



Organisation des Nations Unies
pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Series of SDG Webinars for the Arab Region: FAO and UN-Habitat

Advancing women's land rights and implementing SDG indicators 5.a.2 and 1.4.2 in Western Asia and beyond

*An Interagency and Experts Collaboration to Improve the
Production and Dissemination of SDG Indicators from Official
National Sources*

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Women's land rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

SDG GOAL 5 GENDER EQUALITY- TARGET 5.a

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

SDG Indicator 5.a.1

a. Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, **by sex**; and b. Share of women among **owners** or **rights bearers of agricultural land**, type of tenure

SDG Indicator 5.a.2.

The degree to which **national laws and policies** protect women's rights to land

SDG Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with **secure tenure rights** to land, with **legally recognized** documentation and who **perceive their rights** to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure

GOAL 1 ZERO POVERTY

TARGET 1.4 ECONOMIC RIGHTS



The status of women in agrifood systems

WOMEN'S WORKING CONDITIONS IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS ARE UNEQUAL despite the importance of agrifood systems for women's livelihoods and welfare of their families. This holds back women's productivity and sustains wage gaps.

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO ASSETS AND RESOURCES LAG BEHIND MEN'S especially land, other productive inputs, services, finance and digital technology

DISCRIMINATORY SOCIAL NORMS AND RULES AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS highest level in NENA region, ranging between 50% and 100% in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen (As per the SIGI 2019 Global Report)

POOR LEGAL PROTECTIONS OF WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN NATIONAL LAWS AND POLICIES are prevalent, especially in Western Asia.

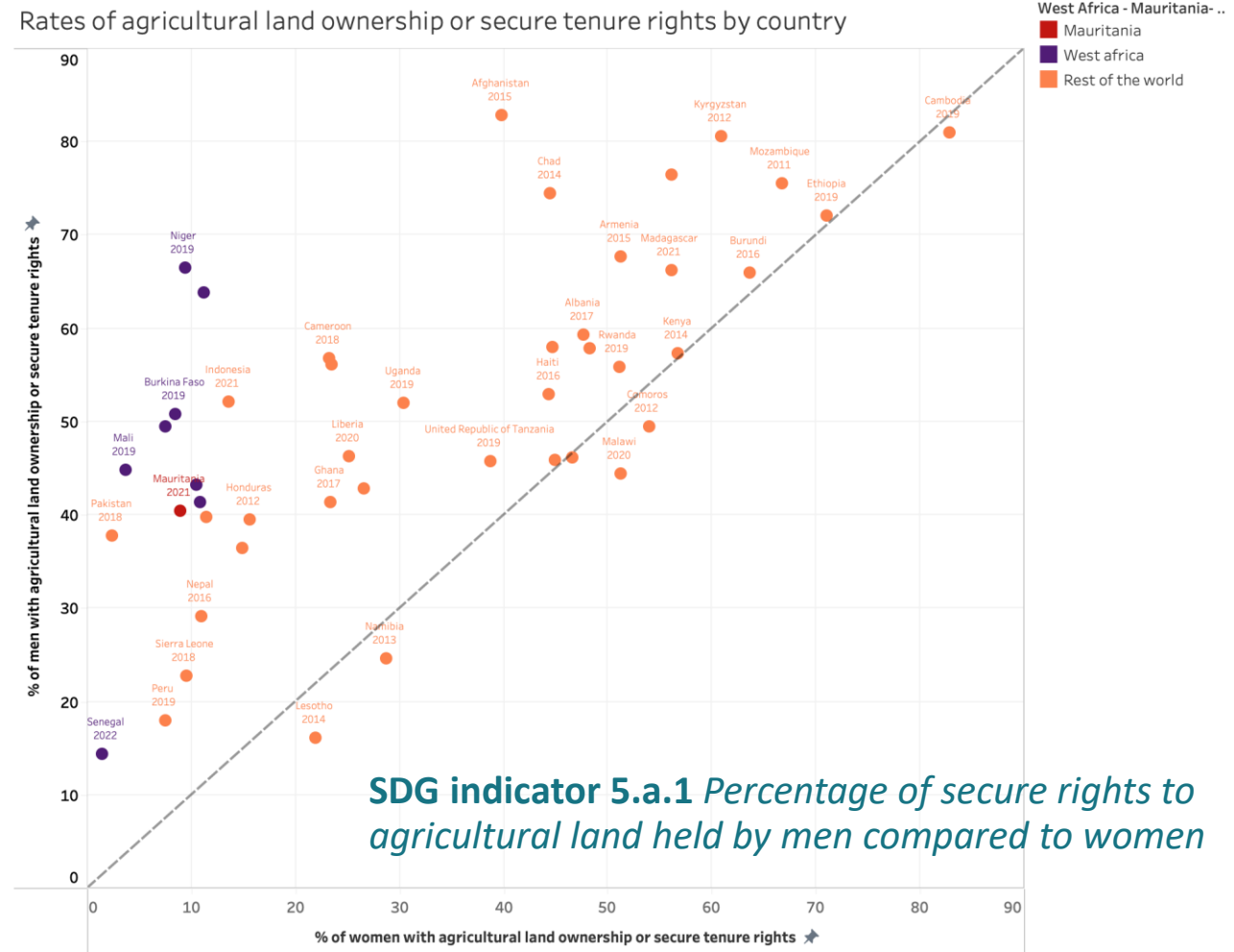
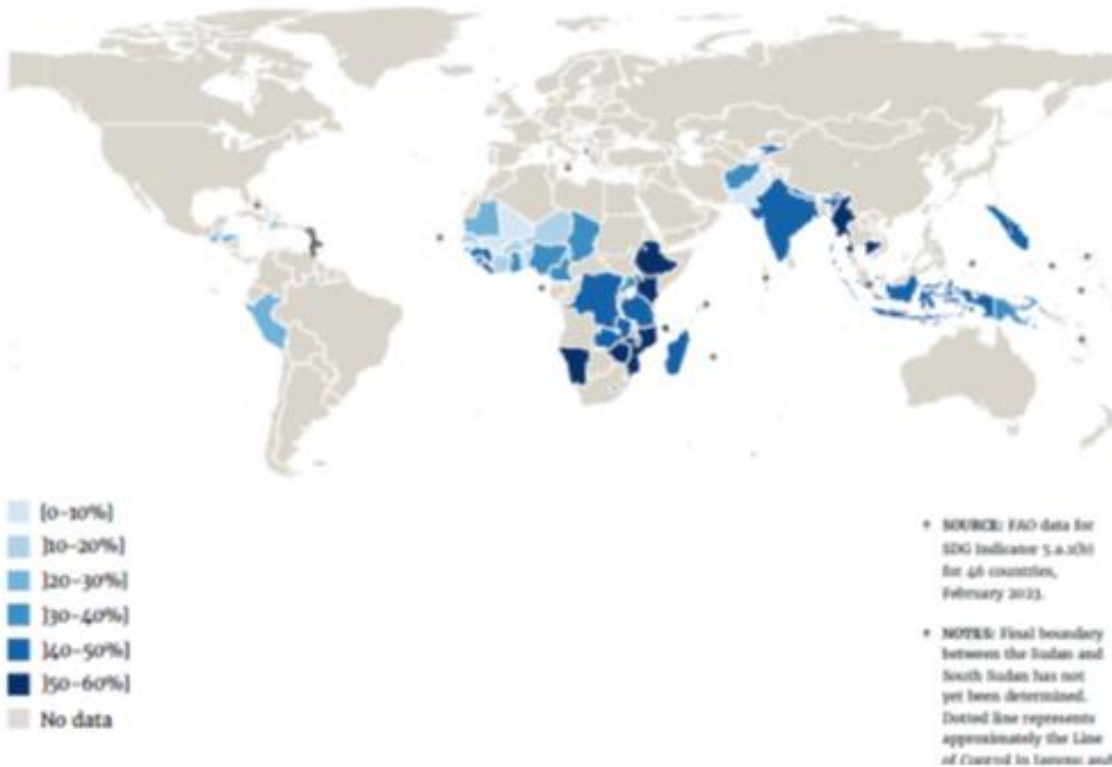
The importance of strengthening women's rights to land

-  Women's empowerment
-  Better management of natural resources
-  Investment and productivity
-  Economic and environmental resilience
-  Equal access to services and institutions
-  Food security
-  Women's bargaining power
-  Violence against women

Men have greater ownership of land than women in 40 out of 46 countries, including in Mauritania

Limited SDG 5.a.1 data availability in Western Asia & no evidence of progress (data over time)
A wide gender gap in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in Western Africa and Mauritania.

SDG indicator 5.a.1 b *Proportion of women among all agricultural landowners or holders of rights to agricultural land*



SDG indicator 5.a.2

Despite progress, **legal protections are still low** -2 proxies or score 3-, in **52% of the 74 reporting countries**

The following six proxies to conduct SDG 5.a.2 legal assessment:

Proxy A: Joint Registration of Land

Proxy B: Spousal Consent for Transactions

Proxy C: Equal inheritance rights

Proxy D: Financial Allocations

Proxy E: Recognition of Customary Law

Proxy F: Quotas for Women's Participation

The methodology introduces **minimum scenarios** measuring different levels of protection

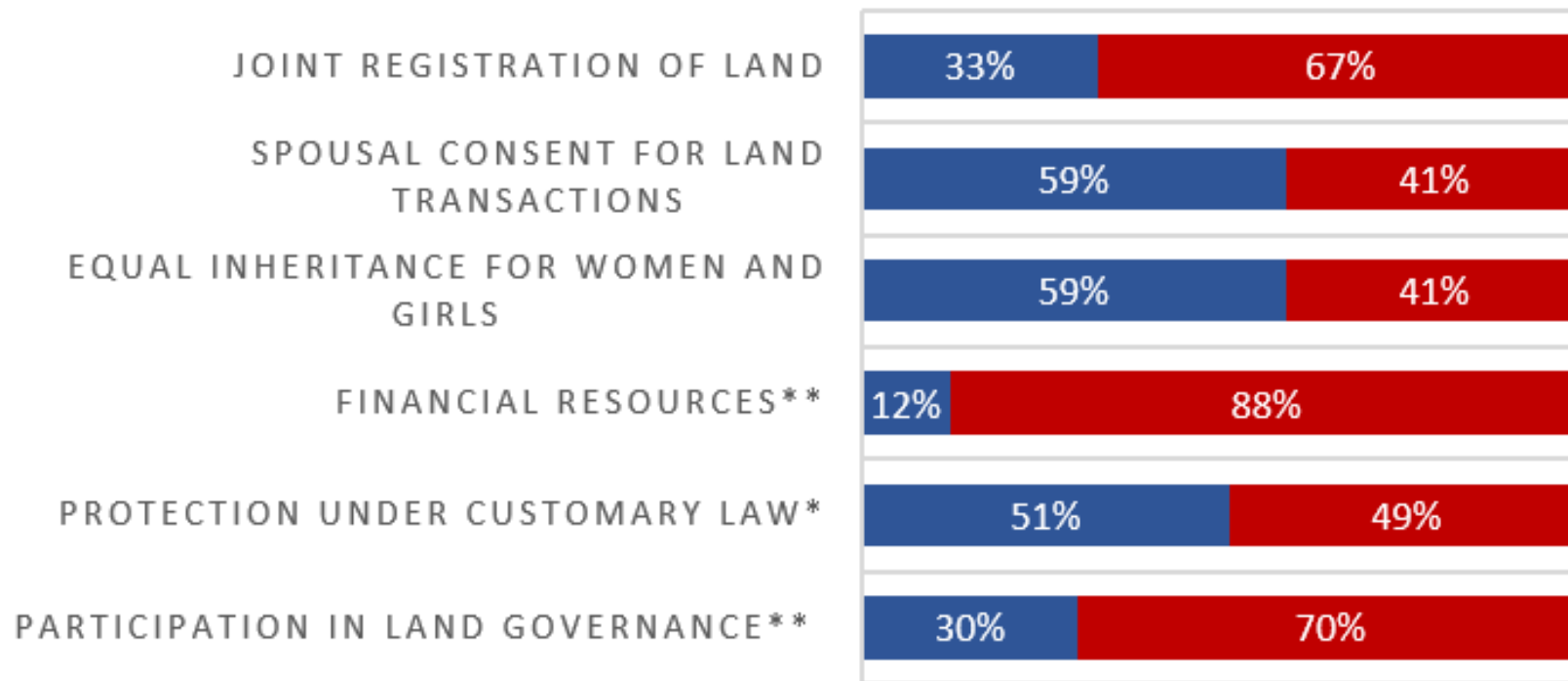
Number of proxies present	Score*	Level of protection**	No. of countries (n=74)
0	1	None	16%
1	2	Very low	11%
2	3	Low	25%
3	4	Medium	20%
4	5	High	22%
5 or 6	6	Very high	7%

SDG indicator 5.a.2 *The Level of protection for women's land rights in laws and policies.* Source: FAO unpublished data based on officially submitted SDG indicator 5.a.2 assessment. December 2023

SDG 5.a.2 results, *by proxy*

Common proxies are **equal inheritance** & **spousal consent requirement** for disposing of marital property, as well as **quotas for women's participation in land administration & management institutions**, and **joint registration** of marital property

The share of countries, out of 74, in which each proxy is present



Available data for the 7 countries in **Western Asia** demonstrate **low scores** (0 out of 5 proxies), despite the existence of **good practices**

Proxy E non applicable (scale 1-5 instead of scale 1-6)

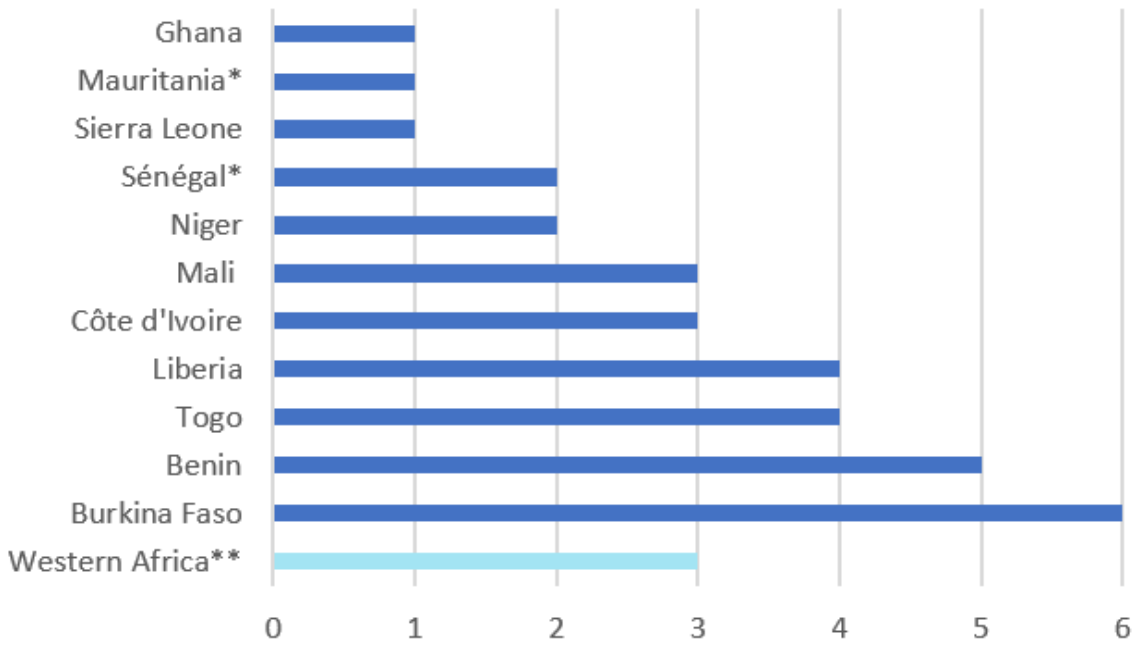
YES

NO

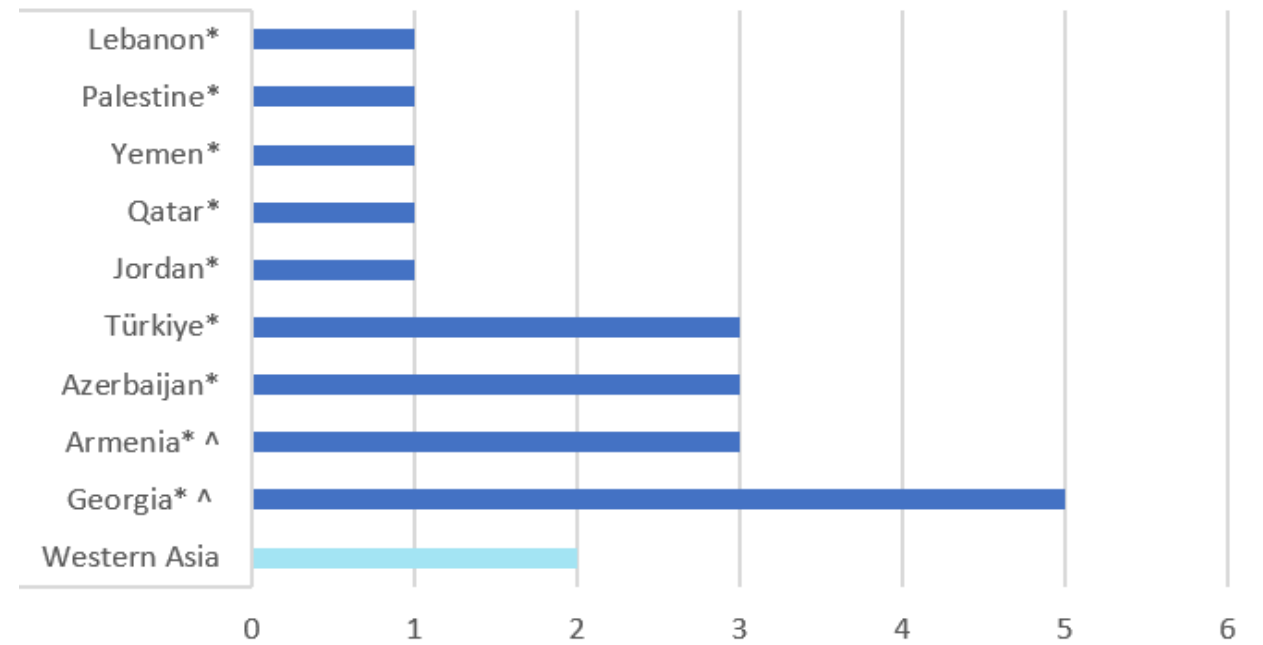
Source: *FAO unpublished data based on officially submitted SDG indicator 5.a.2 assessment. December 2023*

SDG indicator 5.a.2 in regions where religious laws apply to marriage, marital property and inheritance matters

SDG 5.a.2 in Western Africa



SDG 5.a.2 in Western Asia



SDG 5.a.2 does **not** track progress in terms of **implementation or enforcement of the laws** (i.e. de facto situation). However, policies, programmes and TSM are considered.

Good Practices in Inheritance matters

- **Jordan:** PSL requires an attorney to notify all heirs, including women, of the value and properties included within the estate, a judge to explain the legal consequences of relinquishing inheritance to the heirs and a 12-months cooling off period during which heirs may not renounce their rights **(SDG 5.a.2 assessment to be updated)**
- **Tunisia:** PSL enables girls to receive the full inheritance in the absence of male heirs or where spouses can opt for the equal division of property acquired during a marriage.
- **Egypt:** Financial and penitential sanctions for those depriving heirs, particularly women, of their rightful inheritance or withholding documents that could otherwise lay claim to an inheritance

Source: Tempra, Women and Land in the Muslim World, 2018

- **Mali & Senegal:** Equal inheritance rights for women and men as the rule, unless a person explicitly chooses the (customary or) Muslim regime

Source: FAO data based on officially submitted SDG Indicator 5.a.2 assessment, December 2023.

Good Practices in other areas of law

Joint registration of common marital property

- **Burkina Faso:** Family-run farms and family home
- **Liberia:** A tenancy by its entirety created when joint tenants are also husband and wife
- **Türkiye:** Right to request joint registration of family residence in the land registry

Consent requirements for common marital property

- **Burkina Faso:** Family home, and immovables jointly owned by the spouses, the family plots and the rural land holding
- **Togo:** Personal and common goods, the assets in the community.
- **Bénin:** Family home.

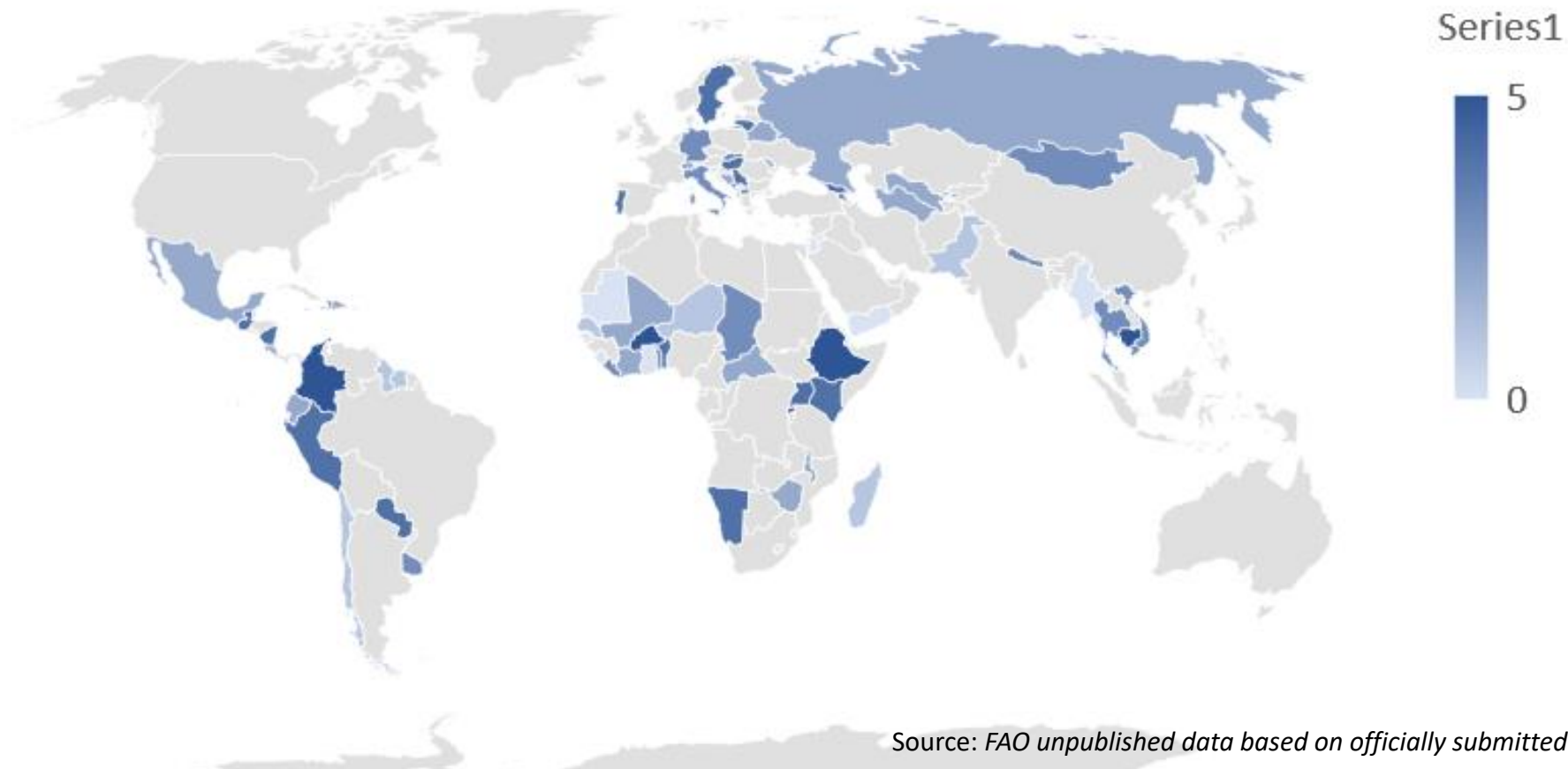
Quotas for women's participation in land administration and management

Bénin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Niger, & Mali: Land management commission at decentralized levels, Local level dispute resolution commission, Land allocation commission, County Land Board. NB **Mali's Gender Equality Law**

GOOD PRACTICES of **legal and policy reforms for advancing women's land rights** exist in the **Western Asia** and regions with comparable legal systems such as **Western Africa**

Importance of **increased SDG 5.a.2 data availability & evidence of progress** in **Western Asia**

SDG 5.a.2 methodology is a tool which provides countries with a baseline, whereas **gender responsive laws, policies and practices** can be only be adopted with the national context as the starting point.



Source: *FAO unpublished data based on officially submitted SDG indicator 5.a.2 assessment.*

Status of reporting on SDG 5.a.2 in Western Asia

Report submitted

- Jordan (2019)- **To be updated**
- Qatar (2019)- **To be updated**
- State of Palestine (2021)
- Yemen (2021)
- Lebanon (2022)
- Mauritania (2022)
- Djibouti (2023)

Process ongoing

- Morocco, **Ongoing**
- Oman, **Ongoing**
- UEA, **Delayed**
- Iraq, **Delayed**
- Egypt, **Delayed**
- Algeria, **Delayed**

Reporting still to be initiated

- Sudan, **Process halted**
- Tunisia
- Somalia
- Bahrain
- Kuwait
- Libya
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria

Globally, **74 countries** have officially submitted reports on SDG 5.a.2 of which **7 countries** in the region.

Lessons Learned

- Reporting on **SDG 5.a.2** supports the **implementation of the SDG Agenda as a whole**, as gender equality helps achieve **all 17 SDGs**.
- The process for reporting SDG 5.a.2 requires the **engagement of and collaboration between high-level focal points within multiple ministries**, each for the different aspects (Le centre d'inclusion des femmes au foncier (CIFF) in Morocco is an excellent starting point for engaging all concerned ministries in policy and programmatic follow up).
- The methodology has been developed based **on internationally recognized good practices (CEDAW and VGGT)** and may pose **some constraints**, but this should not stop countries from reporting as good practices go undocumented and cannot be disseminated
- **SDG 5.a.1, 5.a.2 and 1.4.2 data** (complemented with **other relevant data sets**) has **different uses across multiple contexts** which are applicable *regardless of the number of proxies found in a country*:
 1. Educate and raise awareness,
 2. Reporting on commitments (ex. CEDAW),
 3. Policies and programmes (ex. Senegal, Mauritania, Sierra Leone)
 4. Advocate for change based on national context
 5. Research and further analysis.

TARGET

5 ▶ A



**EQUAL RIGHTS TO
ECONOMIC RESOURCES,
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP
AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES**

Discussion points:

- **Western Asia is lagging in reporting on SDG 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, with Mauritania being the only country with both data sets and only 6 other countries having produced data on SDG 5.a.2.**
- For SDG 5.a.1 and 5.a.2: A need for **greater data availability, harmonization over time and across countries in line with the official reporting methodologies**
- The importance of Goal 5 for sustainable development and the achievement of many other goals of the 2030 Agenda, including SDGs 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 15 and 16, requires **concerted efforts aimed at the collecting, updating, dissemination and use of available data.**
- Tackling **major obstacles** for data collection and data use, as well as the **promotion of concrete actions** to benefit the situation of men, women and communities in rural areas
- **Huge potential** to build on the good practices identified considering the **national context and needs of the national counterparts**, with the SDG 5.a.2 assessment providing information on **areas for improvement**, and **progress achieved** (nationally and in comparable contexts)

Please do not hesitate to contact us at: [SDG-5A2-Indicator <SDG-5A2-Indicator@fao.org>](mailto:SDG-5A2-Indicator@fao.org)

Resources and key approaches for advancing women's land rights

- [SDG 5.a.2 e-learning](#)
- Gender-sensitive programmes on land in line with the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land](#), Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security,
- [CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment](#) in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition
- FAO report on [the Status of Women in agrifood systems](#) including a section presenting the global results for SDG indicator 5.a.2 and 5.a.1, and regional briefs.
- FAO's support to [multi-stakeholder platforms](#) (MSPs) and the Global Land Observatory
- [Focus on governance](#) for more effective policy and technical support
- [Gender Transformative Approaches](#) for Food Security and Nutrition, and the JP GTA [Compendium of 15 good practices](#) published in 2020
- FAO's [Country Gender Assessment](#) (CGA) on the status of women and men in agriculture and the rural sector, and concrete recommendations for guiding the design and implementation of gender-responsive agricultural and rural development policies, strategies and programmes
- [Gender-Lex](#) and the legal assessment tool