

# WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2021



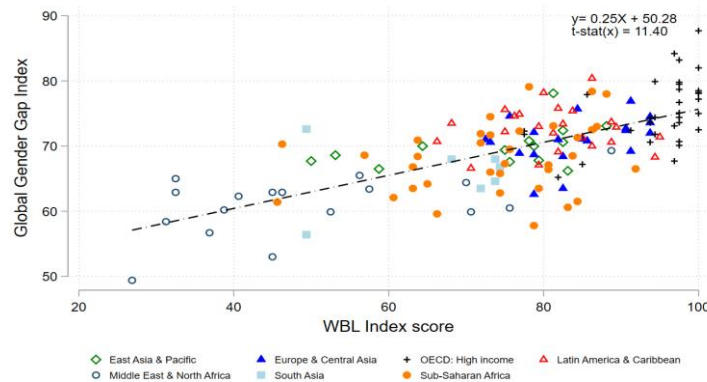
WORLD BANK GROUP



# Gender equality is smart economics

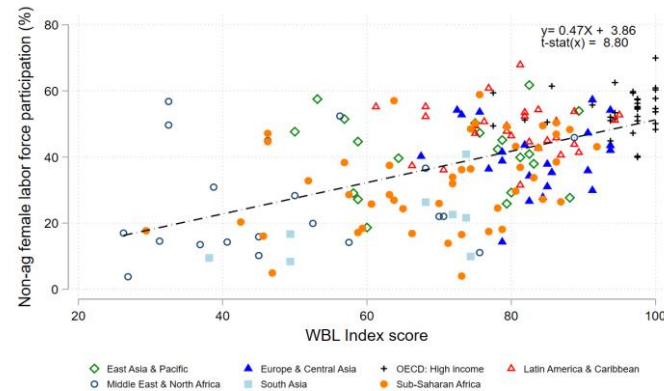


1



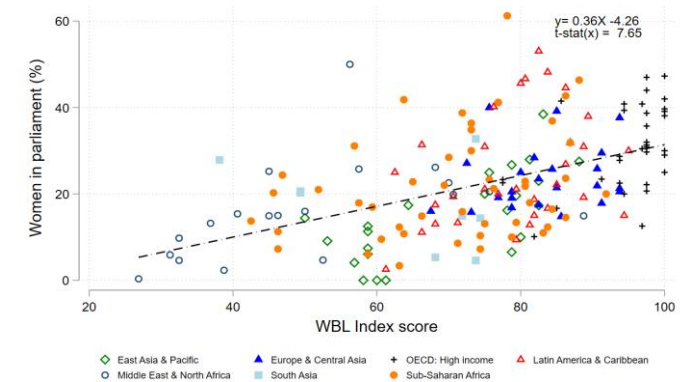
**Narrowing gender gap in  
development outcomes**

2



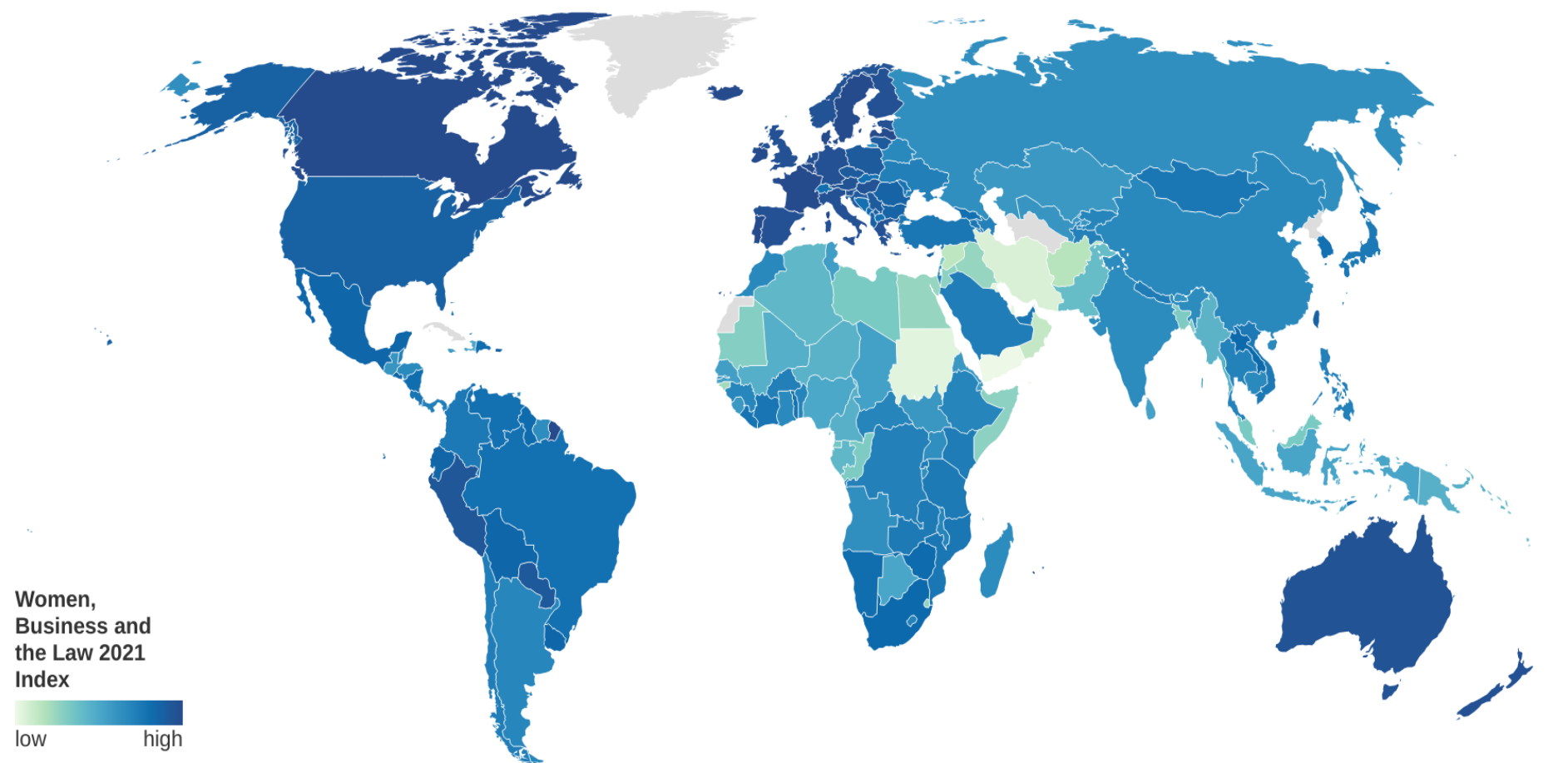
**Higher female labor force  
participation**

3

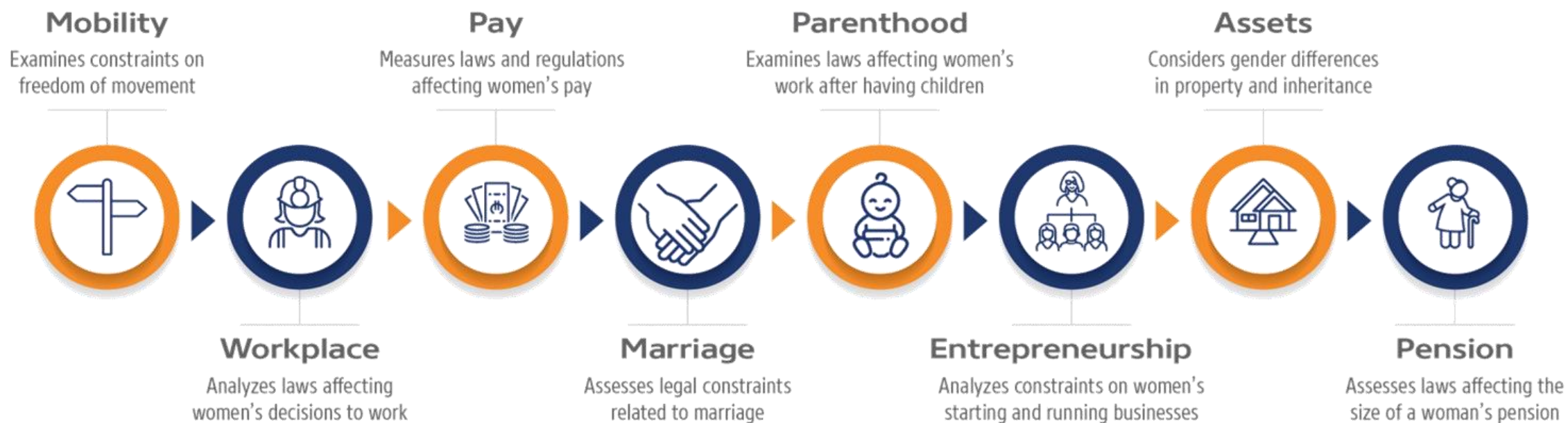


**More female  
parliamentarians**

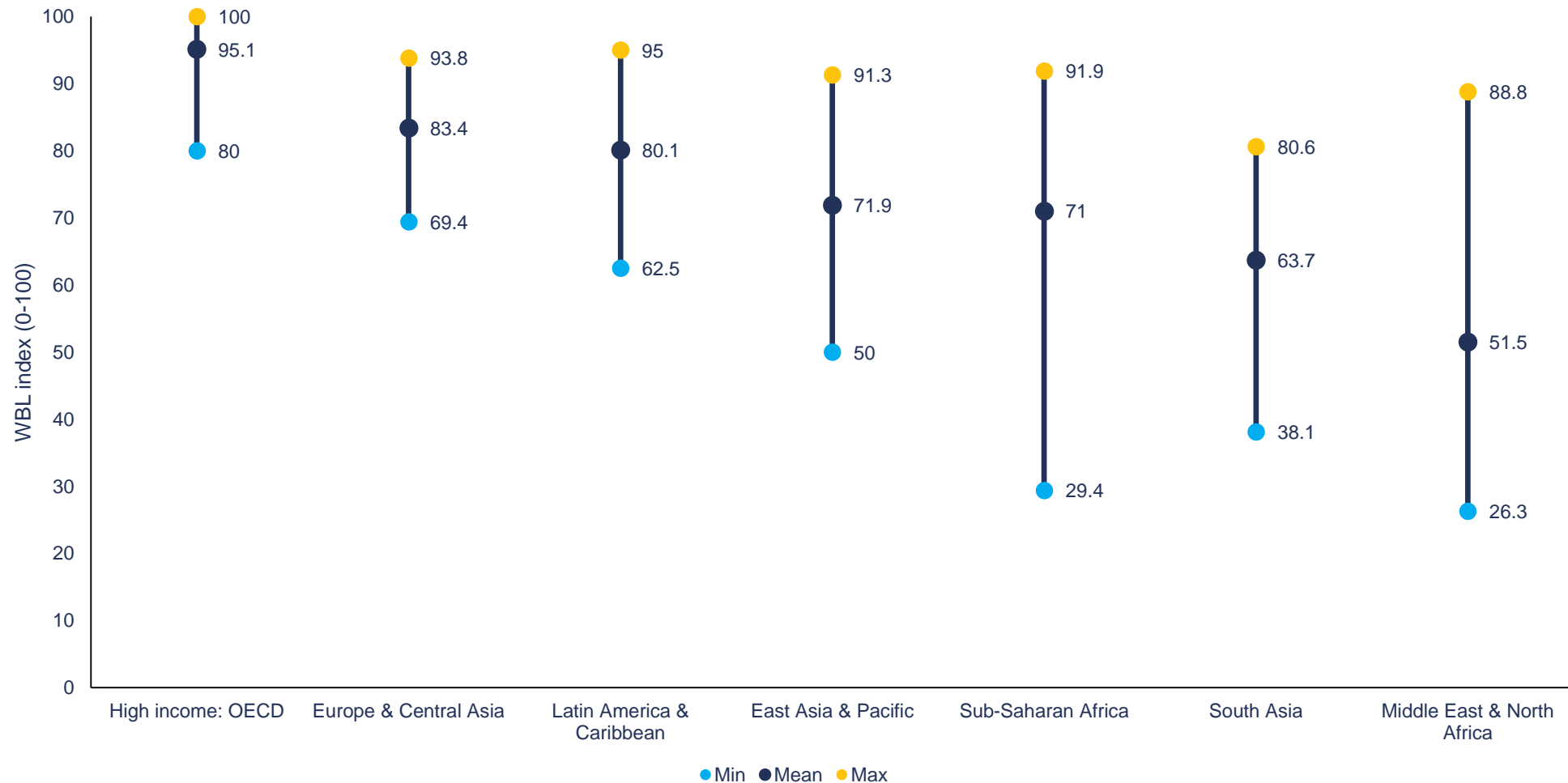
# Yet worldwide, women have just three-fourths the legal rights of men



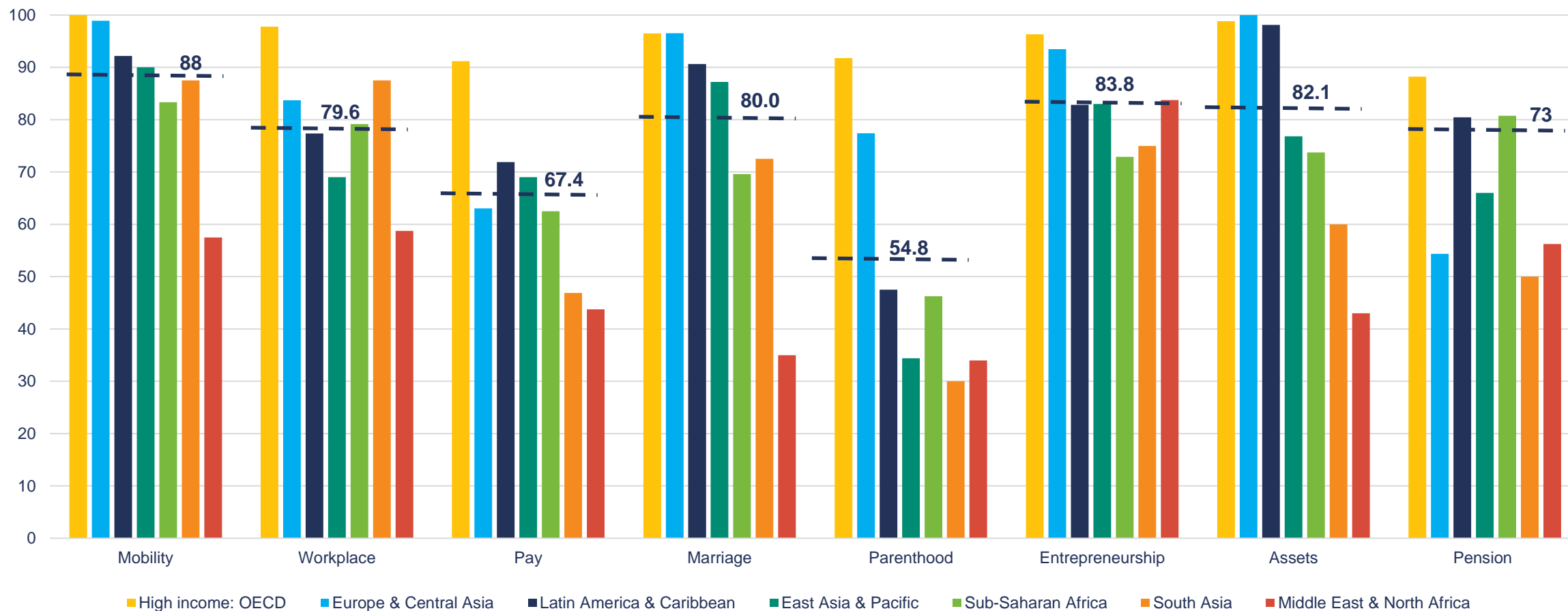
# Laws affect women throughout their working lives



# Progress toward equality is uneven around the world



# With reforms still lacking in the areas of pay and parenthood

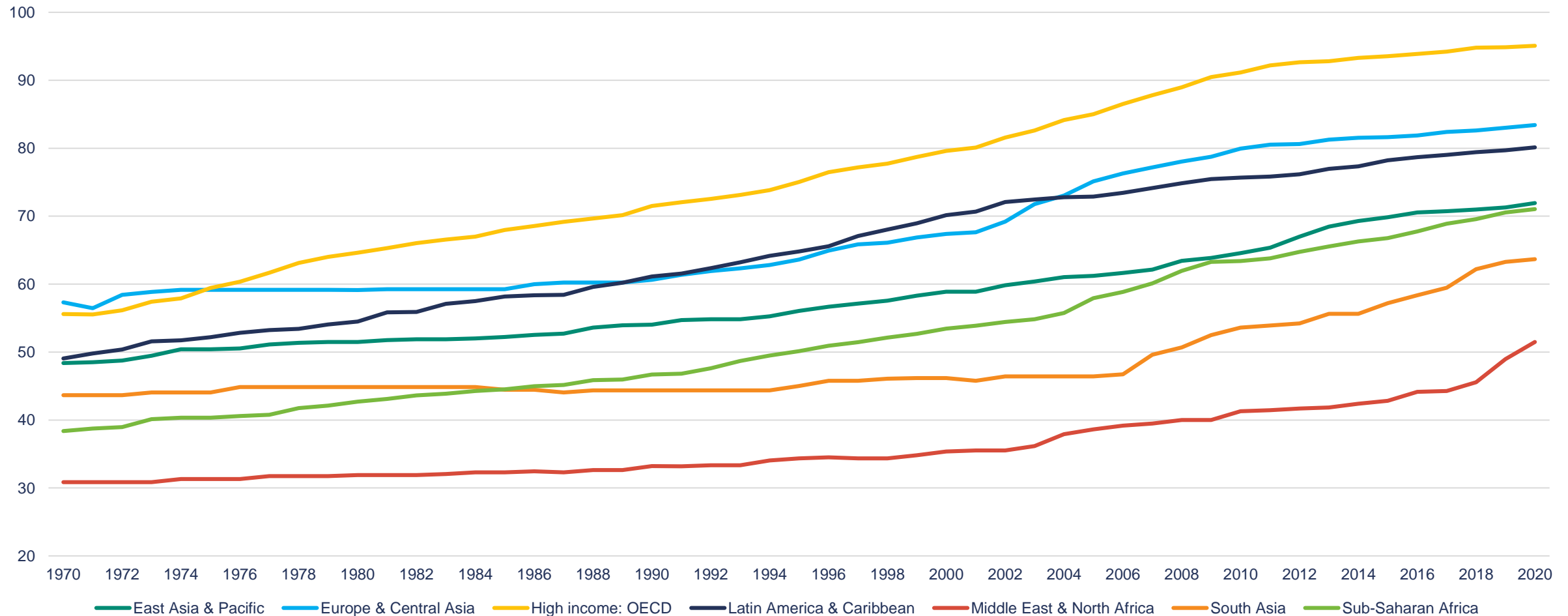


# But economies around the world are reforming



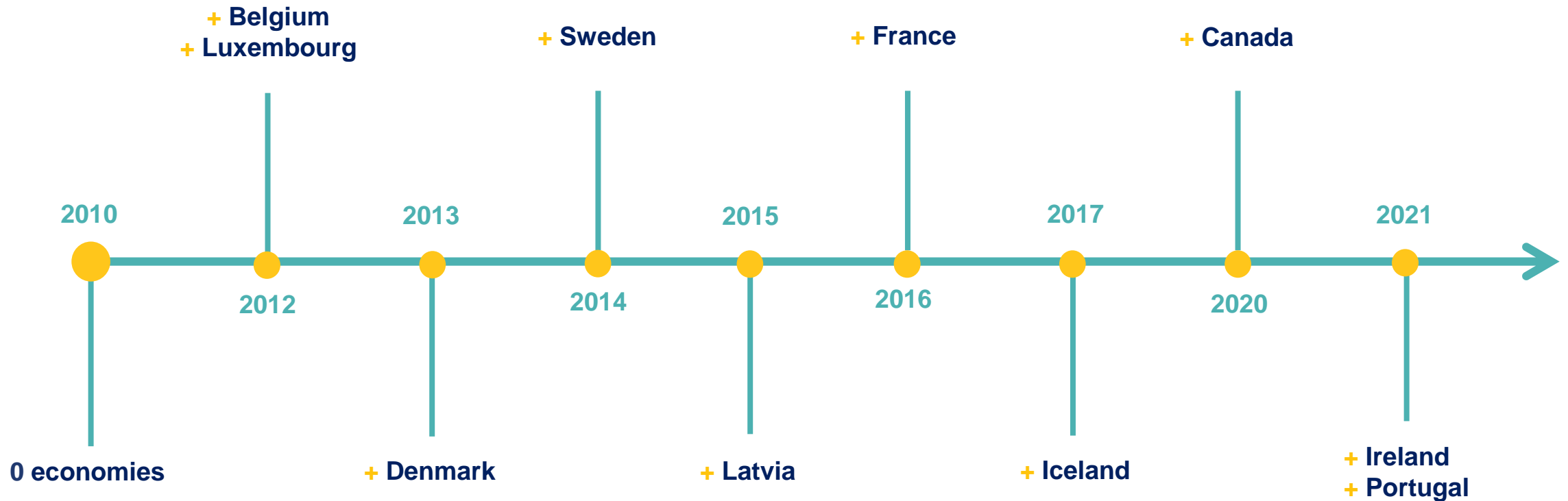
Indicator	Data points changed	Economies
<i>Mobility</i>	6	Benin, Fiji, Jordan, United Arab Emirates
<i>Workplace</i>	5	Marshall Islands, Senegal, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates
<i>Pay</i>	11	Bahrain, Costa Rica, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam
<i>Marriage</i>	7	Chile, Kuwait, Madagascar, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, United Arab Emirates
<i>Parenthood</i>	8	Austria, Ethiopia, Ireland, Suriname, United Arab Emirates
<i>Entrepreneurship</i>	5	Bahrain, Jordan, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Uzbekistan
<i>Pension</i>	3	Bahrain, Brazil, Slovenia
<i>Assets</i>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>

# Over the last 50 years, all regions have improved but at different paces





# Today, just 10 economies score 100



# Governments must take urgent action to close the gender gap or risk worsening the effects of the pandemic



## Addressing the gendered effects of COVID-19



**Responding to the childcare crisis**

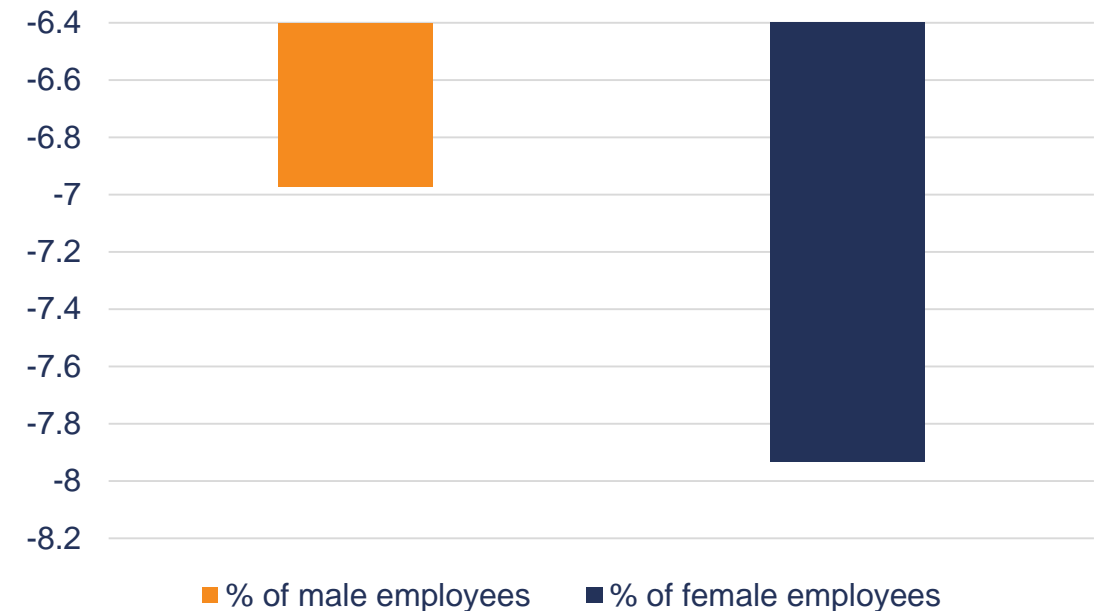


**Accessing the court system**



**Protecting women's health and safety**

COVID-19 has led to a larger drop in female employment, selected economies



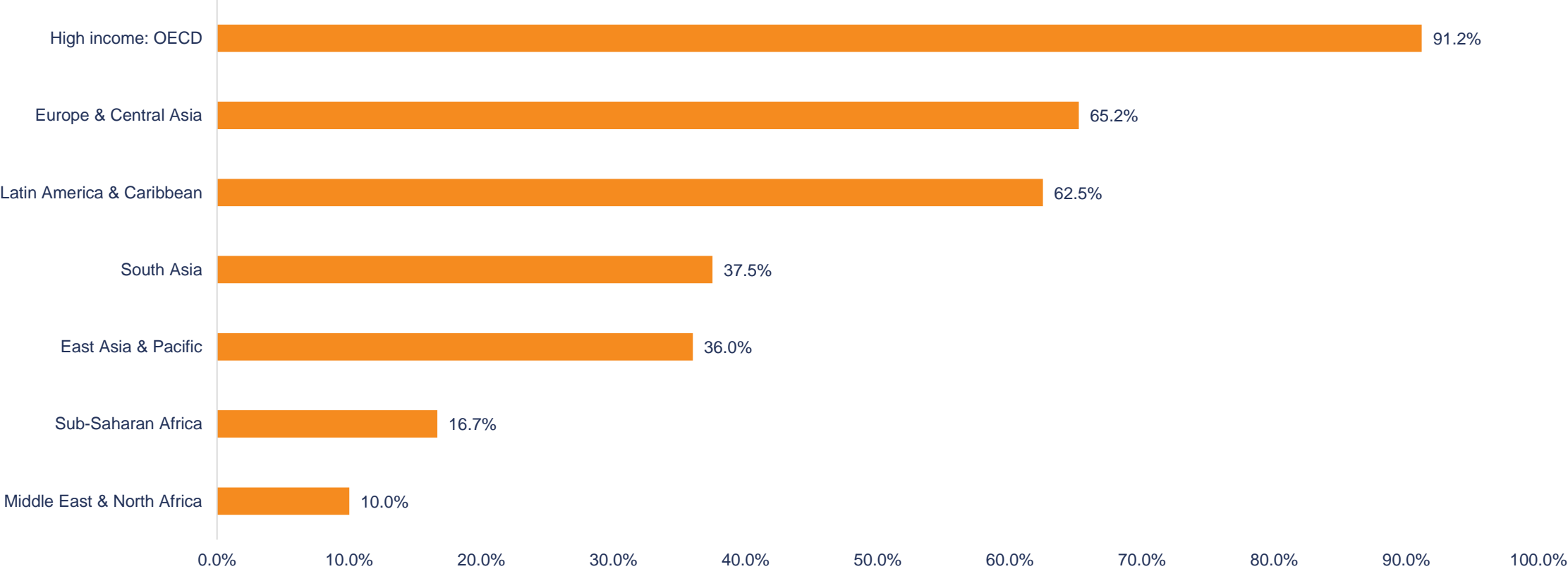
Some economies introduced innovative childcare assistance measures during the COVID-19 pandemic



# Economies across all regions allowed remote access to family courts



Percentage of economies



# Governments have also allocated resources and services to mitigate the impact of violence against women



## Examples of services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic

Measure	Economy Example
<i>Hotlines</i>	In <b>China</b> , the eight-hour domestic violence hotline is now a 24-hour operation.
<i>Psychological assistance</i>	In <b>Ukraine</b> , six mobile teams provided psychosocial assistance through Skype, Viber, phone, and online support groups.
<i>Shelters</i>	In <b>France</b> , as shelters exceeded capacity, alternative accommodations were found in hotels for domestic violence survivors.
<i>Legal aid</i>	The <b>Marshall Islands</b> offered free legal aid to female survivors of violence through NGOs that receive recognition and funding from the government.
<i>Dedicated police resources</i>	In <b>India</b> , police in the state of Odisha called women who had earlier reported domestic violence to inquire about their condition during the lockdown.
<i>Livelihood support</i>	In <b>Malta</b> , domestic violence victims could apply to the Private Rent Housing Benefit Scheme. Applicants received the full benefit if they were also in a zero-income scenario.
<i>Health care</i>	<b>Peru</b> enacted Legislative Decree No. 1470, which stated that health establishments should guarantee urgent and emergency health care and personal safety for all women and other family members who were victims of violence, especially rape.

# Exploring new areas to remove inequalities in economic inclusion is crucial



## Accessing childcare for women's economic opportunity



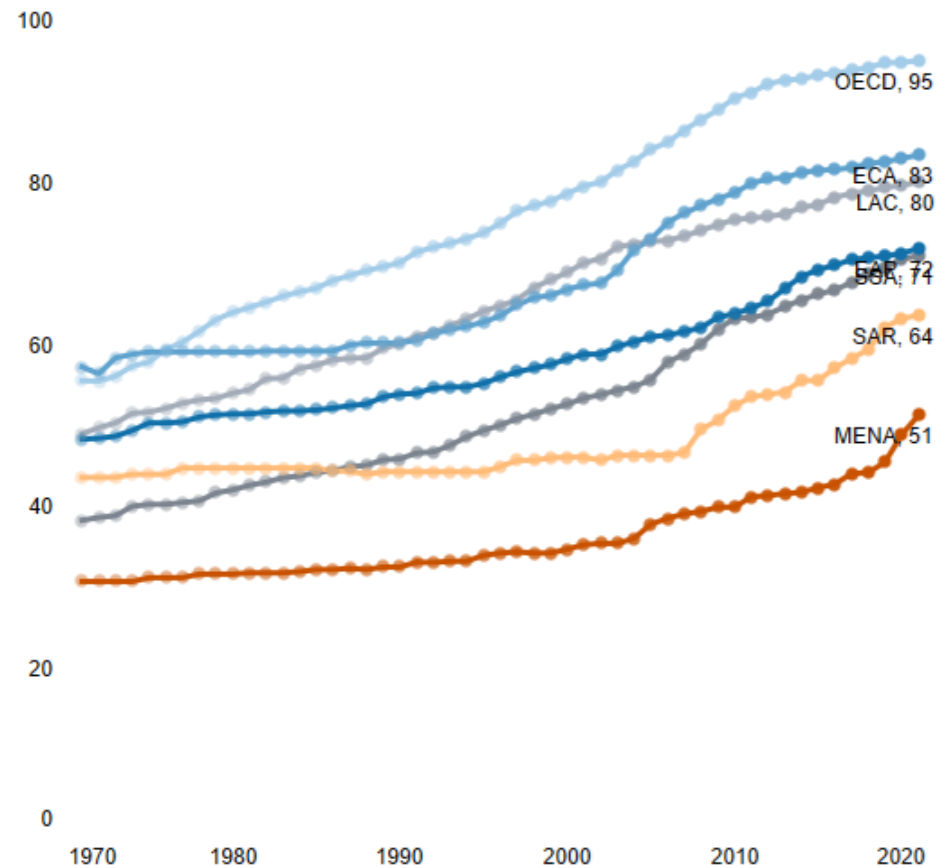
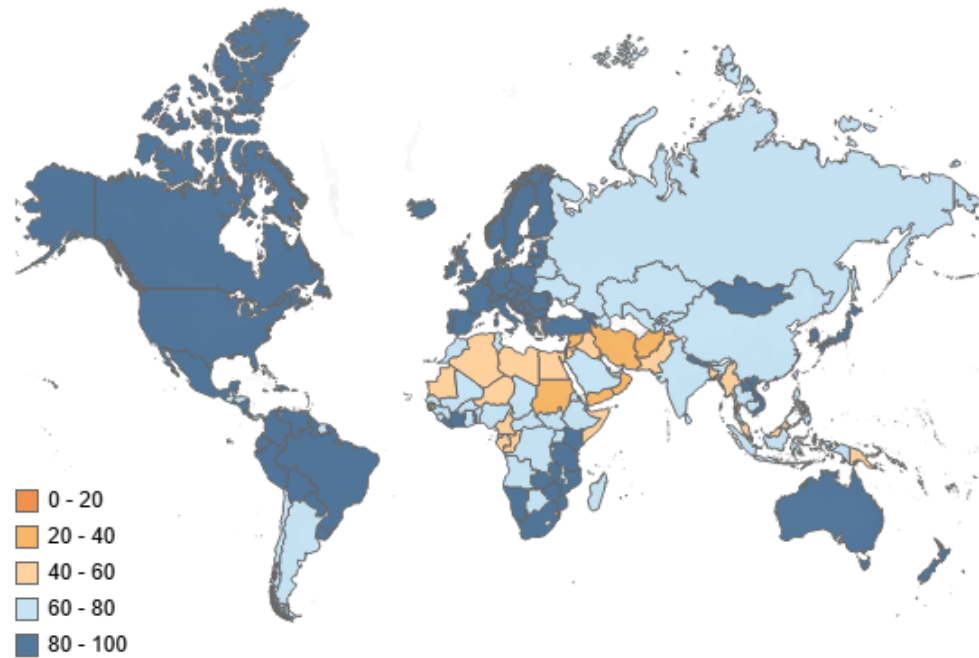
## The role of the justice sector in legal implementation



# Learn more and take action at [wbl.worldbank.org](https://wbl.worldbank.org)



## WBL Index (2021) and progress over time



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