

# World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development

Main Messages  
Sep 12, 2011



# Gender equality matters in its own right

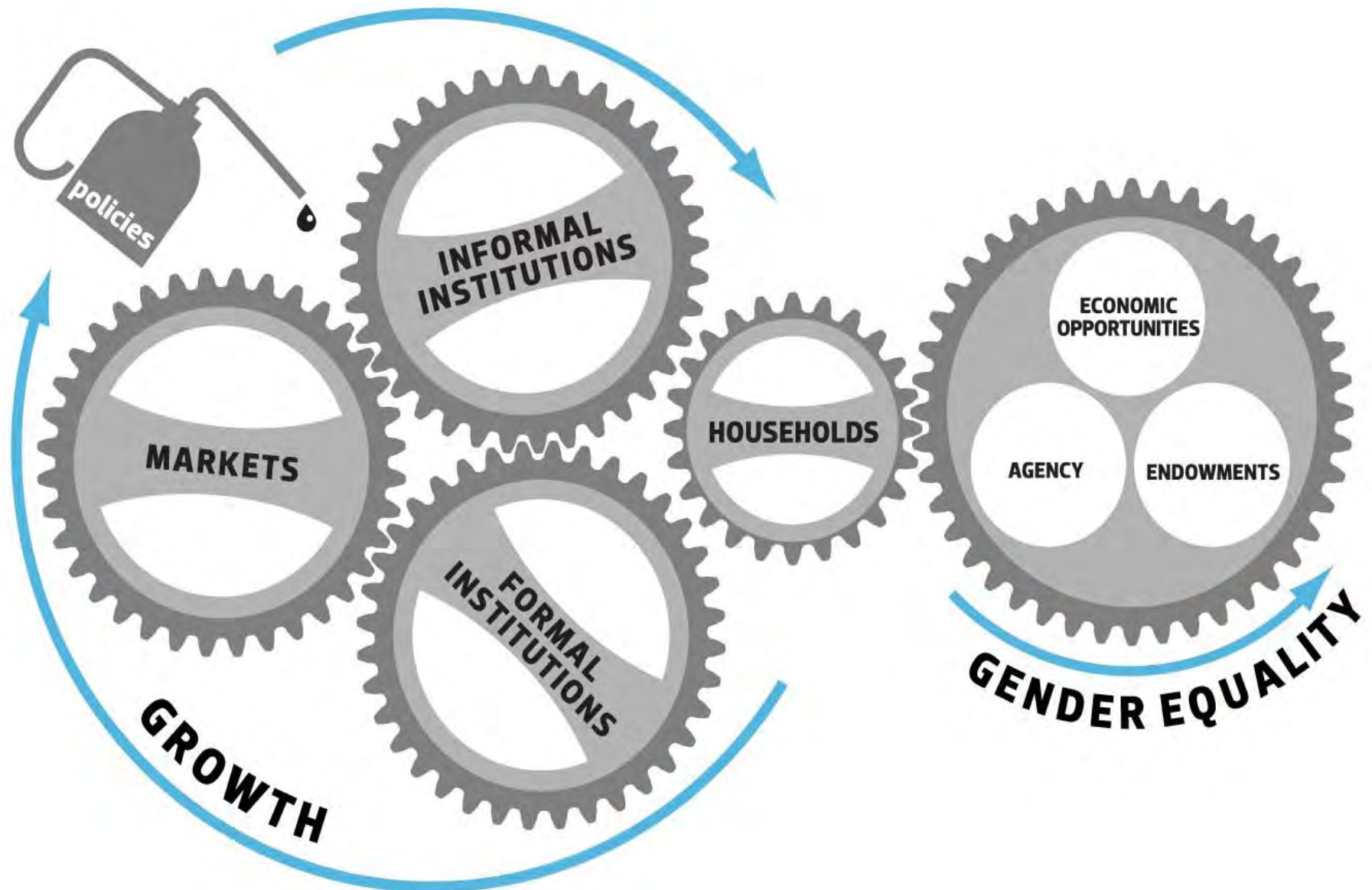


# ... and also matters for development

- ✓ **Productivity gains**
- ✓ **Impact on next generation**
- ✓ **Rising economic cost of gender inequality with globalization**
- ✓ **Women's voice can lead to different policy choices**



# Analytical framework:



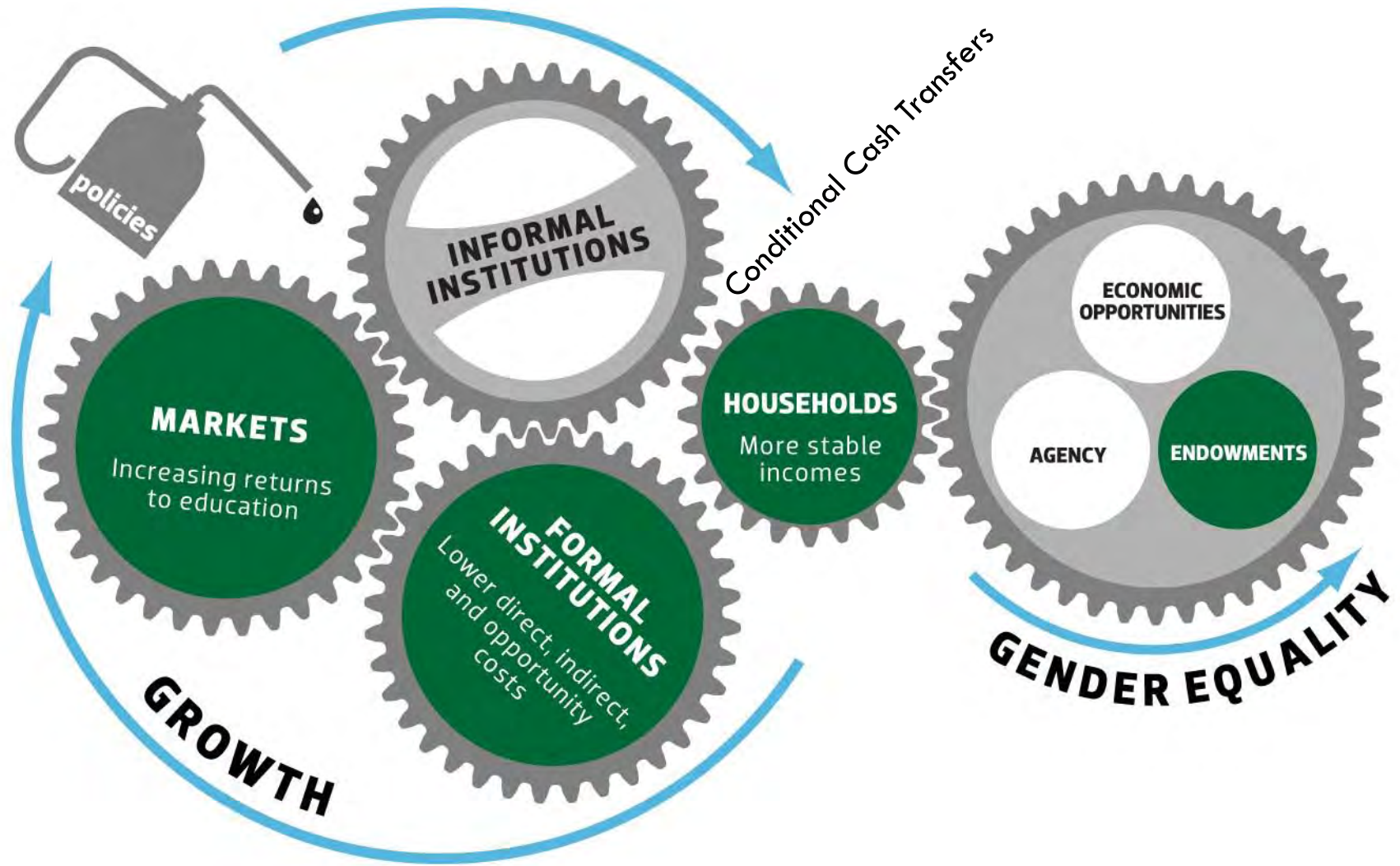
# Where has there been progress?



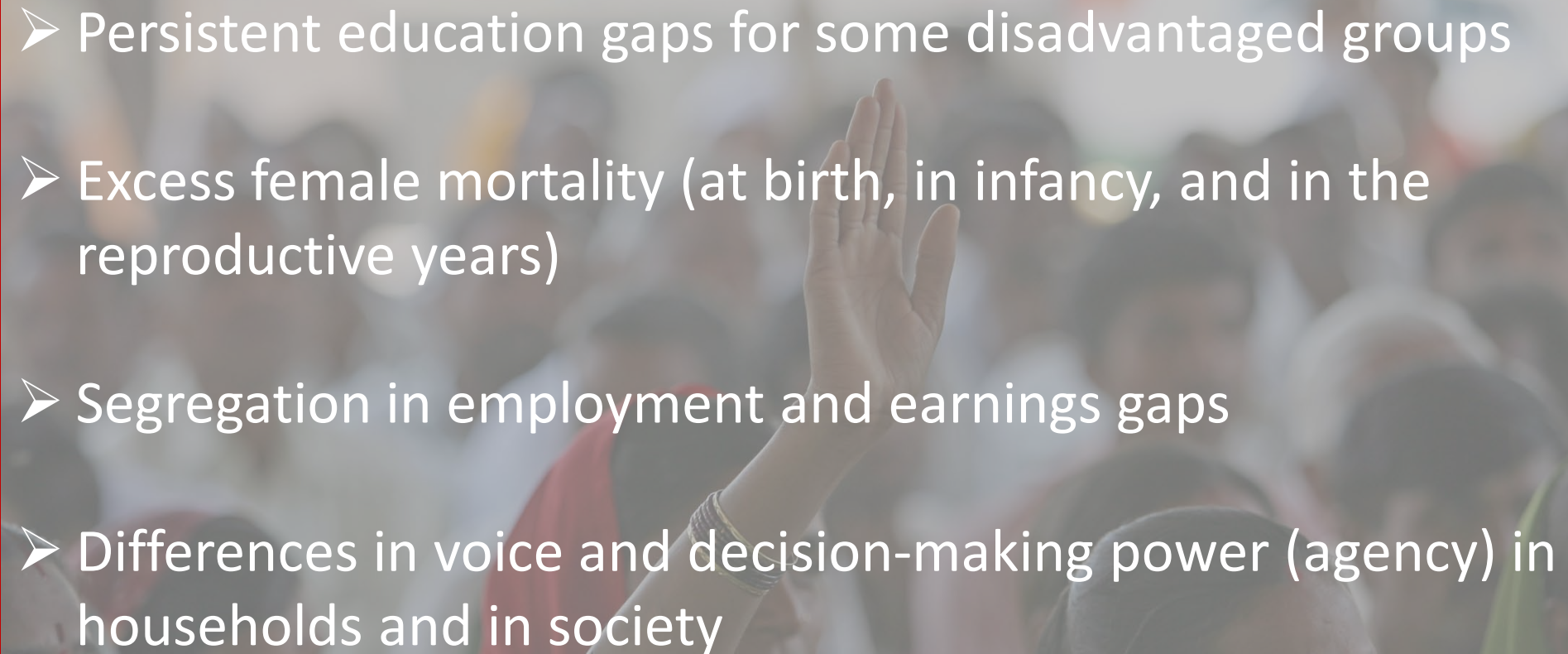
- ✓ Recognition of women's **rights**
- ✓ More girls in **school**
- ✓ Sharp decline in **fertility**
- ✓ More women in the **labor force**
- ✓ ... and pace of change is **faster**



# Using the framework to understand progress: The case of education



# Where there has *not* been progress?

- Persistent education gaps for some disadvantaged groups
  - Excess female mortality (at birth, in infancy, and in the reproductive years)
  - Segregation in employment and earnings gaps
  - Differences in voice and decision-making power (agency) in households and in society
- 
- A photograph of a woman in a red sari with gold jewelry, raising her right hand in a crowd. She is smiling and looking towards the right. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a public gathering or event.

# In education, gaps remain: severely disadvantaged populations



- ✓ About 53% of out-of-primary-school children are girls
- ✓ Compounding inequalities generate “pockets” of **severely disadvantaged populations**
- ✓ New gaps emerging, *for boys*

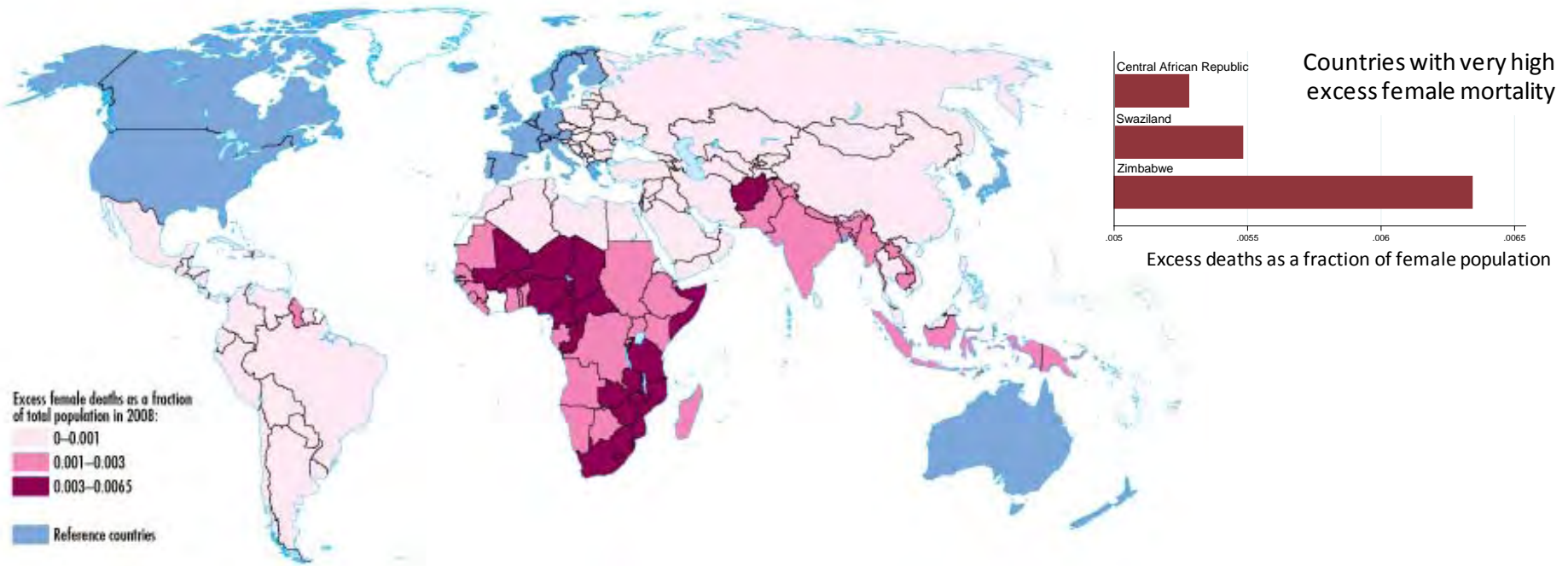
# Excess female mortality

- Women die more, relative to men, in low and middle income countries than in rich countries
- At birth, in childhood, at childbearing age and in old age



# ... with the problem worsening in SSA

## Excess female mortality after birth



This reflects

- Bad service delivery
- HIV/AIDS

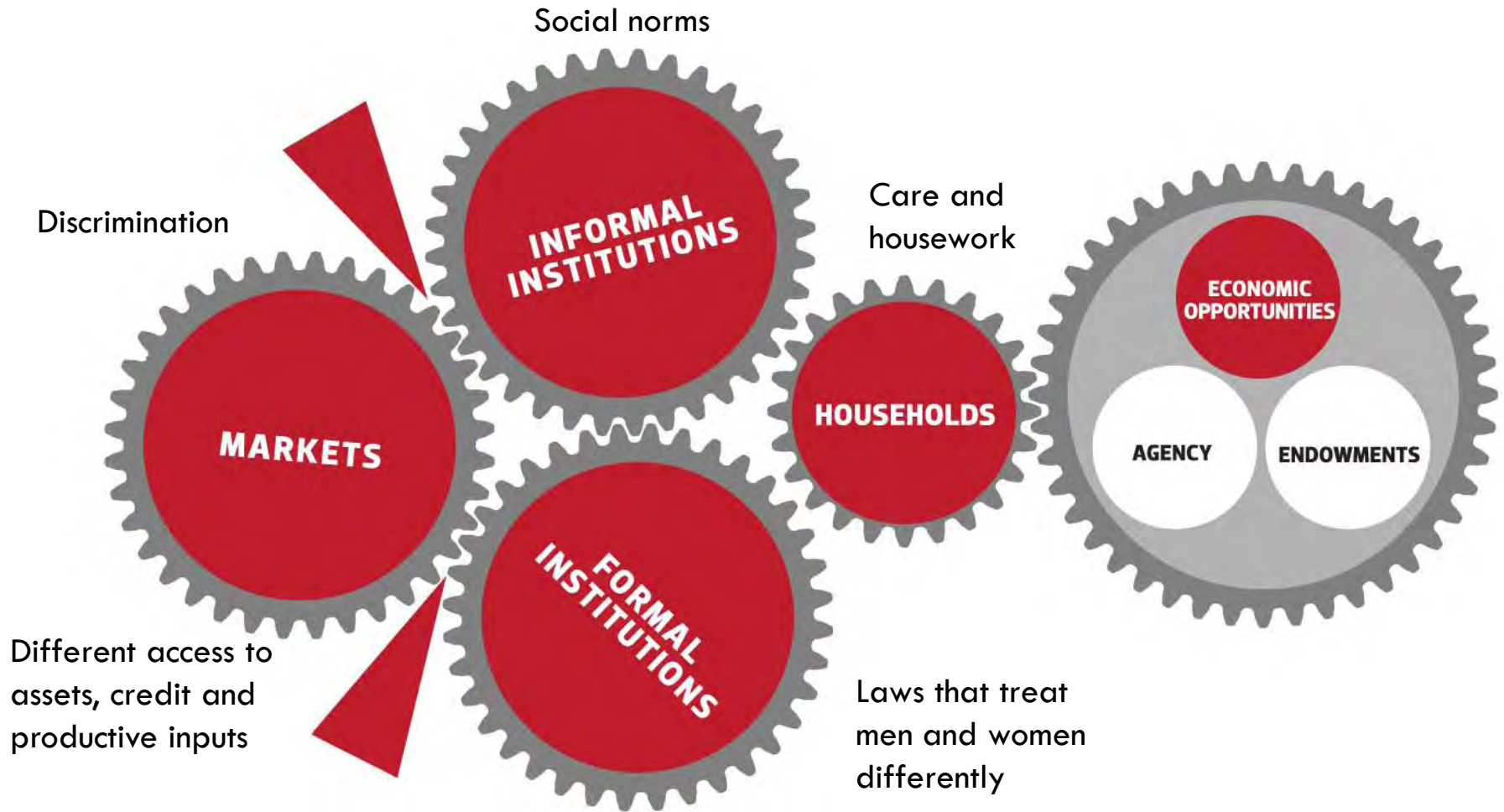
- High fertility
- Normative constraints

A photograph of a woman wearing a vibrant blue headscarf, looking slightly to the side. She is holding a large, overflowing basket of produce, likely tomatoes, which is the focus of the lower half of the image. The background is a clear blue sky with some bare tree branches. The overall scene suggests a rural or agricultural setting.

# Employment segregation

- More women are working but **employment segregation by gender persists:**
  - Unpaid family work and informal sector
  - Smaller farms and firms, operating in less profitable sectors
  - Women's jobs and men's jobs
- **Patterns change little with economic development**

# Using the framework to understand lack of progress: Employment segregation



# What to do? Policies

- ✓ Focus on those gaps that do not disappear with growth
  - Reducing **gender gaps in human endowments** (pockets of gender disadvantage in education and excess female mortality)
  - Closing **earnings and productivity gaps** between men and women
  - Shrinking **gender differences in voice and agency**
  - Limiting the **reproduction of gender inequality** over time
- ✓ Target the determinants/causes of gender inequality (sometimes multiple – e.g. employment segregation)

# Policies to reduce excess female mortality



❑ In infancy, priority is **clean water and sanitation**

❑ Large investments in public health, especially **clean water and sanitation**

❑ For reproductive years, priority is better **maternal health services ...**

❑ Requires public investments, political will and attention to socio-cultural context

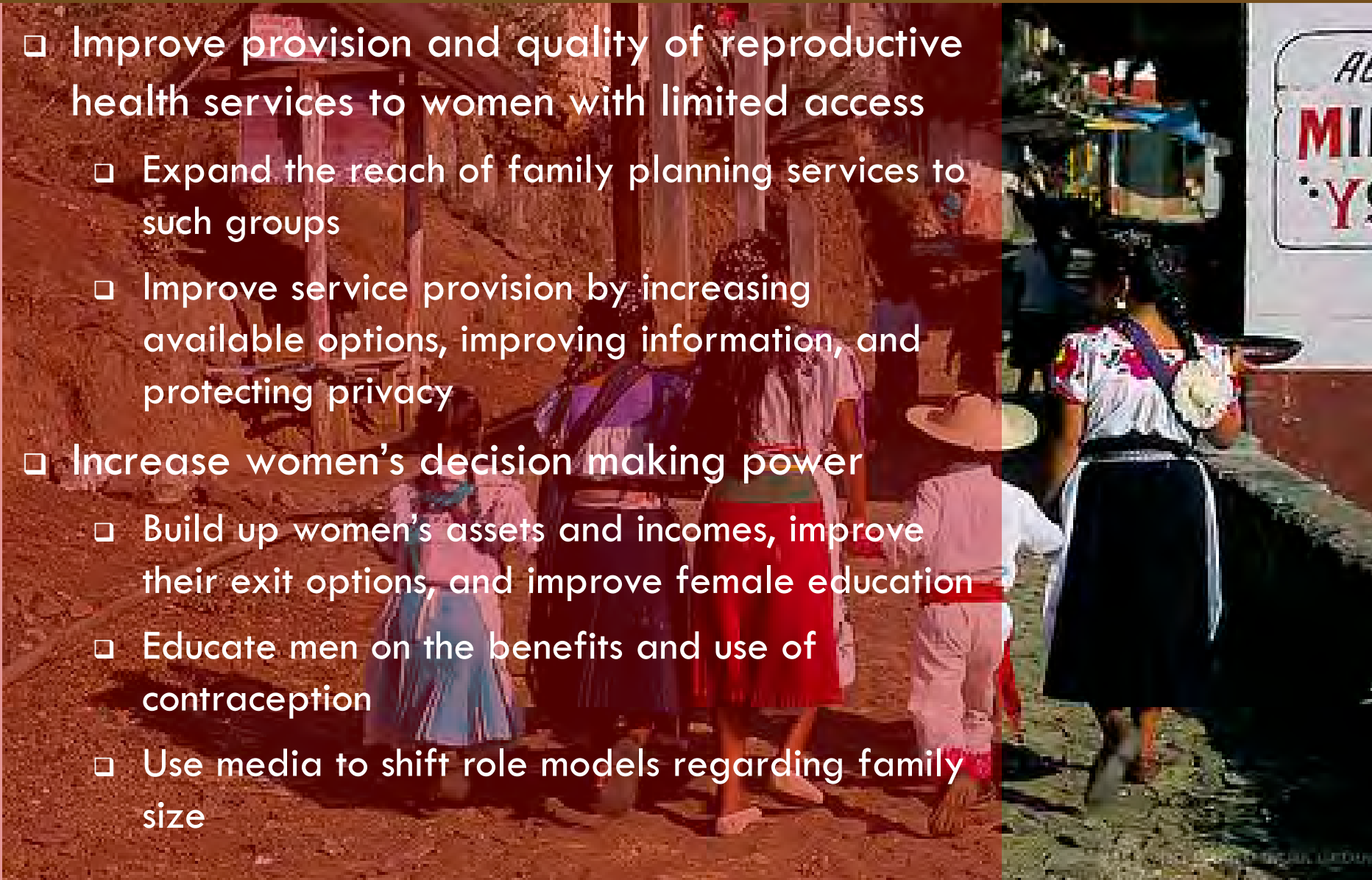
❑ ..and widespread **HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services** and **safety nets** to deal with income shocks



# Policies to increase women's voice

## 1. Enhancing women's voice in fertility decisions

- ❑ Improve provision and quality of reproductive health services to women with limited access
  - ❑ Expand the reach of family planning services to such groups
  - ❑ Improve service provision by increasing available options, improving information, and protecting privacy
- ❑ Increase women's decision making power
  - ❑ Build up women's assets and incomes, improve their exit options, and improve female education
  - ❑ Educate men on the benefits and use of contraception
  - ❑ Use media to shift role models regarding family size



# A global agenda for greater gender equality – 1

- Global action complementary to national action and policies
- Focus on the **4 priority areas** plus **1 cross-cutting** priority (supporting evidence based public action through data and knowledge)
- Three types of activities:
  - ✓ Providing financial support
  - ✓ Fostering innovation and learning
  - ✓ Leveraging effective partnerships

# A global agenda for greater gender equality –

## 2

- ❑ Relative importance of these priorities will vary across countries
- ❑ Ongoing efforts in these areas need to be sustained and past commitments met
- ❑ But **new** or **additional** action needed in multiple fronts:
  - ❑ Additional financing for clean water and sanitation, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, ECD and child care
  - ❑ Support (financial and technical) to foster innovation and learning in service delivery, investing in rural women, increasing access to justice
  - ❑ Leveraging partnerships with other donors; private sector; UN Women

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