

# EQUAL?

Jeni Klugman, *Director, Gender and Development, World Bank*  
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
April 26, 2012—Washington, DC

# What does the WDR 2012 do?

*Addresses four questions:*

- (1) Is there gender equality ?
- (2) Why do gender inequalities matter ?
- (3) Why do they persist ?
- (4) What do we do to eliminate them ?



# Equal?

**In low & middle income countries life expectancy among women has increased by 20 years since 1960**

**.... And yet, relative to boys and men, almost 4 million women die too early in developing countries compared with rich countries**

# Missing Women



girls at birth



girls under 5



women 15-49

**China and India**

**1,249,000**

**222,000**

**284,000**

**Sub-Saharan Africa**

**53,000**

**203,000**

**751,000**

**Total**

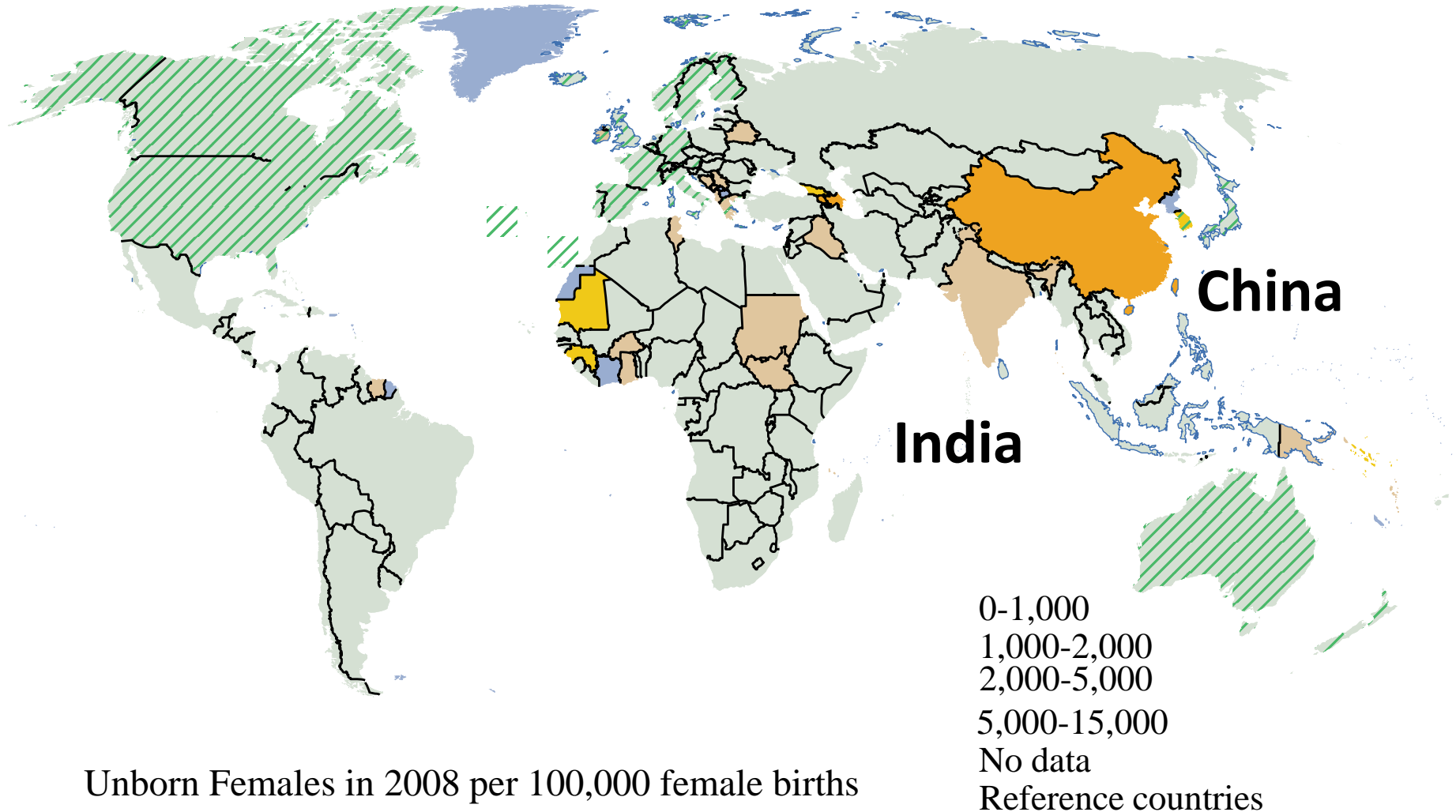
**1,427,000**

**617,000**

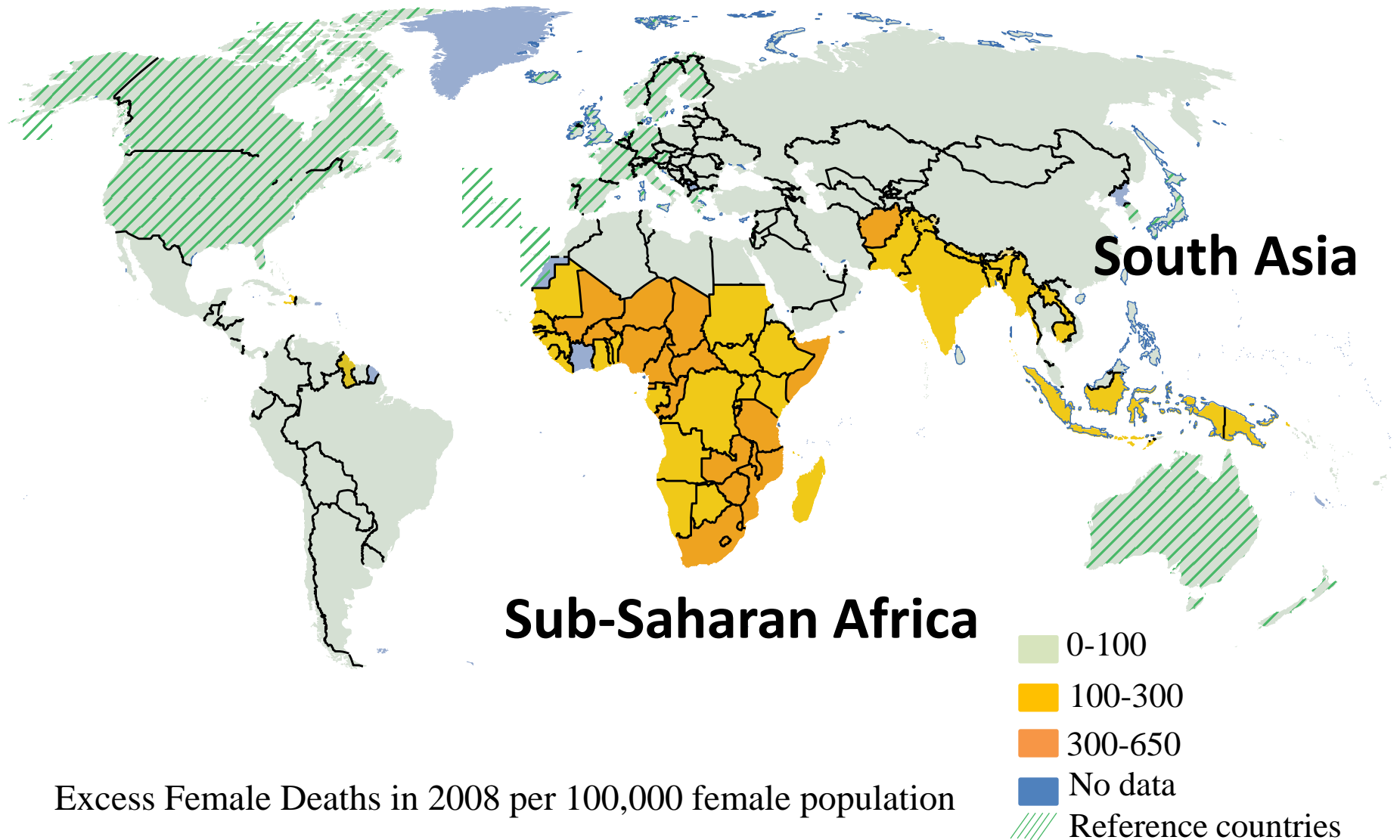
**1,347,000**

# Missing girls at birth

## Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan

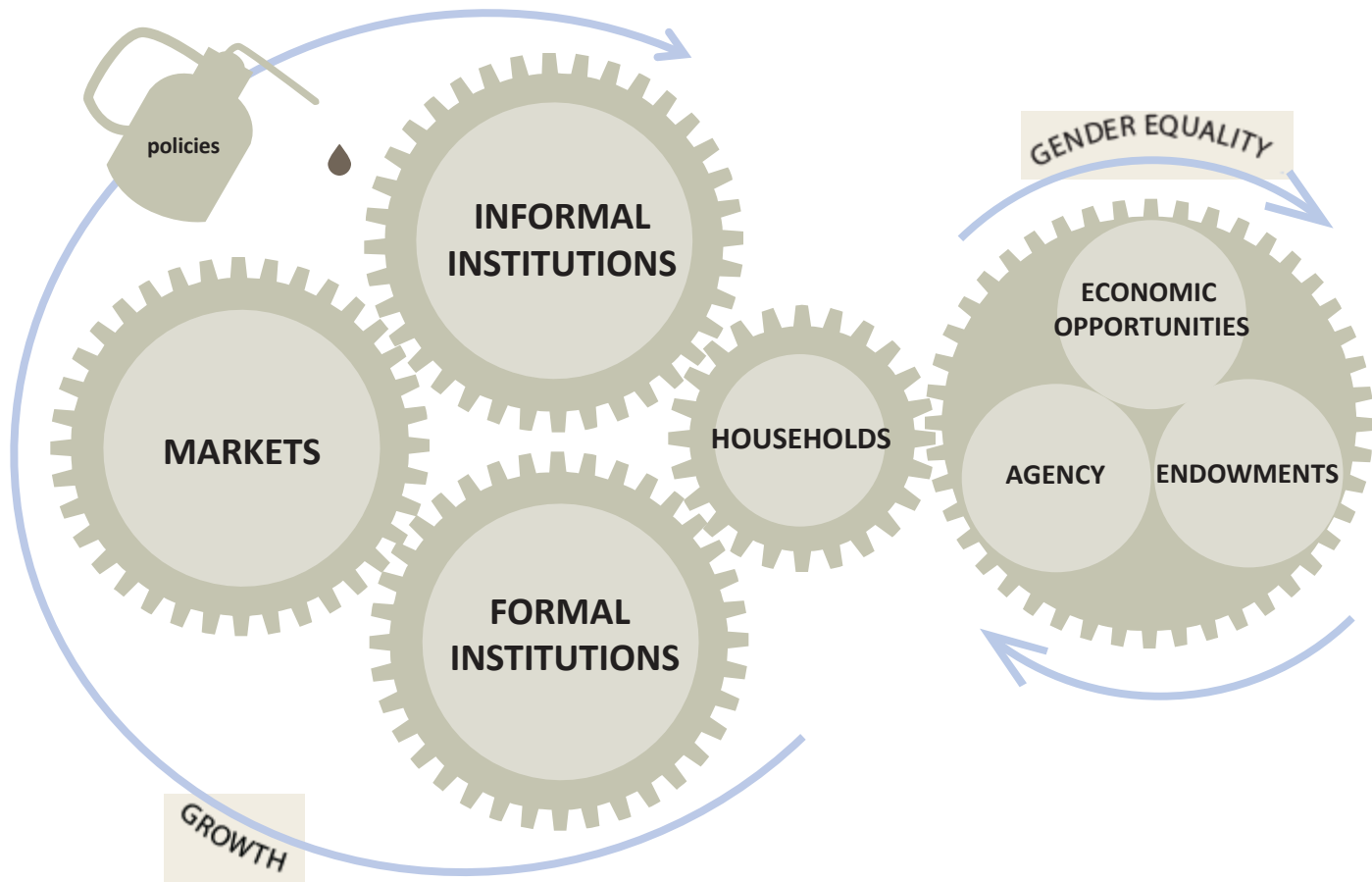


# Excess female mortality after birth

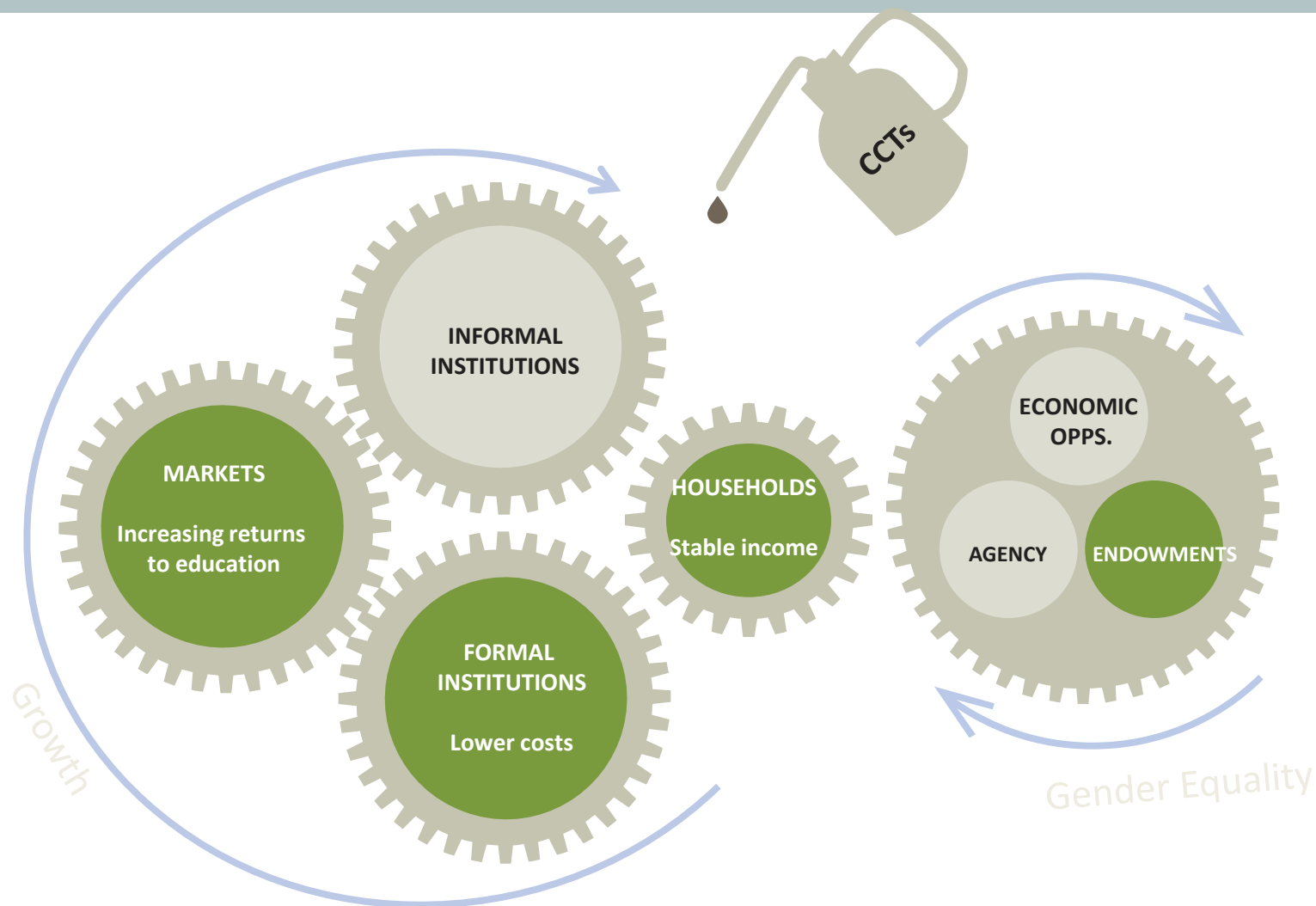


# Why do gaps persist?

## Underlying causes of gender inequality

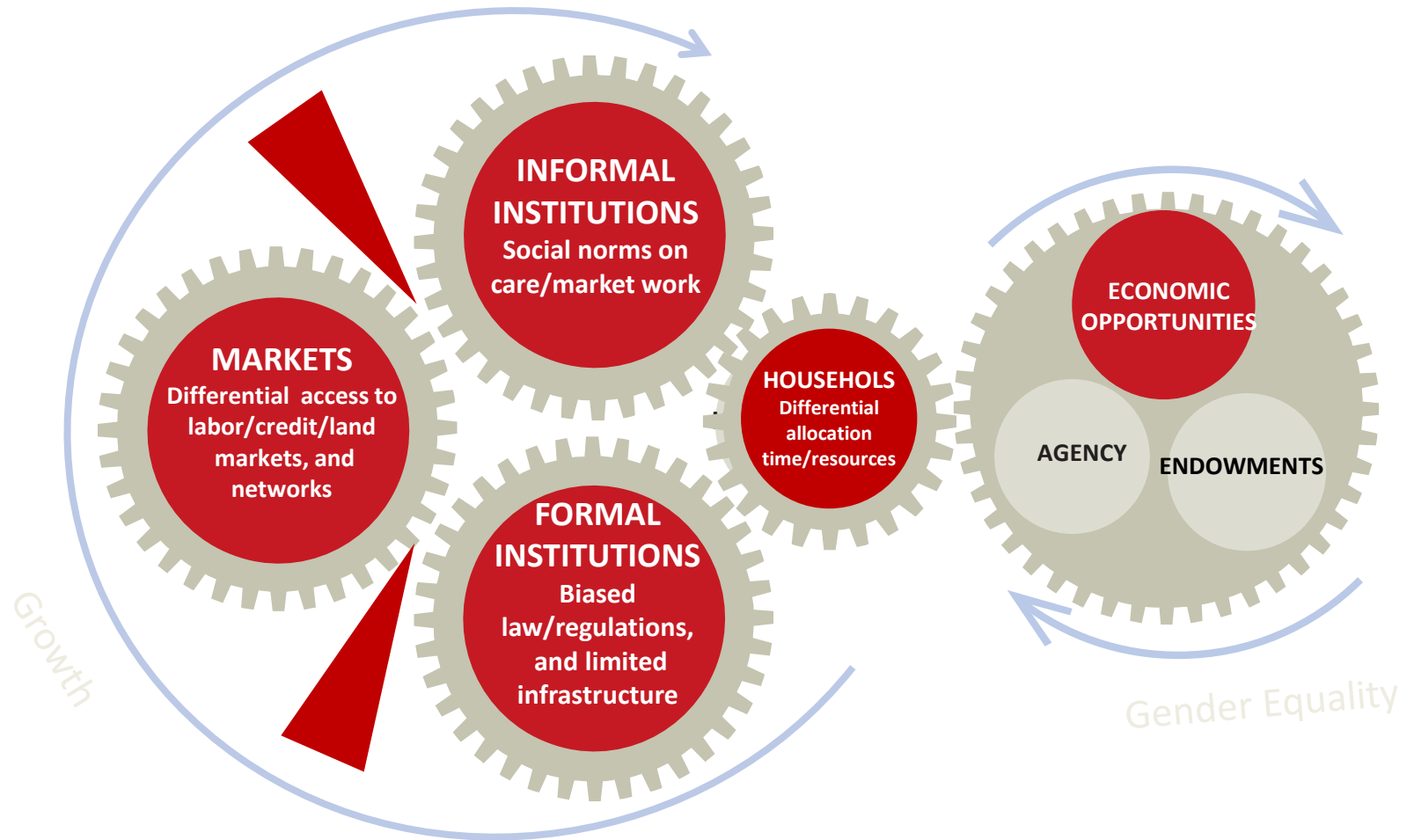


# Progress: Education

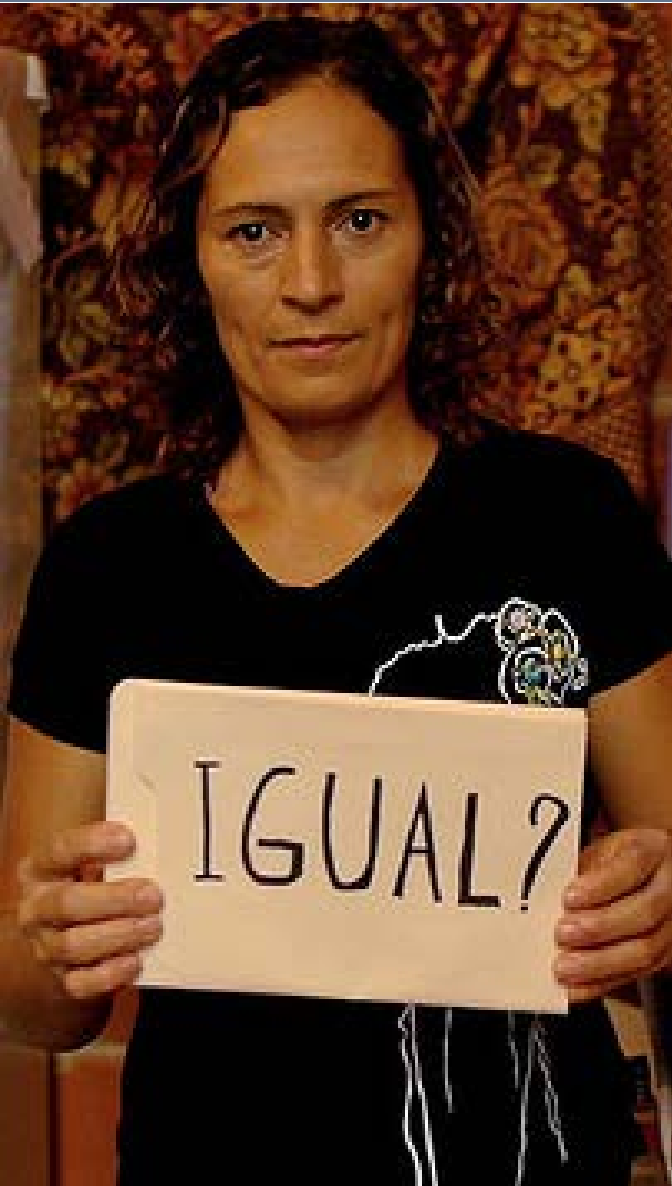




# No Progress: Economic Opportunities



# What do we do to eliminate these gaps?



- ✓ Focus on gaps that do not disappear with growth
  - Gender gaps in human endowments
  - Earnings and productivity gaps
  - Gender differences in voice and agency
  - The reproduction of gender inequality over time
- ✓ Target determinants of gender inequality

# Reducing excess female mortality

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

- Requires large investments in public health systems and improved service delivery

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

- Requires public investments, political will and greater client responsiveness

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

# Reducing remaining gaps in education

Closing gaps among **severely disadvantaged populations** requires:

- Context-specific interventions to address supply side constraints
- Interventions to stimulate demand for education



# Expanding access to economic opportunities (I)

**Alleviating time constraints** requires:

- **Infrastructure** improvements (water, electricity, transport) and new (ICT) technology
- Affordable **child care** (including how to provide in rural/informal settings)

**Increasing access to land and credit** requires:

- Legal reforms where **women's property rights** are restricted
- Expansion of **access to formal credit** (beyond microfinance), combined with training





# Expanding access to economic opportunities (II)

## Addressing market failures and institutional constraints:

- Reducing discrimination/poor information
- Correcting gender biases in service delivery
- Reforming labor laws that treat men/women differently



# Shrinking gender gaps in voice and agency

**Reducing domestic violence** - expanding support services for victims and strengthening legislation, enforcement of laws and improving access to justice

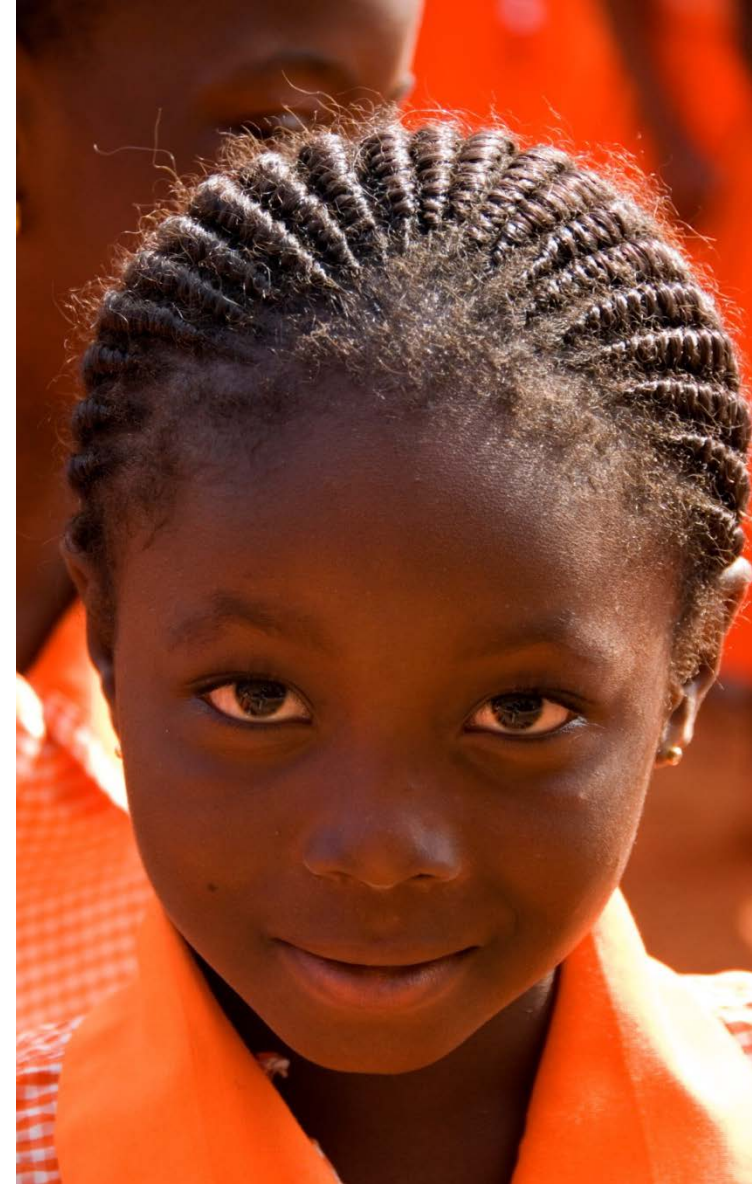
**Increasing social and political participation** – education, changing beliefs about women's leadership and strengthening social movements

**Enhancing women's voice in fertility decisions** -- improving services – access and quality, as well as bargaining power in household



# Limiting the reproduction of gender inequalities across generations

- Building **human and social capital**
- Supporting **school to work transition**
- Building **aspirations and agency** for girls and boys





# Global agenda for greater gender equality

- Global action complementary to national action and policies
- Three types of activities:
  - Providing financial support
  - Fostering innovation and learning
  - Leveraging effective partnerships

EQUAL!