

Sustainable Development Goal 5:
Achieve gender quality and empower all women and girls
EXPERT GROUP MEETING
New York, January 21, 2025

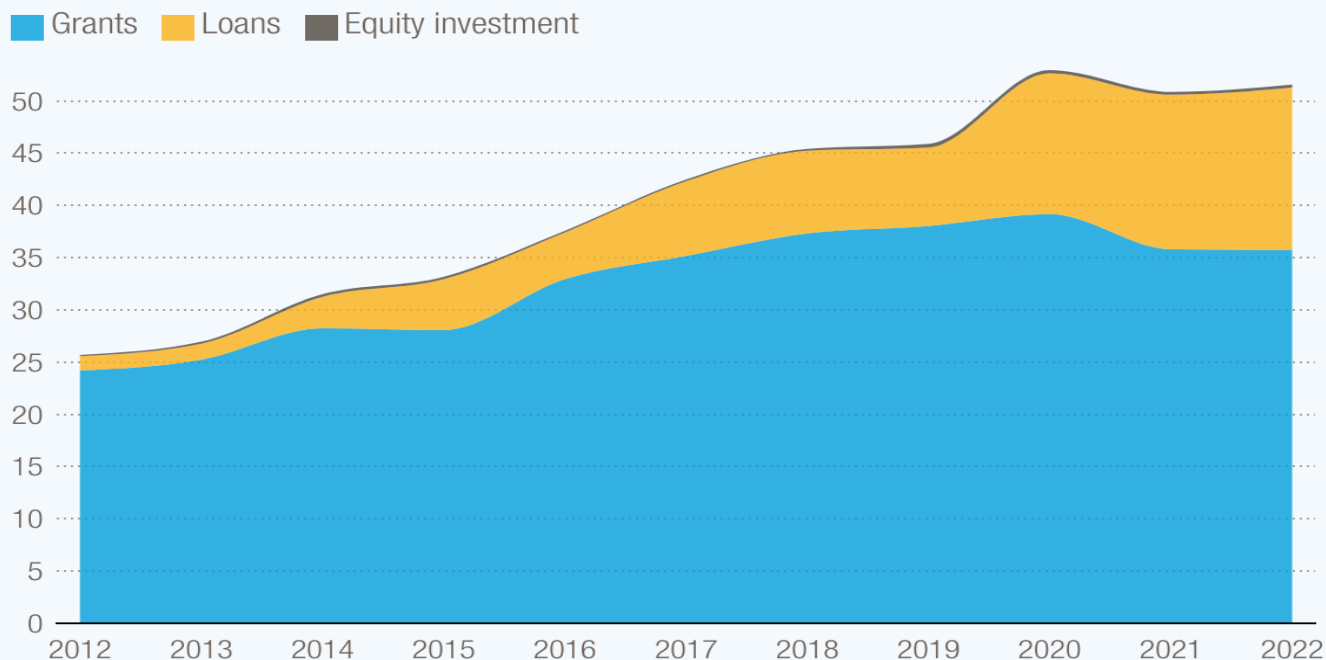
Closing the Gap:
Financing for Gender Equality

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Gender-related aid doubled over the past decade, increasing mainly in the form of loans

Gender-related official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries by instrument in billions of dollars at constant 2021 prices, 2012–2022



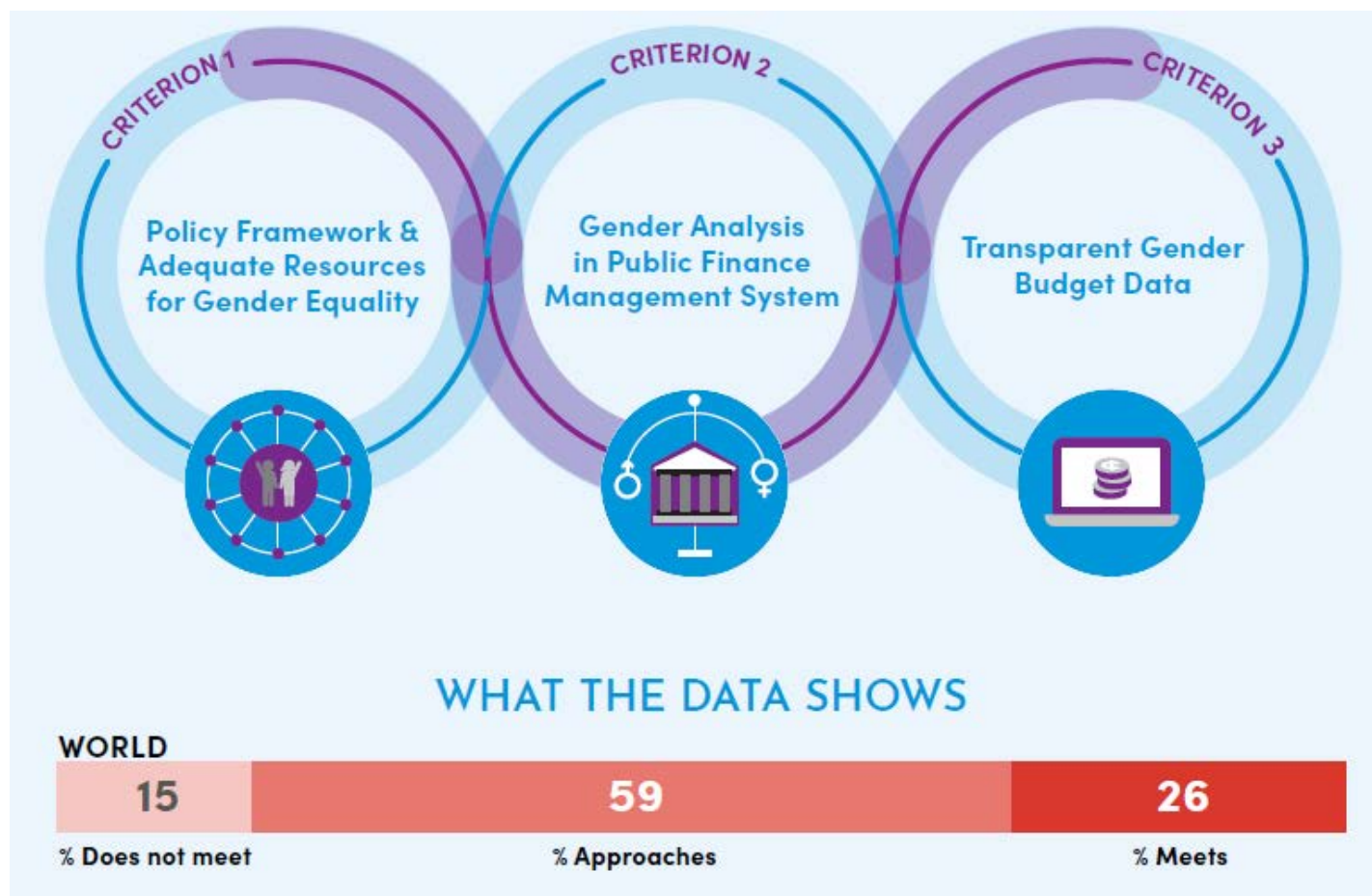
Source: UN Global Crisis Response Group – technical team calculations based on OECD (December 2023)

Note: Gender equality as either a principal policy objective (dedicated funding) or a significant objective (funding that integrates/mainstreams gender equality).

- Trend in investments made with a gender lens is positive
- But overall financing flows targeting gender equality remain small compared to capital being raised for other impact objectives
- For example, in 2022, sustainable bonds aligned with SDG 5 were still 1% of the amount issued through green, social, and sustainability bonds

I. Context: Countries' efforts

% of countries with systems that track & make allocations for gender equality



I. Context: The Gap

Estimated cost of achieving gender
equality in all developing economies
around \$7 trillion

Yearly spending gap of
over \$400 billion

II. Barriers to gender equality

Three barriers to gender equality :

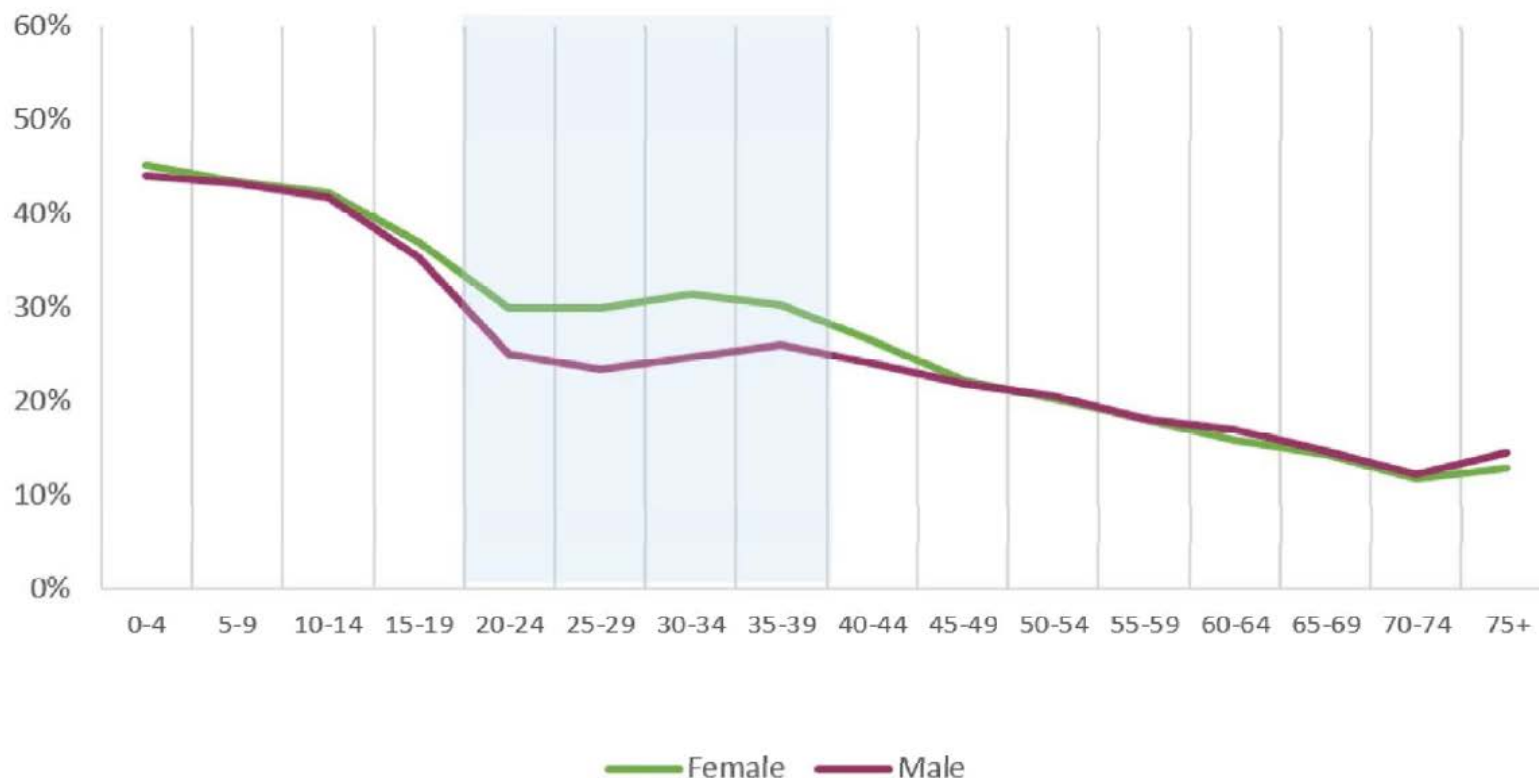
- Opportunities
- Social norms
- Aspirations

Barriers to funding too:

Investing in infrastructure is easier
than investing in aspirations!

II. Barriers: Poverty is gendered

Ex. Latin America & the Caribbean Poverty rate 2021, female & male

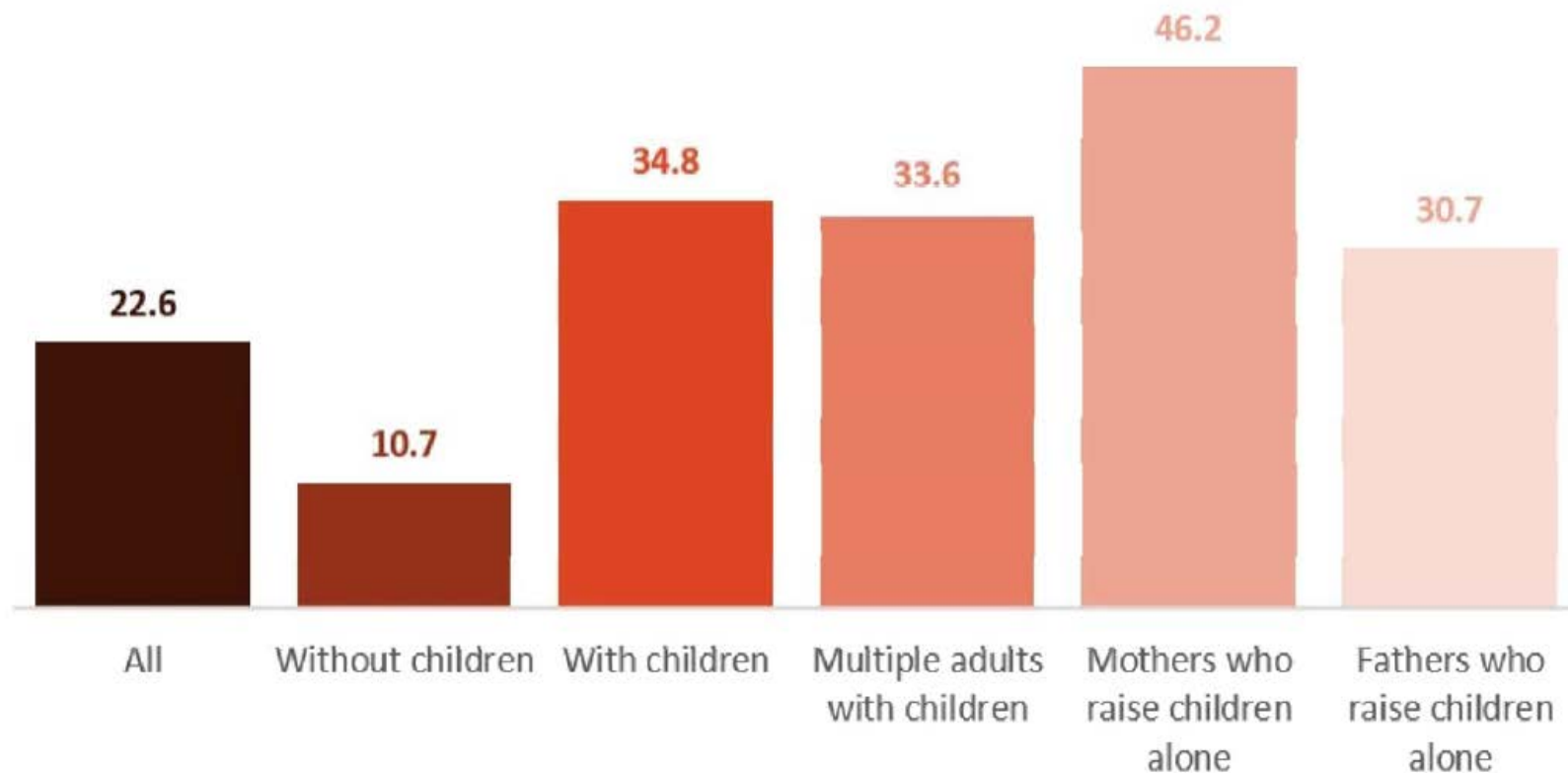


Source: Buitrago-Hernandez et al. (2024)

II. Barriers: Poverty is gendered

Example: Latin America and the Caribbean

Household poverty rate 2021, by household structure



Source: Buitrago-Hernandez et al. (2024)

II. Barriers: Macroeconomic crises

Macroeconomic shocks impact women

- Direct channels – increased poverty incidence
- But there are indirect channels too
 - Crises increase armed conflict which impacts women disproportionately
 - Decline in public expenditures in response to the shock

III. Financing for gender equality

1. Assess which policy targets have largely gendered impacts
 - Poverty alleviation
 - Macroeconomic stability
2. Design of social safety net is key –
3. Entice other actors into financing equality

III. Financing for gender equality

1. Assess which policy targets have largely gendered impacts
2. Design of social safety net is key –
 - Ensure its structure does not leave women behind
 - Ensure resilience of SSN in the face of macroeconomic shocks
3. Entice other actors into financing equality

III. Financing for gender equality

1. Assess which policy targets have largely gendered impacts
2. Design of social safety net is key –
3. Entice other actors into financing equality
 - Requires creativity
 - Adolescent pregnancies
 - Affecting aspirations – role of media?

III. Financing for gender equality



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Thank you!



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