbox, panel members will answer them in Q&A session



# EMPOWERED WOMEN, EMPOWERED CHILDREN

## PANEL



Michelle Higelin,  
Executive  
Director of  
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International



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Food Programme



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MENA Regional  
Economic  
Empowerment Hub  
Manager at CARE  
International



**Women were not naturally inferior to men, just appeared that way, because they weren't allowed an education**



## **A Vindication of the Rights of Woman**

*Mary Wollstonecraft*





# MAJOR FINDINGS

**NONE** of the surveyed women were found to be **EMPOWERED** on a personal, relational or environmental level across the region

**EDUCATION** is a **CRITICAL FACTOR** for women's empowerment, especially at a personal level

Displacement, living with an extended family and being married at a young age **SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITS** women's empowerment

Women's education and participation in a labour force **SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES** well-being in children, especially their health and education outcomes

Women's lack of household decision-making and exposure to GBV **DIRECTLY AFFECTS** their children's exposure to violence

Women's **ACCESS** to legal aid, civic rights and freedom of movement outside the house are associated with better educational, nutritional and protection outcomes in children

Discriminatory attitudes, acceptance of GBV and time poverty in women **ARE LINKED** to poorer educational, protection and psychosocial outcomes in children





# Ukraine



# 1,336 WOMEN

PERSONAL LEVEL

"Power from within,  
Power to"



RELATIONAL LEVEL

"Power from with,  
Power over"



ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEVEL



“

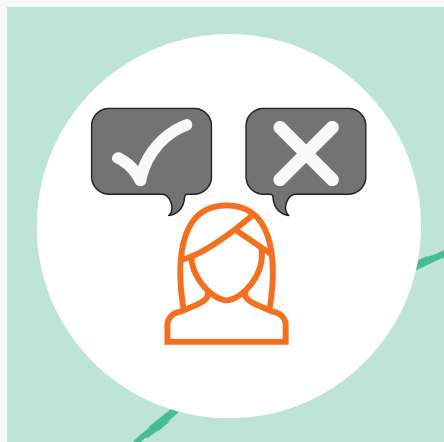
‘There is no equality at all in my community, men have all the privileges and rights like inheritance and access to employment. Women are supposed to stay at home and do domestic work.’ – Nahida, 40, Government of Syria



RELATIONAL LEVEL  
"Power from with,  
Power over"



# RELATIONAL EMPOWERMENT



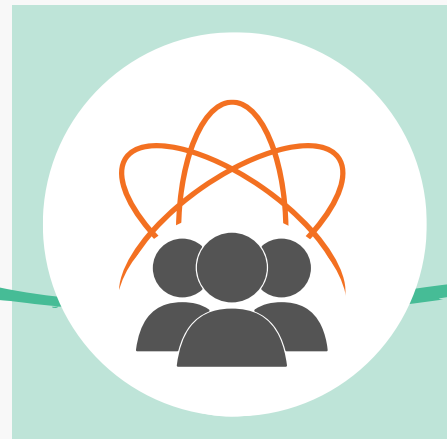
Decision-making  
in household



Control over  
household assets



Control over  
time

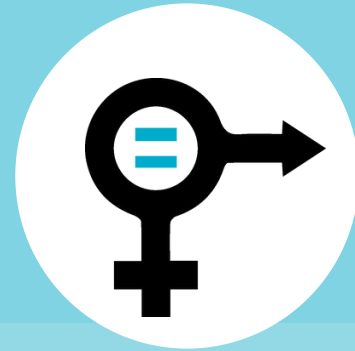


Ability to redistribute  
burden of care



Experience of  
GBV

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LEVEL



# ENVIRONMENTAL EMPOWERMENT



Accessibility of  
legal service



Safety of movement  
outside of home



Social norms,  
stereotypes

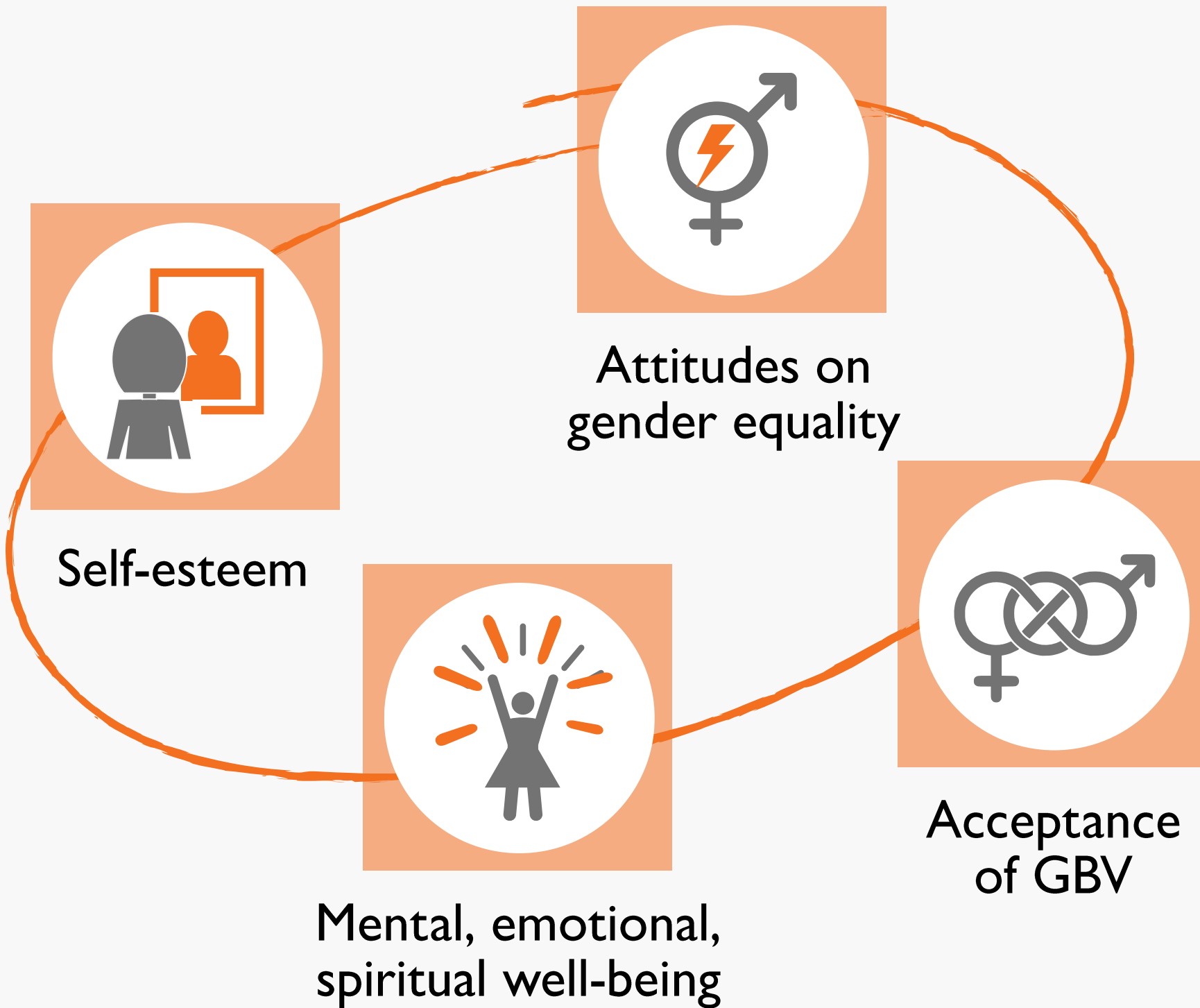


PERSONAL LEVEL

"Power from within,  
Power to"



# PERSONAL EMPOWERMENT







## Women's relational empowerment factors

## Children's physical, psychosocial and mental well-being



Children  
unexposed  
to violence

Children  
exposed  
to violence

Children  
with low  
functional literacy

Children  
with good  
functional literacy



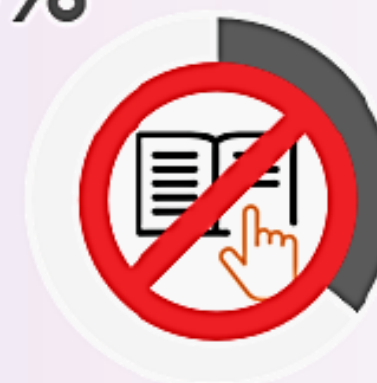
MOTHERS  
WITH NO HH  
DECISION-MAKING  
POWER



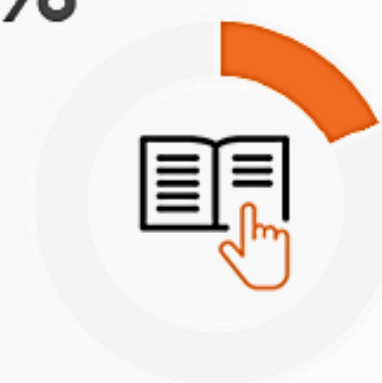
37%



50%



36%



18%

P value: 0.007\*

P value: 0.04\*



MOTHERS  
WITH HH  
DECISION-MAKING  
POWER



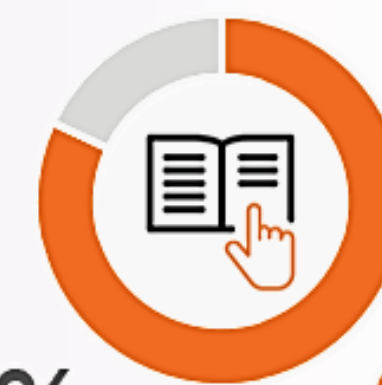
63%



50%



64%



82%

*Mother's decision-making power  
and children's exposure to violence  
in Albania*

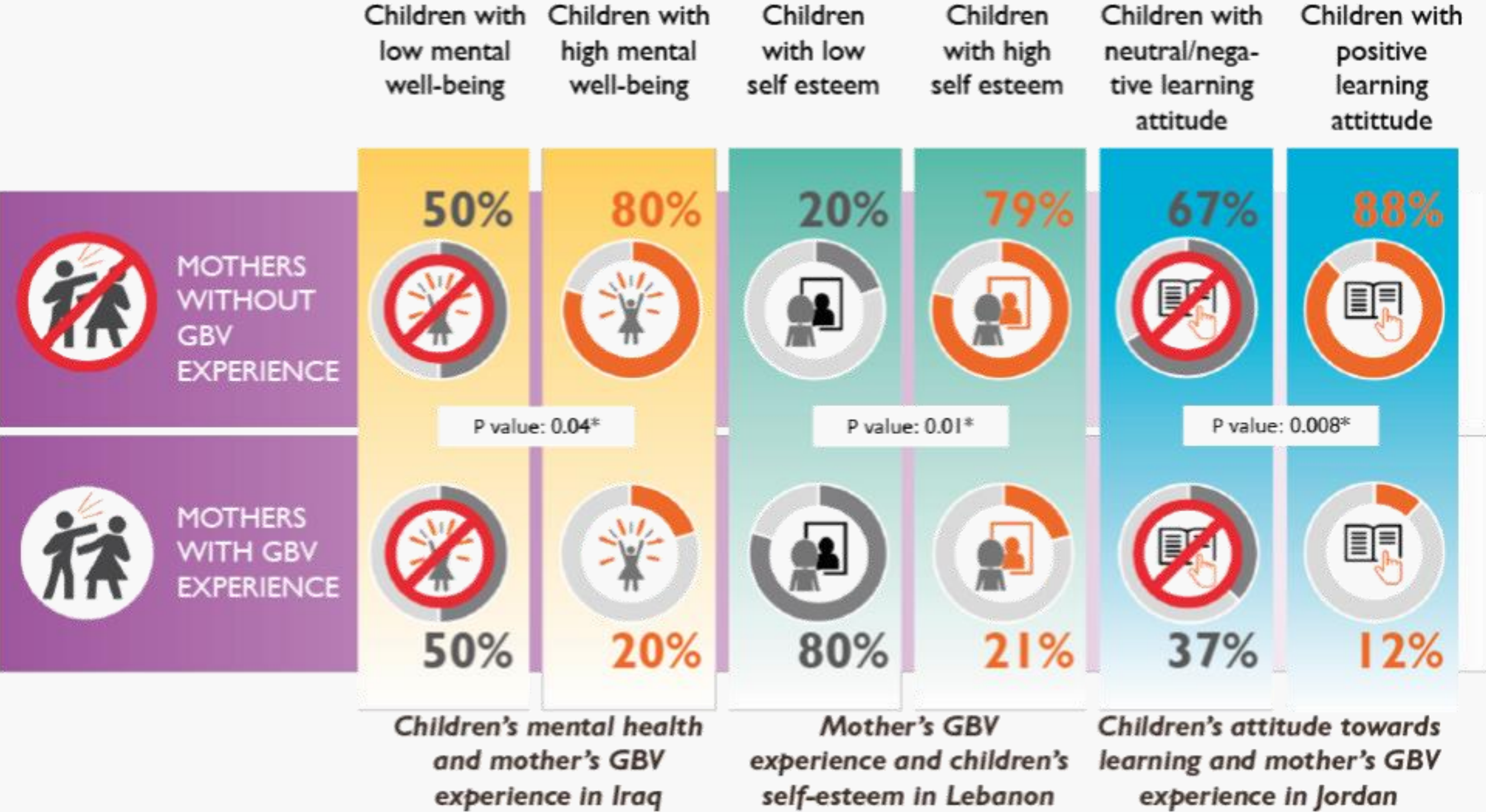
*Mother's decision-making power  
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in BiH*





Women's relational empowerment factors

Children's physical, psychosocial and mental well-being

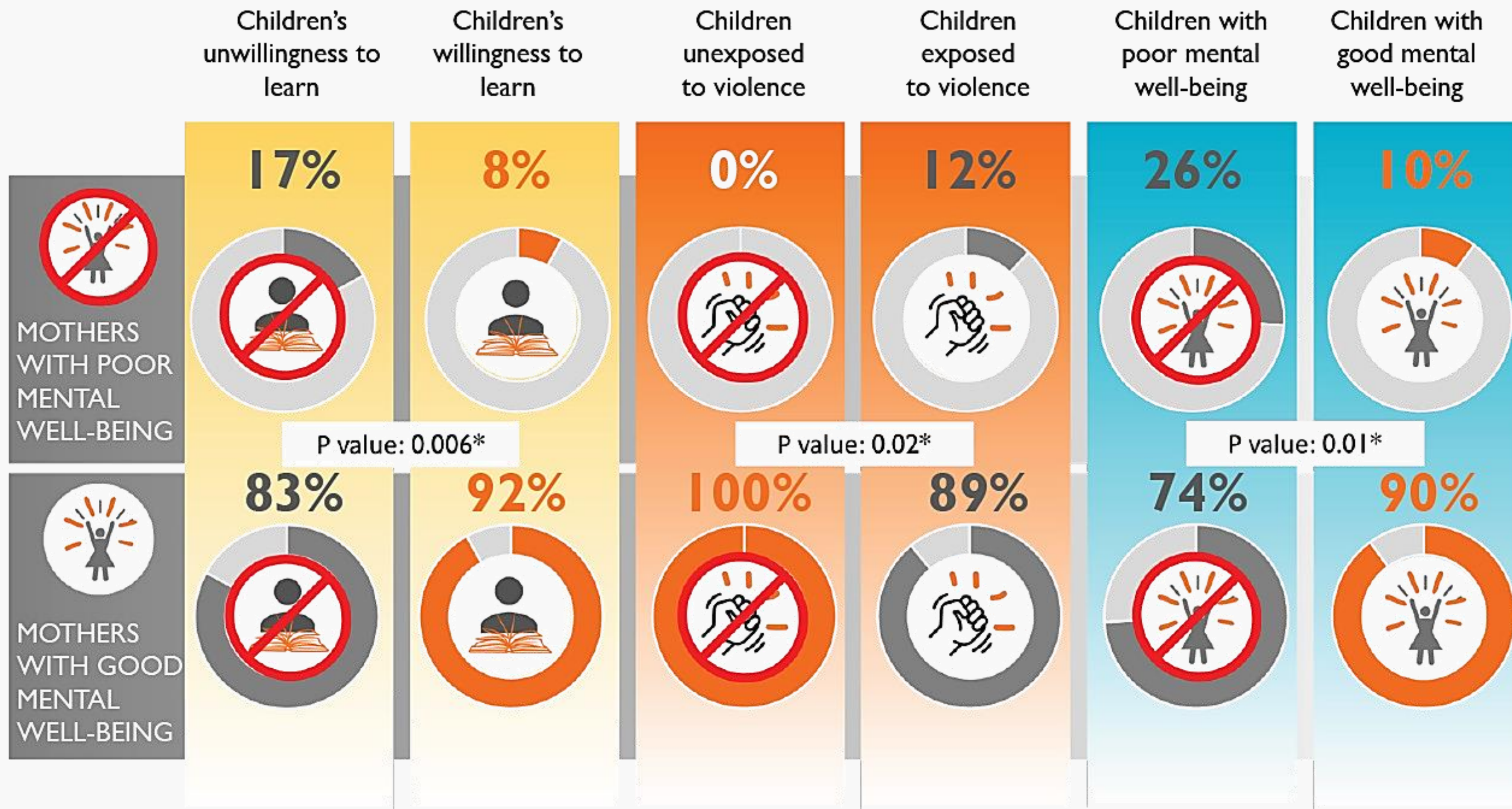






## Women's personal empowerment factors

## Children's physical, psychosocial and mental well-being



*Mothers' mental well-being and children's attitudes to learning in Albania.*

*Mothers' mental well-being and children's exposure to violence in Romania.*

*Mothers' mental well-being and children's mental health in Romania.*



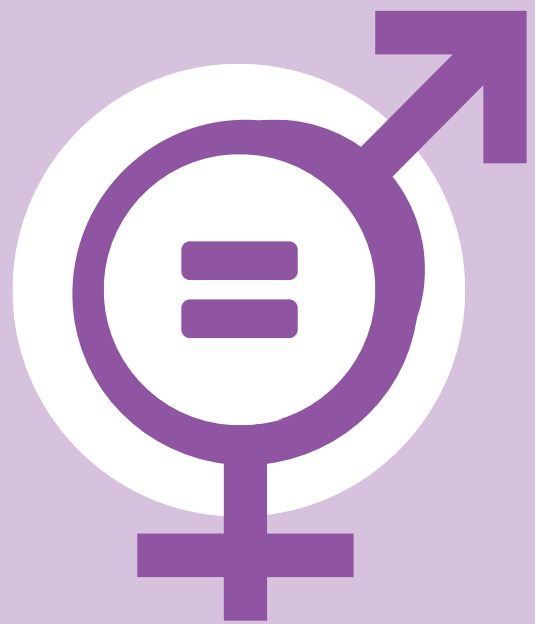


“

‘Gender equality can be achieved when the government itself provides legal assistance and support to women, but also fights to enforce the law of equal rights. There should be policies even for abused women, they should be supported to find ways to get out of their situation.’ – Enkelejda, 38, Albania.



# MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS



## ELEVATE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND EQUALITY

Elevate women's empowerment and equality, as well as using this as a driver across all our sectorial programmes such as education, economic development and child protection.



## CHANGE HARMFUL GENDER NORMS

Prevent and refer gender-based violence cases in our projects and change harmful gender norms in communities through faith partners and leaders.



## UPHOLD WOMEN'S RIGHTS

We need to strategically engage formal and informal power holders, men and boys in a dialogue to change social norms and uphold women's rights.



## PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Provide targeted mental health and psychosocial support for mothers and their children.



## STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen our partnerships across UN, CSOs and organisations focusing on women's rights and empowerment to scale up and leverage our work.





For the world to take child well-being seriously, it is imperative that women's empowerment is taken just as seriously.



# HIBA TIBI

MENA Regional  
Economic Empowerment  
Hub Manager at  
CARE International





# Empowered Women Empowered Children

**CARE Women Economic Justice Work**



# Setting the Stage



# Gender Equality Framework at CARE

Women, girls, and people of all genders-at all their life stages- will realize their rights and will live in gender equality

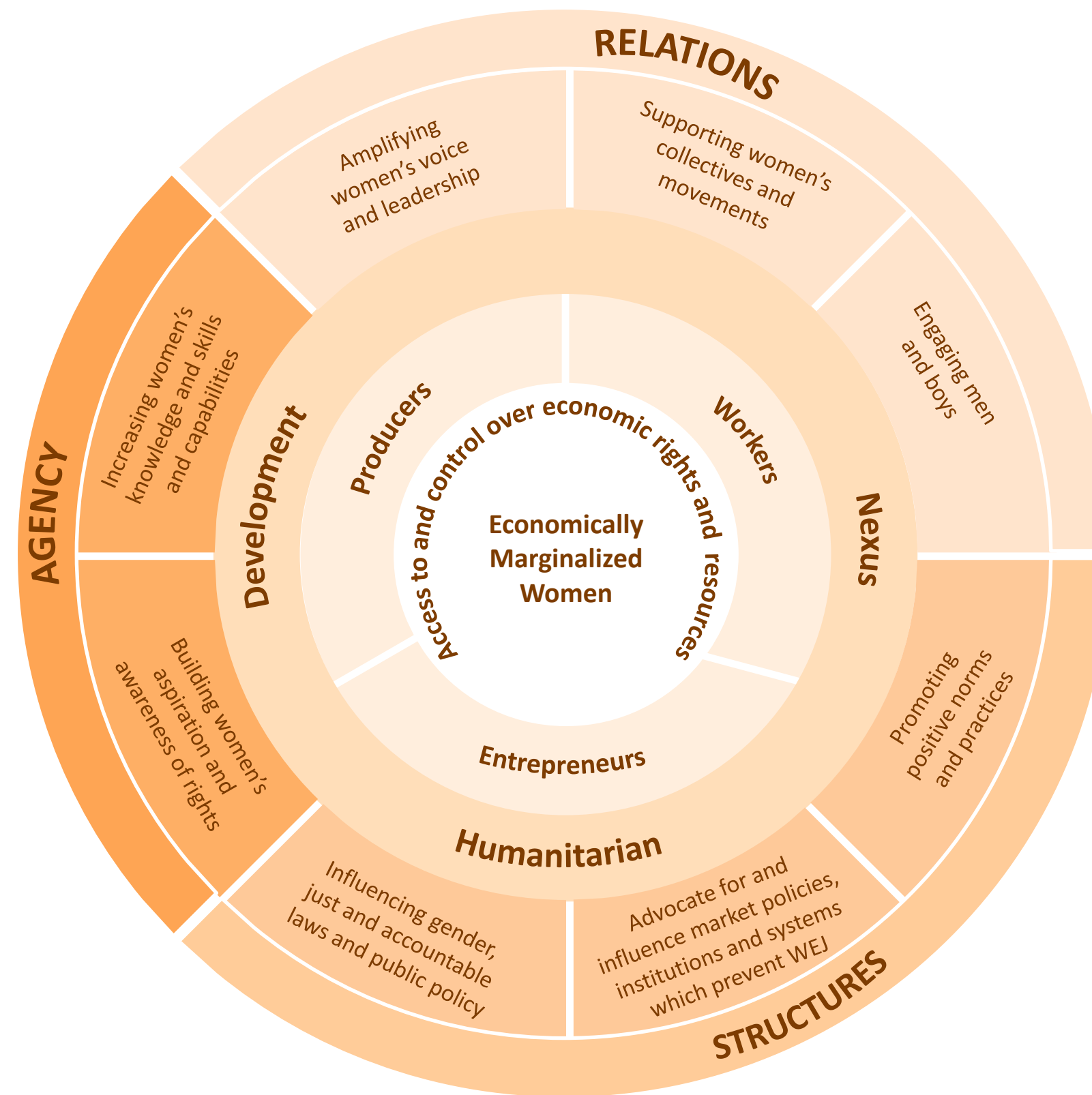


Gender Harmful	Gender Neutral	Gender Sensitive	Gender Responsive	Gender Transformative
Program approaches reinforce inequitable gender stereotypes or disempower certain groups  - To be assessed and adjusted	Program approaches do not actively address gender stereotypes and discrimination less than effective  - Not effective	Program approaches recognize and respond to needs and constraints, but they do little to change contextual issues  - Not sufficient	Program approaches help women and men examine gender expectations along with their impact on the roles, expectations, and relations	Program approaches actively seek to build equitable social norms, structures, and agency as well as individual gender-equitable behavior

This was also applied to programs implemented to empower women economically



# Women Economic Justice Theory of Action





# From Theory to Practice – WEJ Programming on Ground





# Translating WEJ Theory to Practice

## Analysis —————> Understanding

Based on the Gender Marker tool, CARE has assessed our WEE work over the last 7 years

Across five regions,

With different impact groups (workers, women in VCs, women entrepreneurs)

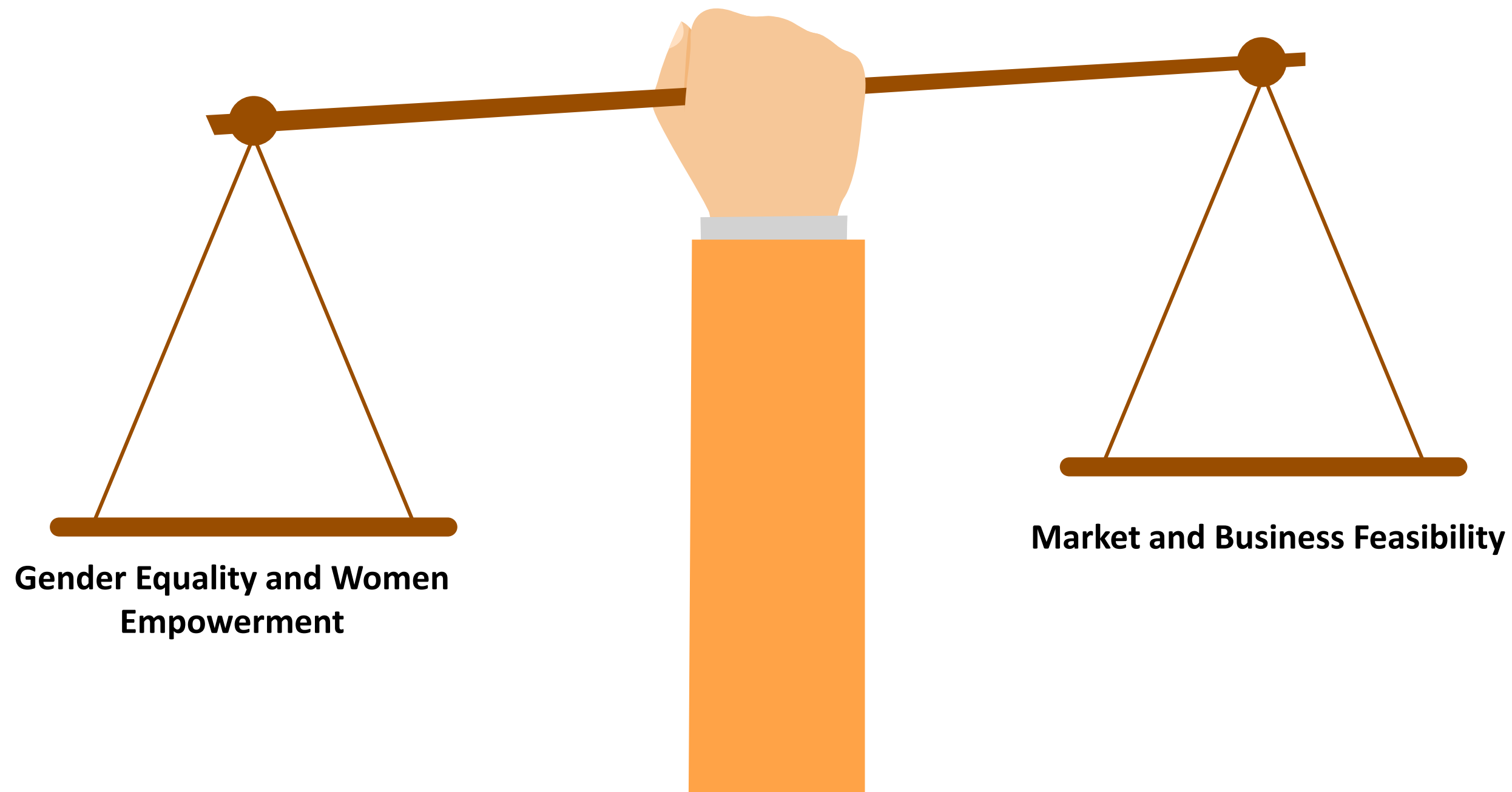
At any age (girls, young women, and women)

All projects should aim at being gender-transformative level.

Should base all interventions on clear gender analysis that are relevant to:

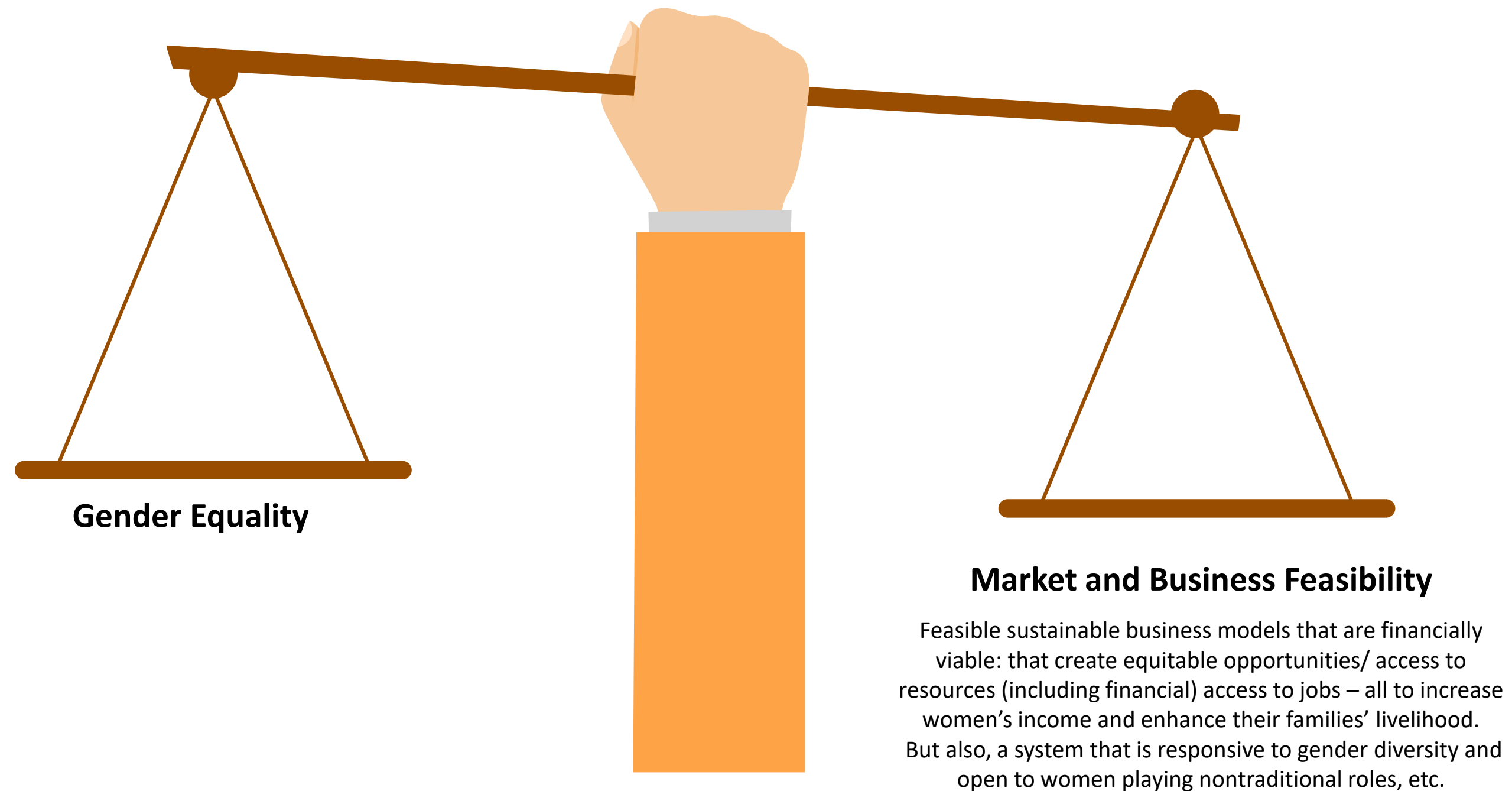
- Context (humanitarian, development, mixed),
- Factors related to the value chain and the market,
- And at three levels: agency relations and Structures

# The Secret is: Systemic Thinking

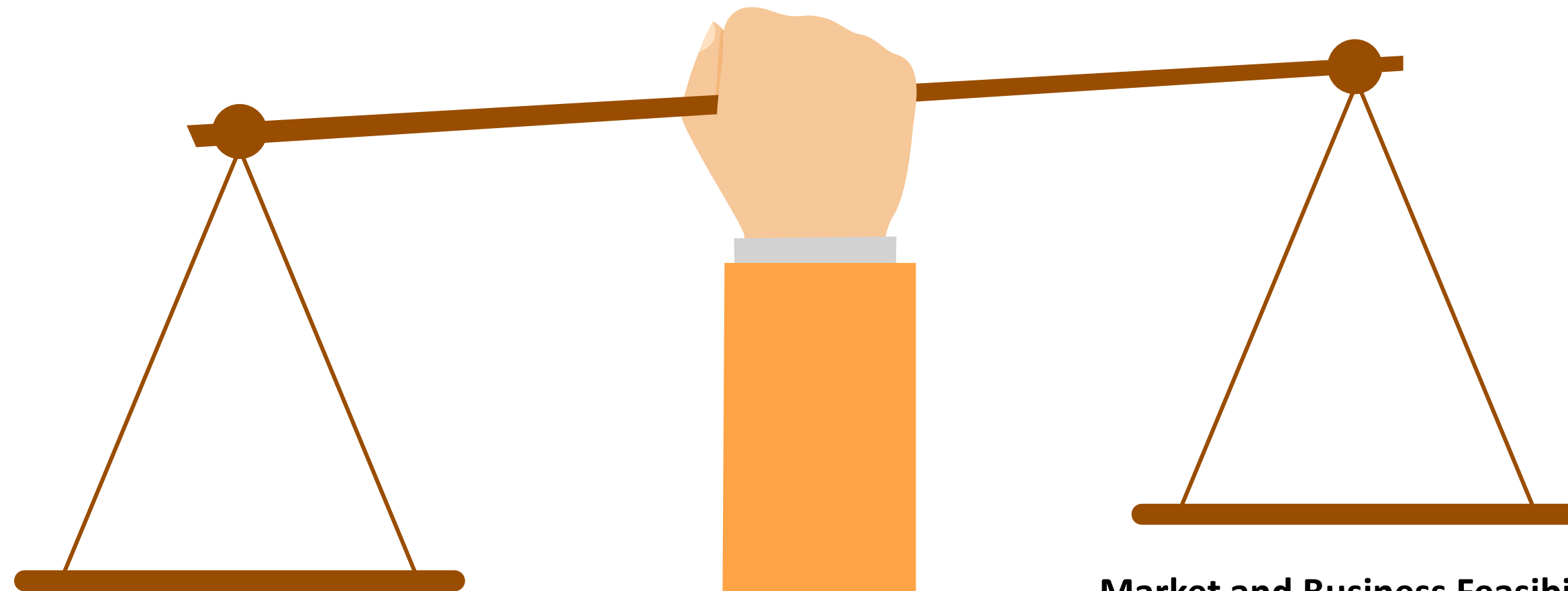




# The Secret is: Systemic Thinking



# The Secret is: Systemic Thinking



## Gender Equality

Building **women and men's** aspirations and skills to change relations and transform structures and enabling environment promoting gender equality at HH, community, and market levels (agency and relations) looking at indicators that include impact at workload, decision making, mobility, choice of work, voice and representation, family livelihood (including children)

## Market and Business Feasibility

Feasible sustainable business models that are financially viable: that create equitable opportunities/ access to resources (including financial) access to jobs – all to increase women's income and enhance their families' livelihood. But also, a system that is responsive to gender diversity and open to women playing nontraditional roles, etc.



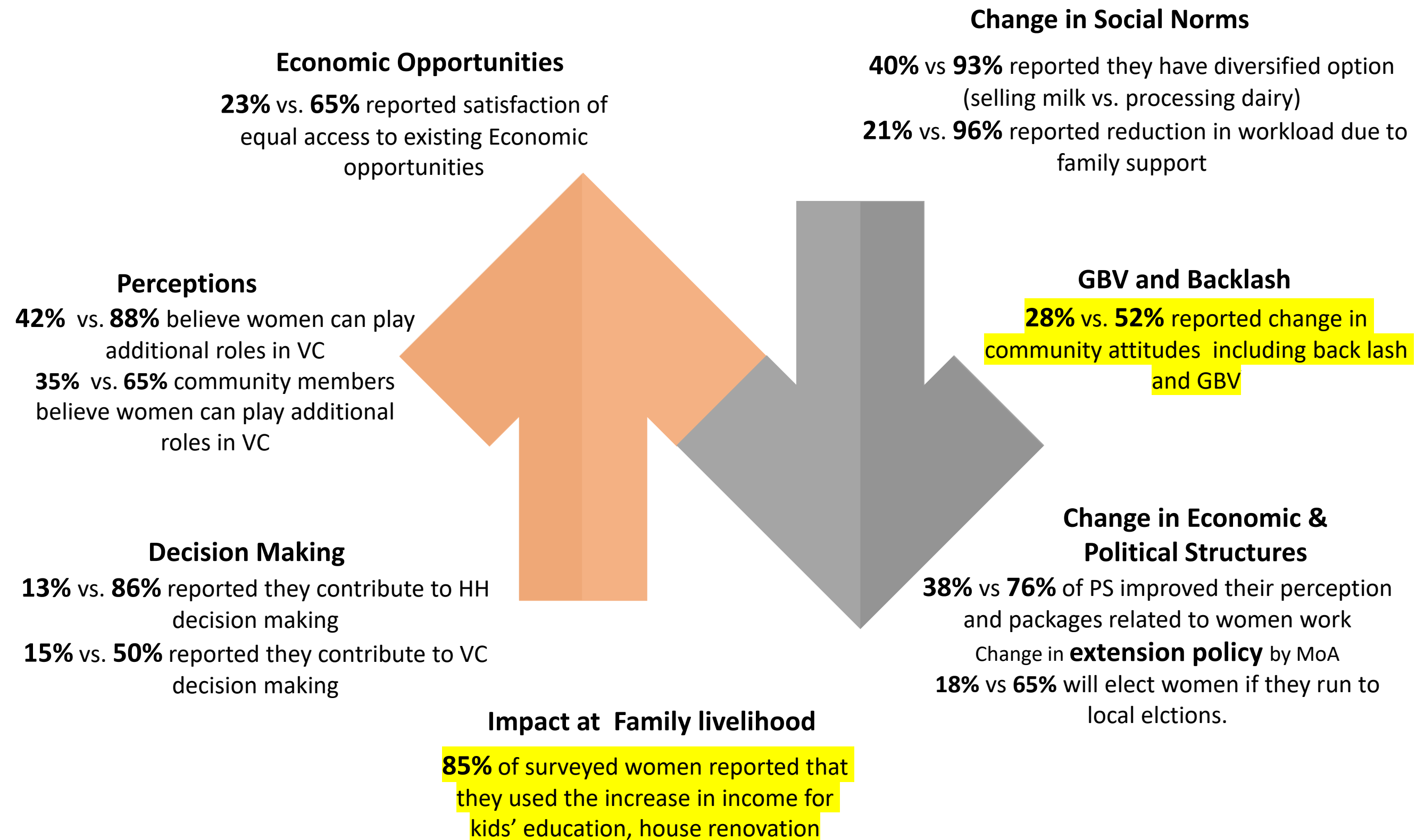
# Summary of the Learning

Women's economic empowerment program can lead to broader women empowerment at HH, community (leadership), and at market level. They are directly connected to enhanced family and children's livelihood.

However, the poor design might be harmful to women t various levels. Favoring business modeling over gender equality might increase workload, cause a backlash at conservative communities, and increase domestic violence. Favoring gender equality and neglecting the feasibility of the business model might enforcement of negative perceptions i.e. women's ability to play economic roles.

Lack of preparation with the private sector might increase abuse at the workplace/ or monopoly by traders.

# Summary of the Learning – in figures





# From Theory to Practice – WEJ Programming on Ground

# Summary of the Learning

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**SIGNIFICANTLY LIMITS**  
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well-being in children, especially their health and education outcomes

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**ARE LINKED**  
to poorer educational, protection and psychosocial outcomes in children

Women and children in the Middle East and Eastern Europe should not have to wait until the year 2157 for fair treatment and good indicators of well-being.

It is imperative that the international community and all of humanity speed up progress from its glacial pace.



# Recommendations

## Program Design

- Always keep in mind WEE projects theory of change its broad definition and purpose as an entry point to attain broader GE.
- Listen to women's definition of livelihood (physical and psychological well-being)

## Capturing Transformative Change

- while WEE Programs' core impact group is women, we need to target many others to attain aspired socio-economic-political change. And capturing change should be on all these levels.
- Integrate impact at children in more deliberate way is one example on needed expansion

# SABAH BARIGOU

MENA Regional Head of  
School Based/School  
Feeding programme, HIV  
and Nutrition at World  
Food Programme







World Food  
Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



# Pathways to women and children empowerment

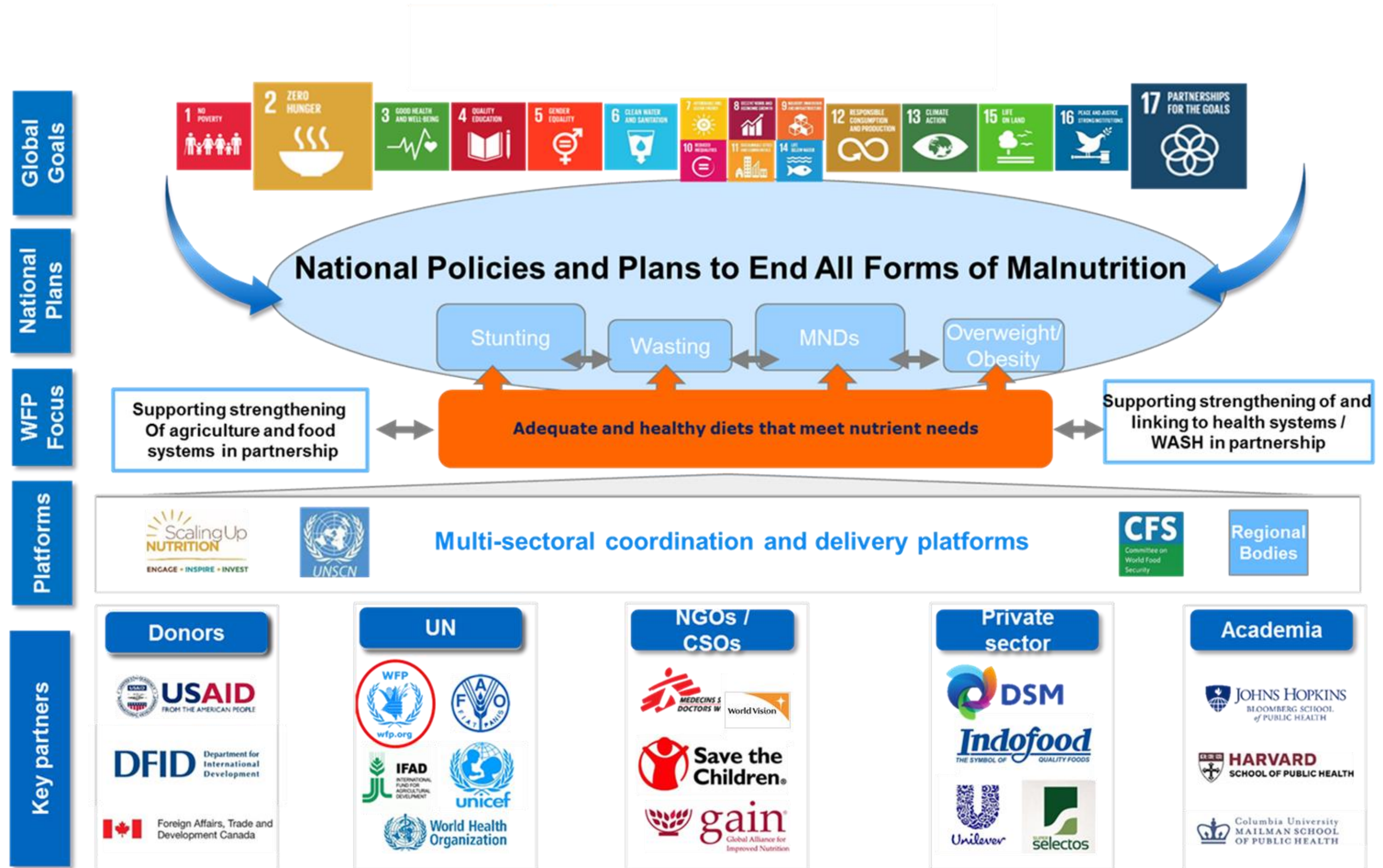
2 March 2022

## **5 Strategic Opportunities in MENA region**

- Deliver Emergencies
- Effective National Social Protection Systems
- Youth Engagement
- Self-reliance for Refugees
- Climate Change and Water Scarcity



# WFP engagement



# WFP Gender Policy

**GOAL**

Gender Equality is enhanced,  
and women are empowered

**OBJECTIVES**

Achieve equitable access to  
and control over food  
security and nutrition

Address the root causes of  
gender inequalities that  
affect food security and  
nutrition

Advance the economic  
empowerment of women  
and girls in food security  
and nutrition

**PRIORITIES**

Enhanced and  
equitable  
participation

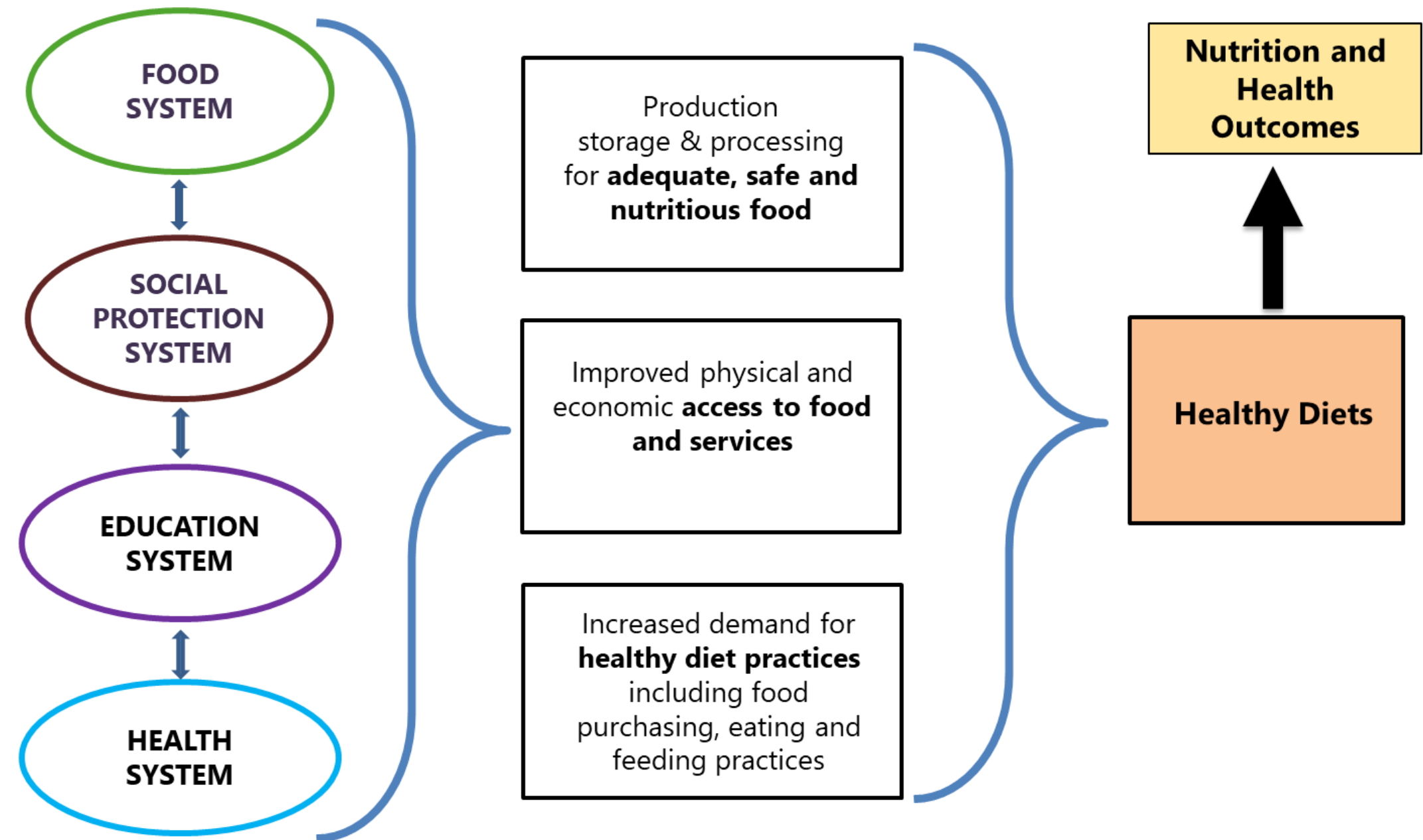
Strengthened  
leadership and  
decision making

Enhanced protection  
to ensure safety,  
dignity and  
meaningful access

Transformative action  
on social norms and  
structural barriers



# Systems approach is required for nutrition and healthy diet



Adapted from: FNG 2019, UNICEF 2019

Improving maternal and child nutrition  
systems approach

# Through 4 pathways

<b>PATHWAY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>PRIMARY POPULATION</b>
<b>Food systems</b>	<b>Sustainable, equitable, safe and healthy diets are produced</b>	<b>All people but a particular focus on the food insecure</b>
<b>Social protection system</b>	<b>Access to healthy diets for vulnerable people in all contexts is improved</b>	<b>Poor, vulnerable, nutritionally vulnerable</b>
<b>Health system</b>	<b>Healthy diets are a key component of policies and programmes designed to prevent stunting, wasting and obesity</b>	<b>Women of reproductive age, 1000 days, malnourished women and children</b>
<b>Education system</b>	<b>Healthy diets are provided in schools and longer term healthy dietary patterns are established among children</b>	<b>School-age children including primary, adolescents and ECD</b>





**Thank you!**











# CLOSING REMARKS







## EMPOWERED WOMEN EMPOWERED CHILDREN

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT AND THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN  
IN TRANSITIONING ECONOMIES



WORLD VISION MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE



World Vision

## EMPOWERED WOMEN EMPOWERED CHILDREN

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT AND THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN  
IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE REGION



## SUMMARY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE REGION



World Vision

## EMPOWERED WOMEN EMPOWERED CHILDREN

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT AND THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN  
IN MIDDLE EASTERN FRAGILE STATES

WORLD VISION MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE