WOMEN COUNT

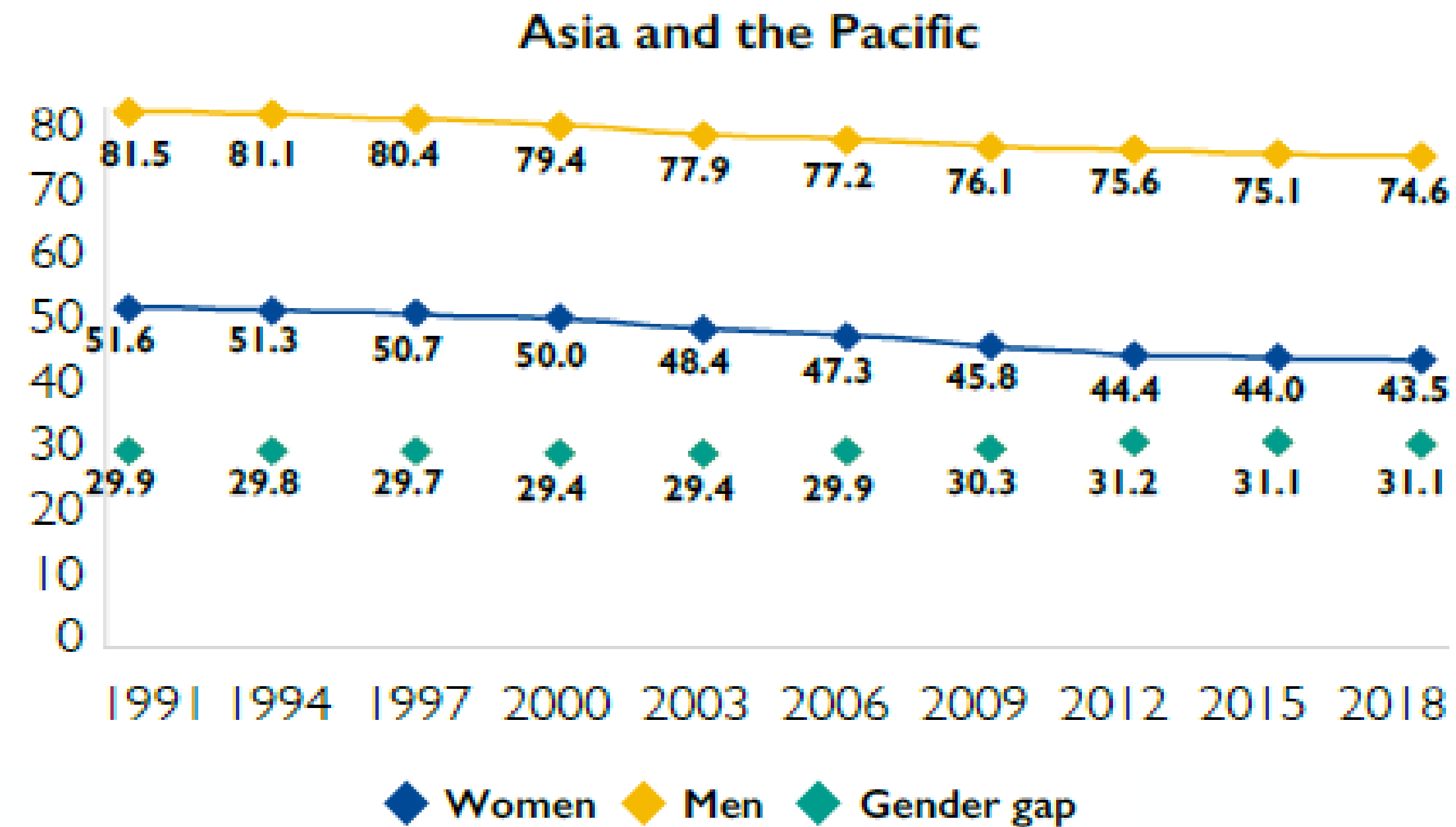# Economic justice and rights: What gender data say about where we are?

**Cecilia Tinonin**
**Statistics Specialist**
**UN WOMEN Asia and the Pacific**

UN WOMEN

# Gender gaps in employment prior to COVID-19

Employment-to-population ratio in Asia and the Pacific by sex, 1991-2018

## Asia and the Pacific



| | 1991 | 1994 | 1997 | 2000 | 2003 | 2006 | 2009 | 2012 | 2015 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Men | 81.5 | 81.1 | 80.4 | 79.4 | 77.9 | 77.2 | 76.1 | 75.6 | 75.1 | 74.6 |
| Women | 51.6 | 51.3 | 50.7 | 50.0 | 48.4 | 47.3 | 45.8 | 44.4 | 44.0 | 43.5 |
| Gender gap | 29.9 | 29.8 | 29.7 | 29.4 | 29.4 | 29.9 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 31.1 | 31.1 |

◆ Women  ◆ Men  ◆ Gender gap
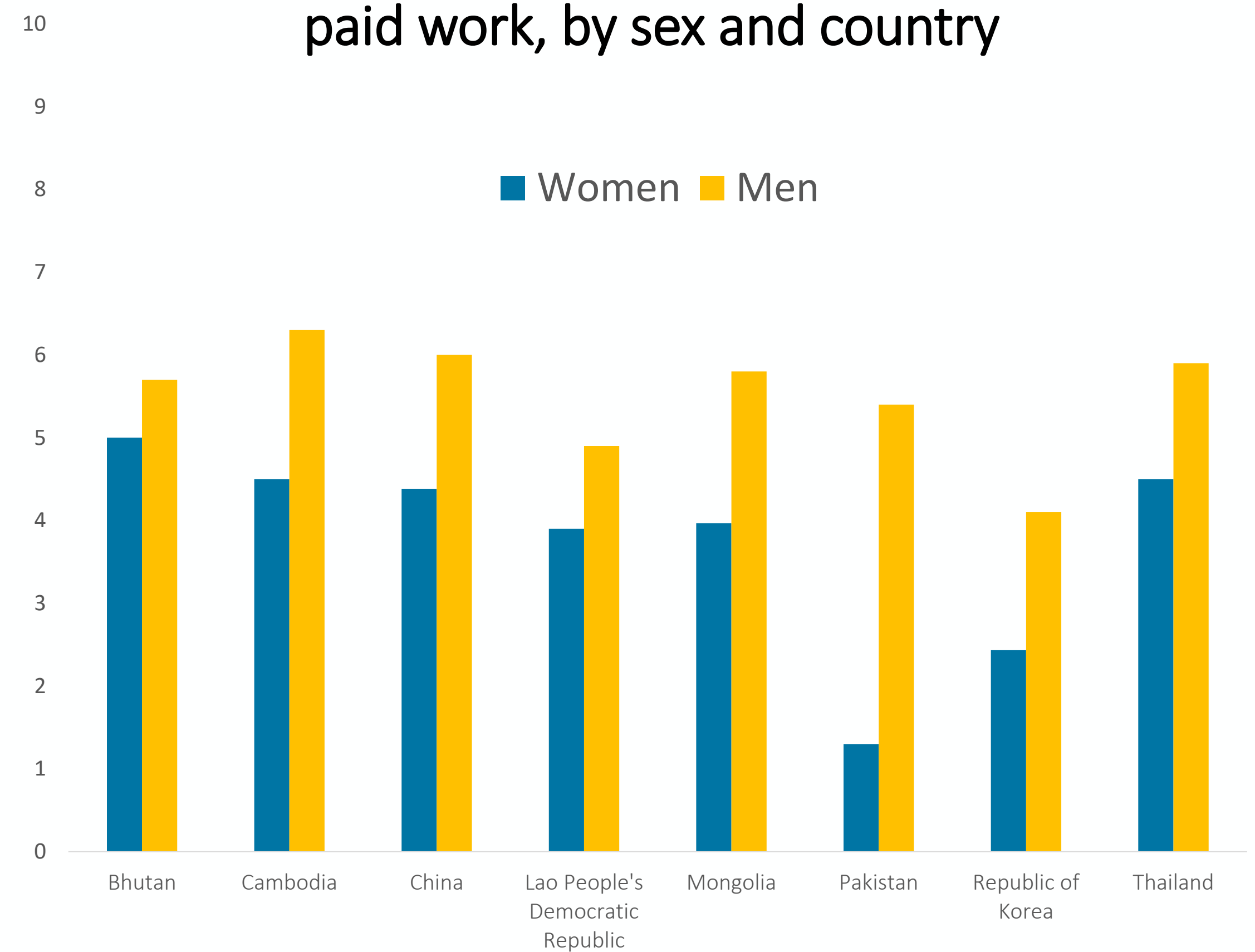
Source: ILO modelled estimates, November 2018

# Gender gaps in time allocated to paid and unpaid work prior to COVID-19

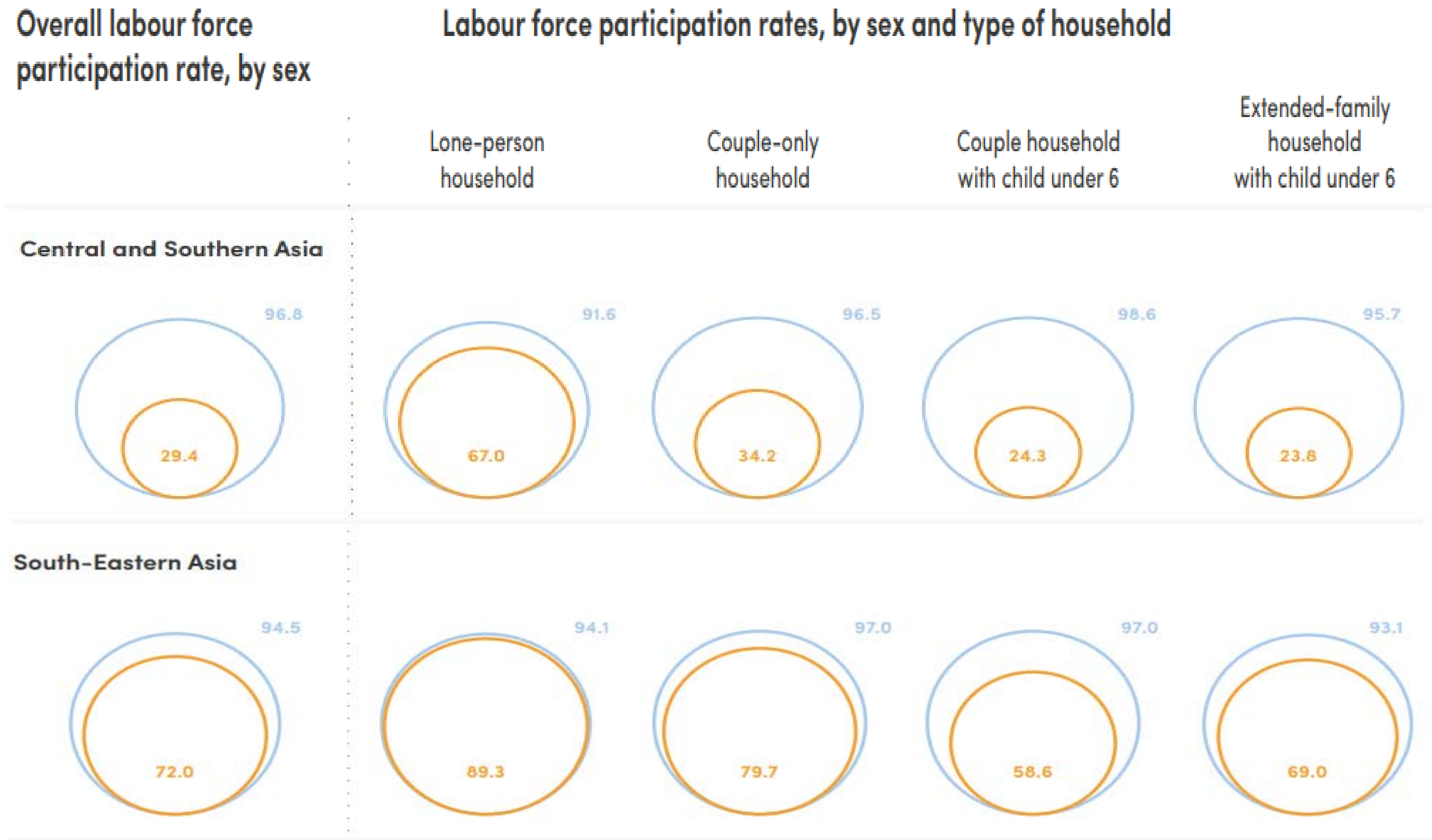## Average time spent on unpaid domestic and care and volunteer work, by sex and country

■ Women  ■ Men



Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand
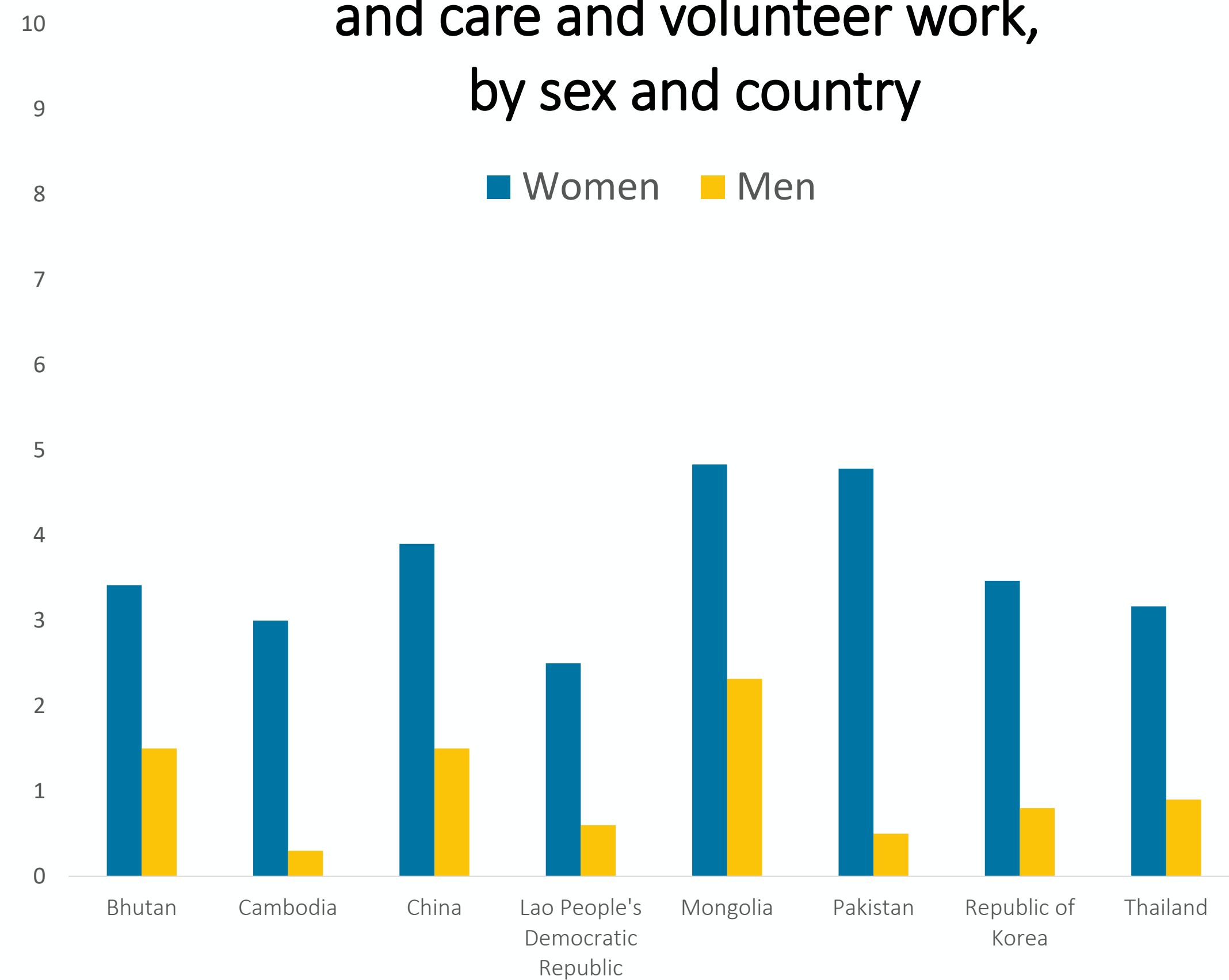
## Average time spent on subsistence and paid work, by sex and country

■ Women  ■ Men



Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand

Source: Authors' elaboration on United Nations Statistics Division Time use data portal

# Labor force participation by sex, household type and region prior to COVID-19

## Overall labour force participation rate, by sex

## Labour force participation rates, by sex and type of household

| | Lone-person household | Couple-only household | Couple household with child under 6 | Extended-family household with child under 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|

### Central and Southern Asia

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 96.8 | 91.6 | 96.5 | 98.6 | 95.7 |
| 29.4 | 67.0 | 34.2 | 24.3 | 23.8 |

### South-Eastern Asia

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 94.5 | 94.1 | 97.0 | 97.0 | 93.1 |
| 72.0 | 89.3 | 79.7 | 58.6 | 69.0 |

Source: UN Women and ILO (2020). Spotlight on SDG 8. The impact of marriage and children on labour market participation.

**Answering key question: how COVID-19 does affect gender equality?**

ARE WOMEN LOSING THEIR JOBS?

WHO IS SPENDING MORE TIME TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN?

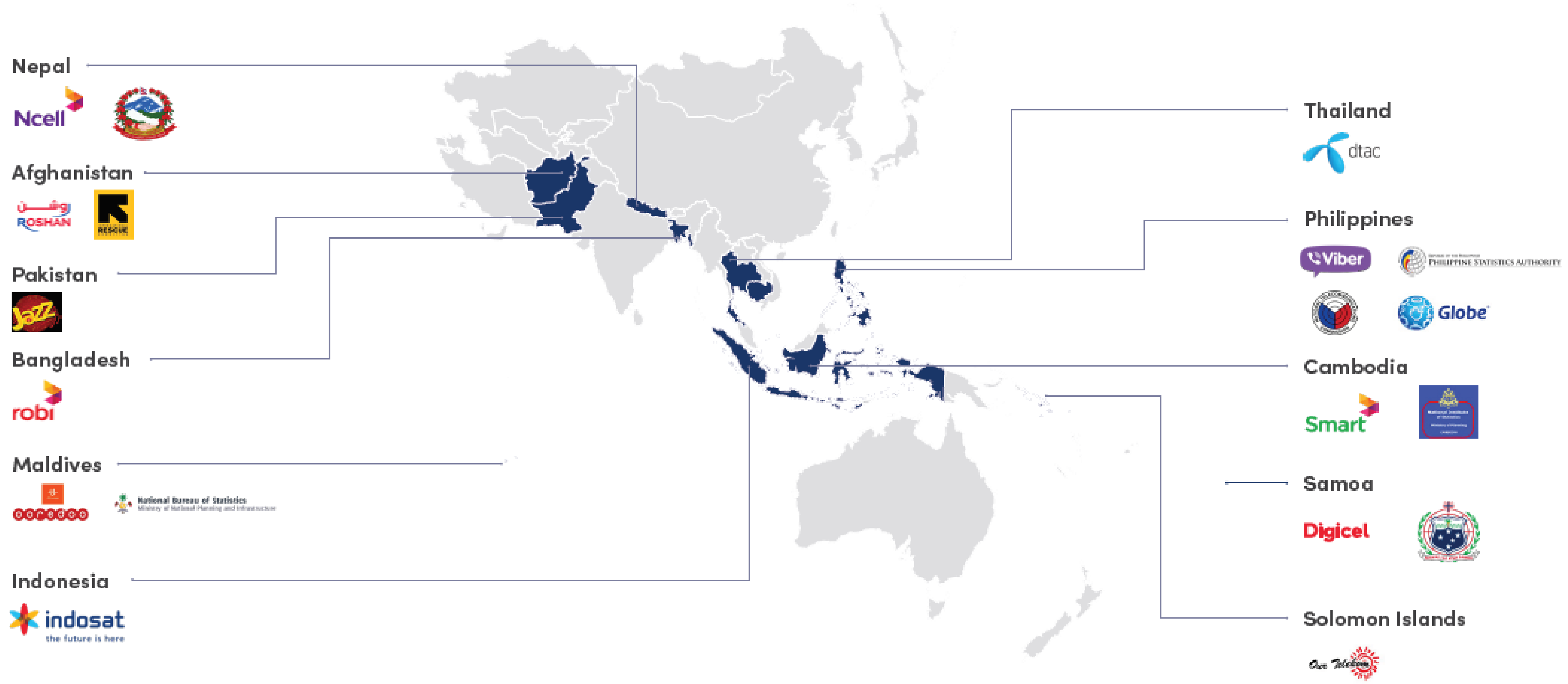ARE VULNERABLE GROUPS GETTING POORER?

## COVID-19 risks to further jeopardize the availability of gender data, but not its

COVID-19 poses unprecedented and unique challenges to traditional methods of data collection:

o Face-to-face data collection methods not feasible due to lockdown regulations (risks of contagion, COVID-19 safety protocols);

o Prioritization of economic indicators as main measurement domain, with limited sex disaggregation (e.g., household as unit of analysis);

o Measurement of unpaid domestic and care work particularly relevant during COVID-19: the household absorbed increased demands for care and domestic work. No substitution effects with services in public and private sector (e.g., homeschooling);

o Alternative methods: unequal coverage of complete sampling frames for CATI and CAWI among countries.

# With COVID-19 innovative approaches are needed

Regional roll out of UN Women Rapid and Assessment Surveys in partnership with the private sector, national Governments and international organizations

**17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**

Nepal

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Bangladesh

Maldives

Indonesia

Thailand

Philippines

Cambodia

Samoa

Solomon Islands

# As a result of COVID-19, women's economic resources are being hit hardest

COVID-19 is hitting women's income from savings, investments and properties hardest

COVID-19 is hitting women's income from savings, investments and properties hardest

**61%** OF WOMEN

saw decreases

**58%** OF MEN

More women saw decreases in remittances received, a particularly relevant source of income for the poor[1]

**66%** OF WOMEN

**61%** OF MEN

1 NO POVERTY

UNLOCKING THE LOCKDOWN
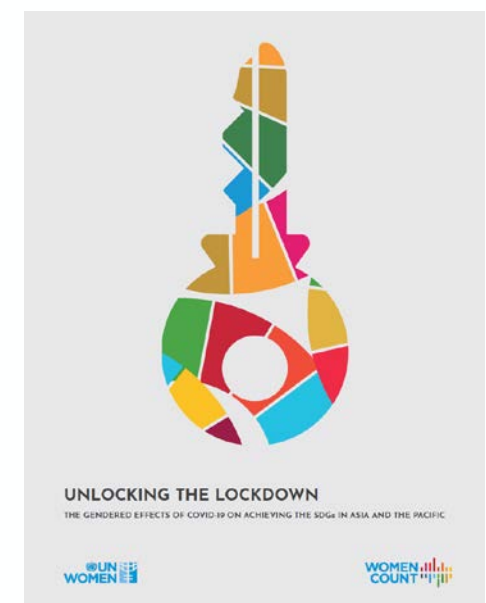
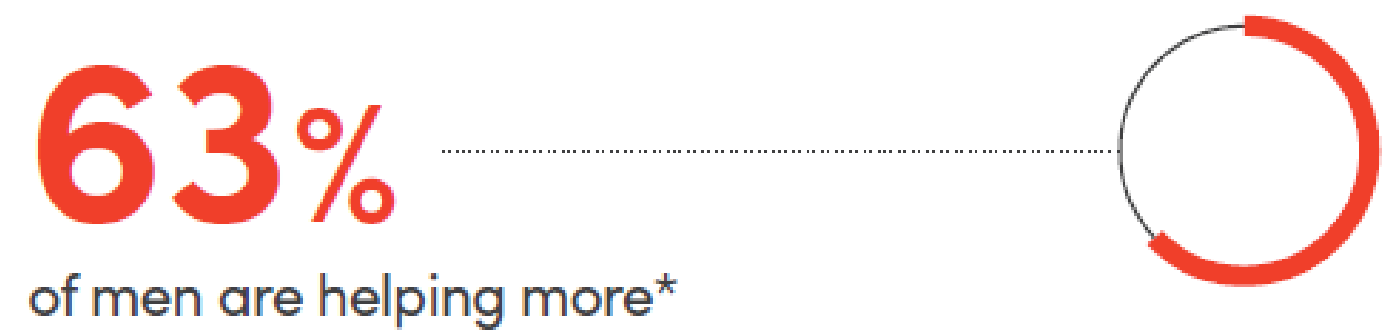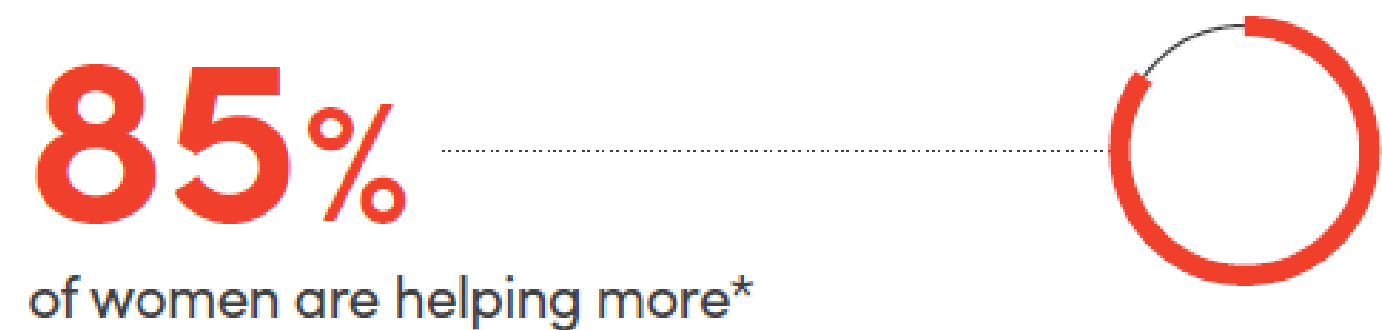# COVID-19 increased the unpaid domestic & care workload, and women are bearing



Proportion of people whose time allocated to unpaid domestic and care work increased since the spread of COVID-19, by sex and intensity (percentage)
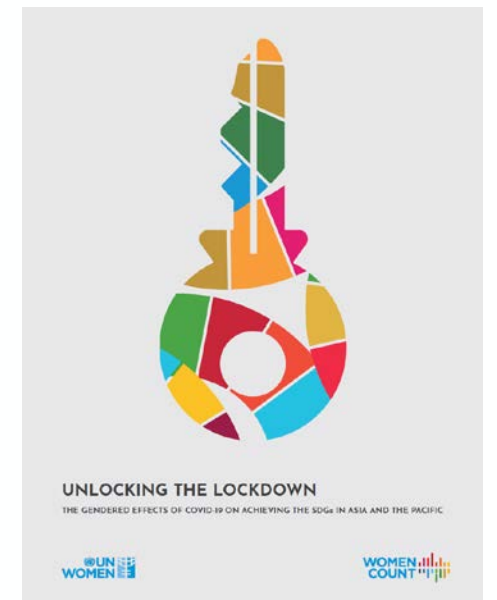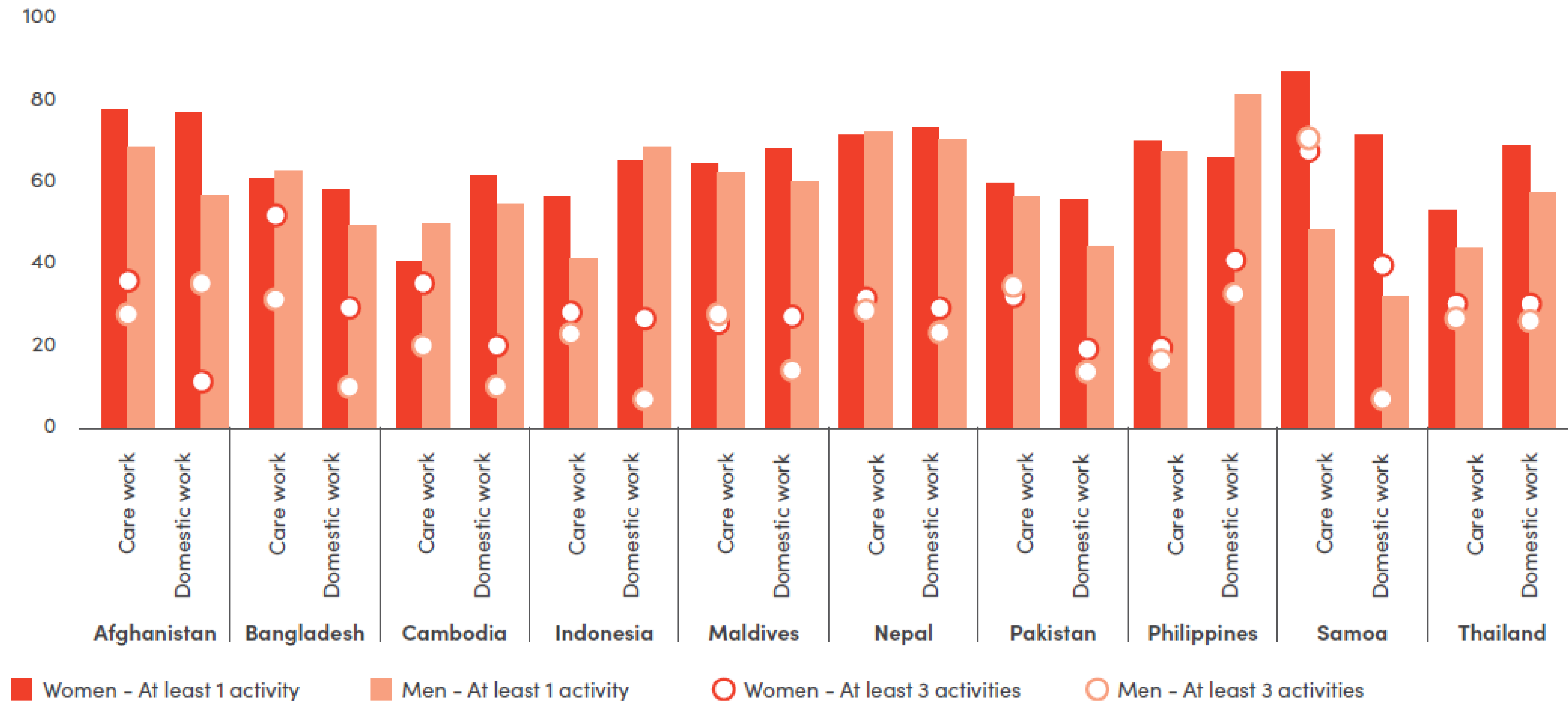
Source: UN Women (2020) Rapid Assessment Surveys on the Consequences of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific.

# COVID-19 increased the unpaid domestic & care workload, and women are bearing
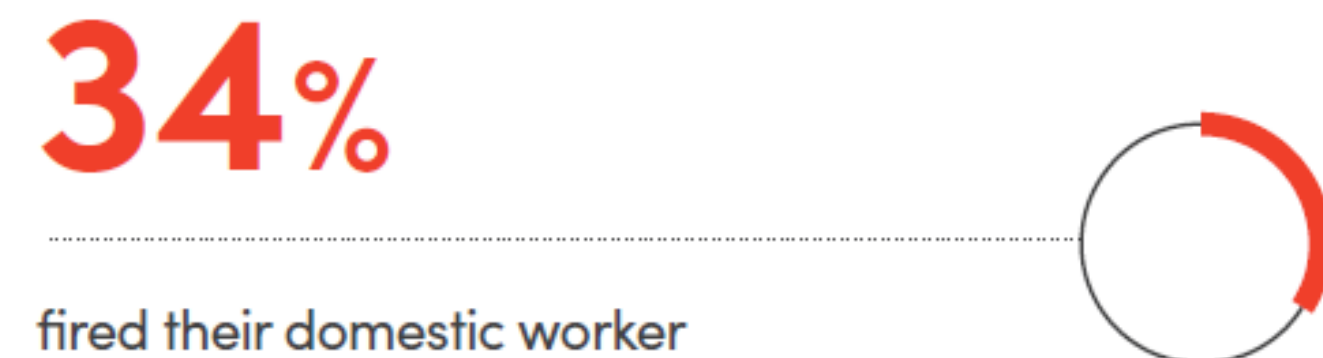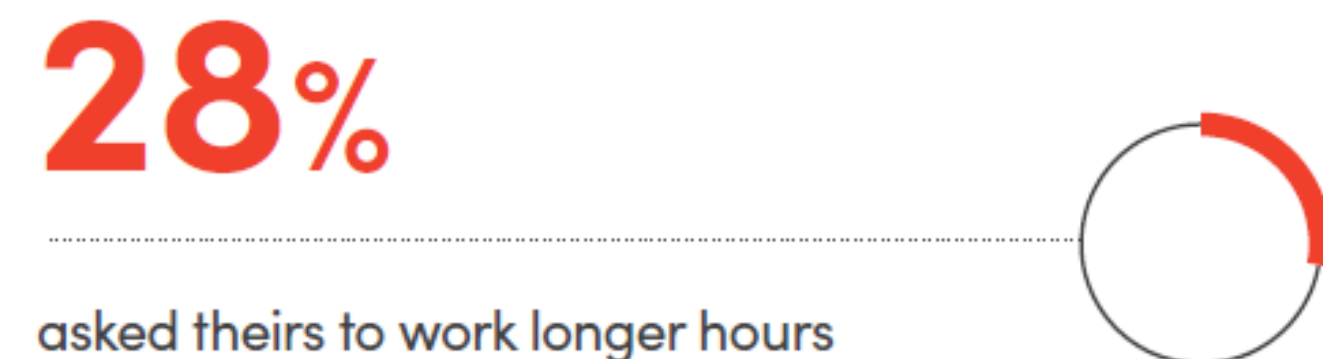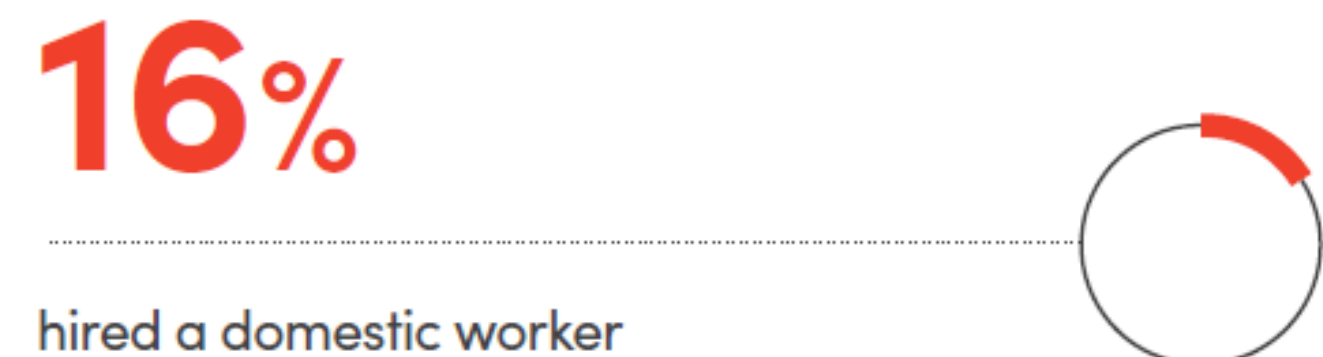
## COVID-19 MULTIPLIED THE WORKLOAD AT HOME AND WOMEN ARE PAYING THE PRICE

**85**%
of women are helping more*

**63**%
of men are helping more*

**67**%
of daughters are helping more

**57**%
of sons are helping more
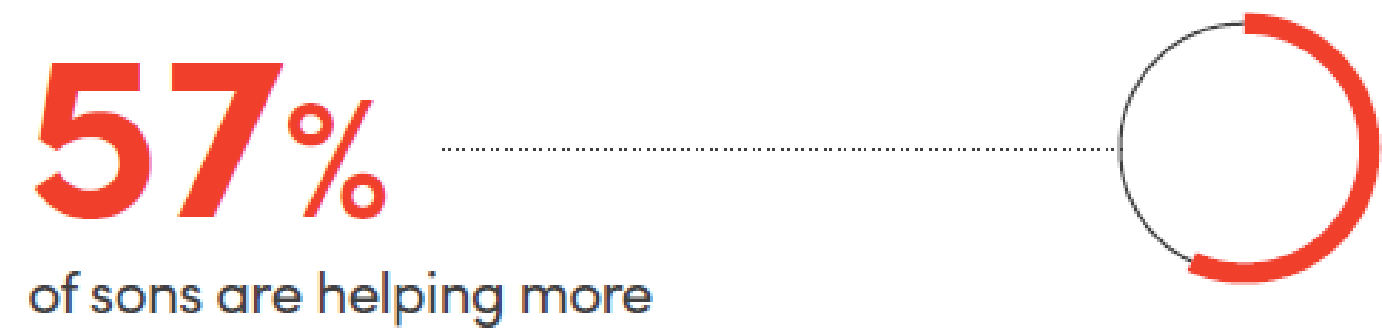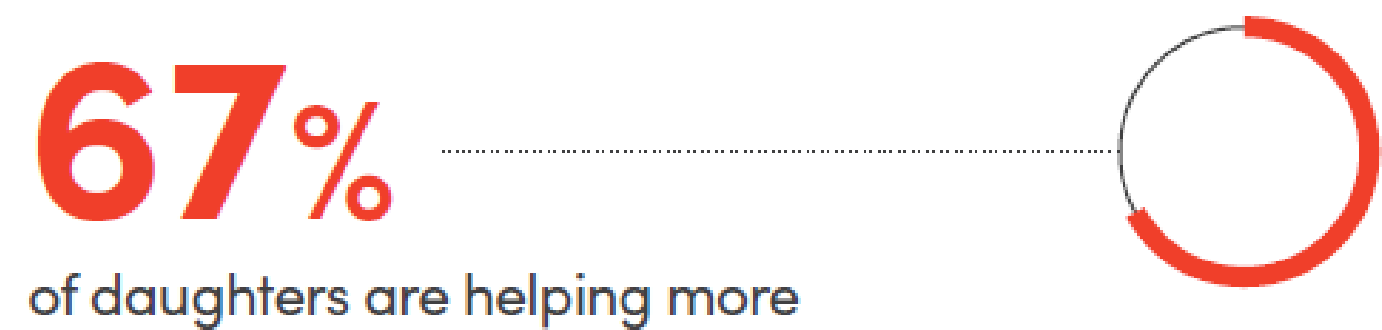
*Women and men were asked whether their partner helps more, so an assumption is made that their partner is of the opposite sex, even though this may not be the case.

## DOMESTIC WORKERS HAVE HELPED COPE, BUT MANY LOST THEIR JOBS SINCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

**16**%
hired a domestic worker

**28**%
asked theirs to work longer hours

**34**%
fired their domestic worker

**5** GENDER EQUALITY

UNLOCKING THE LOCKDOWN
THE GENDERED EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ACHIEVING THE SDGs IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
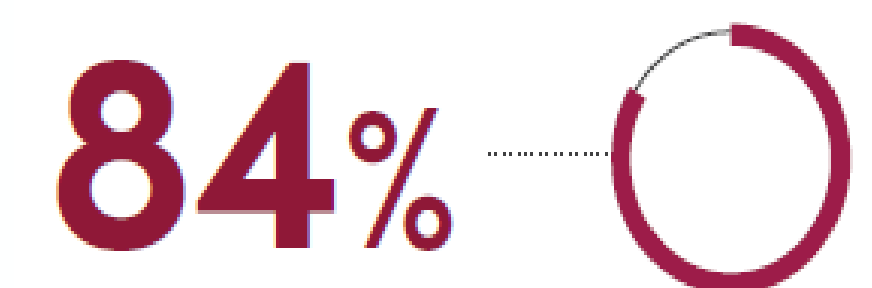
UN WOMEN | WOMEN COUNT

The pandemic is pushing people out of paid work and shrinking earnings and wages

**63%** OF PEOPLE

saw income losses from paid work

**50%** OF WOMEN

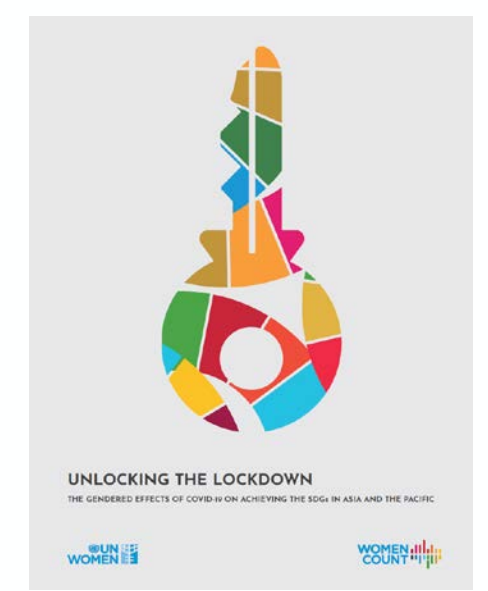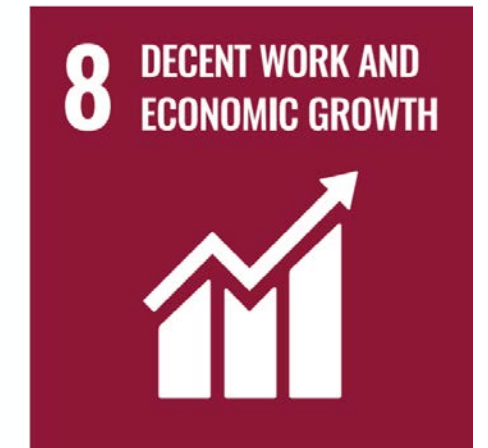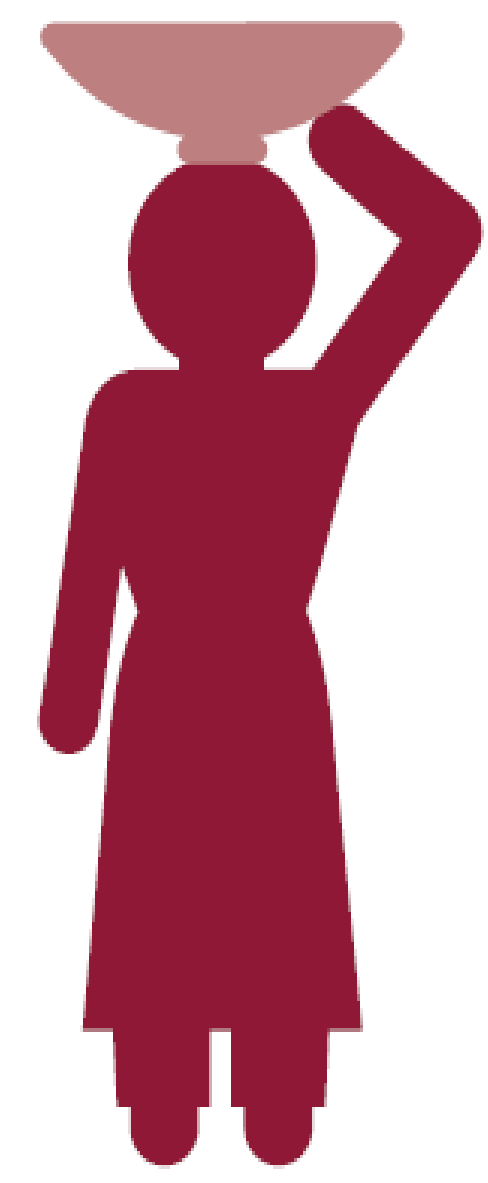in formal employment work less hours

**35%** OF MEN

## COVID-19 TOOK INFORMAL WORKER'S JOBS, AND MOST LACK SOCIAL PROTECTION BENEFITS

**84%**

of women outside formal employment lack unemployment benefits or government financial support

**83%**

of men

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

UNLOCKING THE LOCKDOWN
THE GENDERED EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON ACHIEVING THE SDGs IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

UN WOMEN | WOMEN COUNT

## Key takeaways

➢ Prior to COVID-19, there were gender gaps in labour force participation, with women at disadvantaged;

➢ The unequal distribution of **unpaid domestic and care work** among family and household members acts as a barrier to women economic empowerment;

➢ COVID-19 has deepening pre-existing gender inequalities in the world of unpaid and paid work, with women and vulnerable groups (e.g., informal workers) at disadvantage;

➢ COVID-19 is putting the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at stake in Asia and the Pacific region, especially for women and girls;

➢ **Gender data** is key to provide evidence on the gendered effects of the current pandemic and to inform a gender-sensitive recovery.

THANK YOU

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