

60 facts on wealth inequality

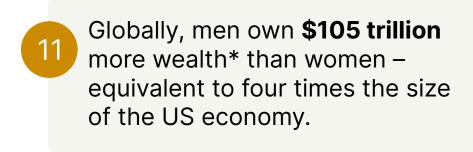


The gender wealth gap

The Julius Baer Foundation's work focuses on reducing wealth inequality. To mark the Foundation's 60th anniversary, the '60 Facts' series shares 60 insights into this global challenge.

This infographic offers insights into how wealth inequality impacts gender inequality. It highlights how disparities in wealth limit opportunities for women and prevent them from realising their full potential – a consistent challenge, especially for low-income women around the world.

Unequal everywhere





*Wealth: The stock of net assets, or (gross) assets less debt, comprising financial assets (such as bank deposits, shares, and pension and life insurance entitlements) and non-financial assets (including houses, land, business equipment, natural resources, contracts, leases, and licenses, as well as purchased goodwill and marketing assets).

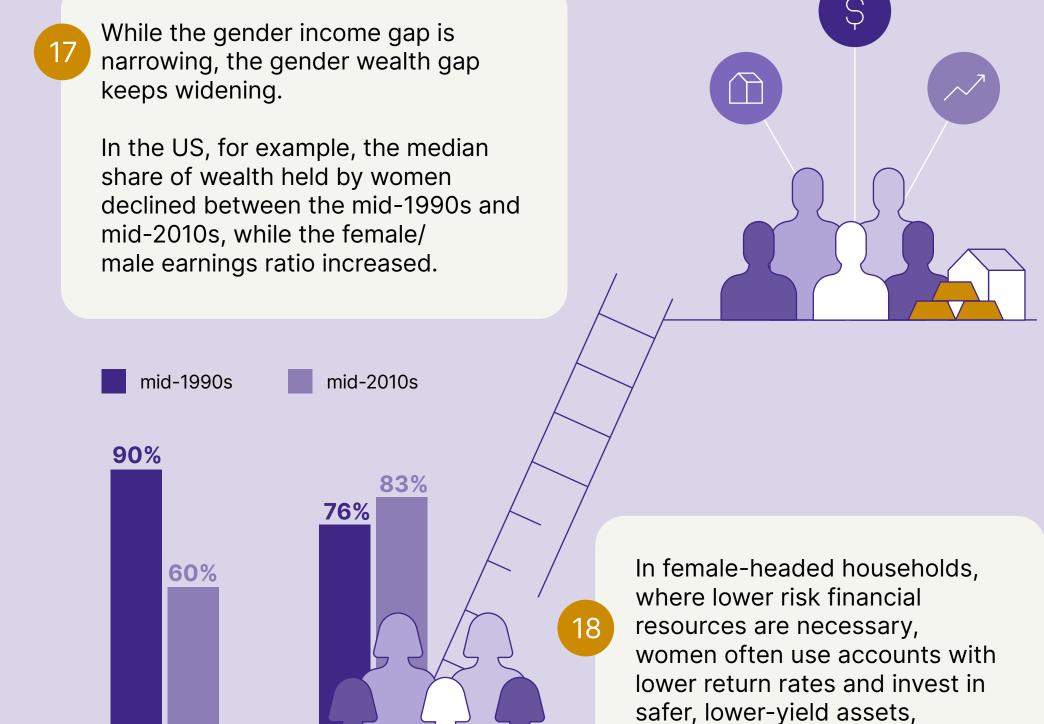
Europe, North America



About **40**% of wealth in Europe and North America is owned by women. In Africa and India they own about **20**%.

Sources: Riddell et al., 2024; Credit Suisse Global Wealth Databook 2018

Reducing the gender income gap isn't enough



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics; 1979-98; Lee AW, 2022

Median female/male earnings ratio

Median wealth

held by women

When hard work doesn't matter

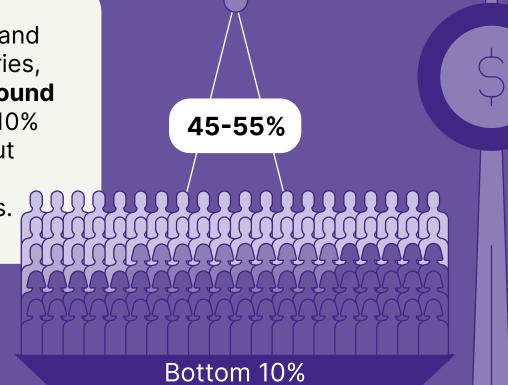
Women earn on average about 20% less than men.

Part of the wealth gap is explained by the income gap, which is driven by inequalities in the labour market, including pay discrimination, unequal access to jobs, and occupational differences, such as care work and other low-paid occupations that are disproportionately dominated by women.



Women's share of the top and bottom wage earners

Across low, middle and high-income countries, women make up **around half** of the bottom 10% of wage earners, but only **around a third** the top 10% earners.



25-35%

Top 10%

Unpaid care work



76.2% of total unpaid care work is performed by women – over three times more than men.

Unpaid work, such as cooking, cleaning, housework, transport, child and family care leaves women with less income and savings, making them vulnerable to economic crises and financial dependence.

As the economy pushes women into low-wage, informal sectors, they typically run smaller, lower-income enterprises than men because they lack access to credit, land, and resources.

In Germany, men hold **5.5 times more** business wealth* than women.

on the GINI index for wealth inequality, as shown by South Africa and Germany, which rank #1 and #124, respectively.

This is true across economies and

independent from the country's position



Sources: Conley & Ryvicker 2004; Chang 2010; Ruel & Hauser 2013; Federici, 2004; Office of National Statistics 2016; International Labour Organization, 2024; International Labour Office Geneva, 2018; Siermir et al., 2010; Casale et al., 2023; Mayoux, 2002

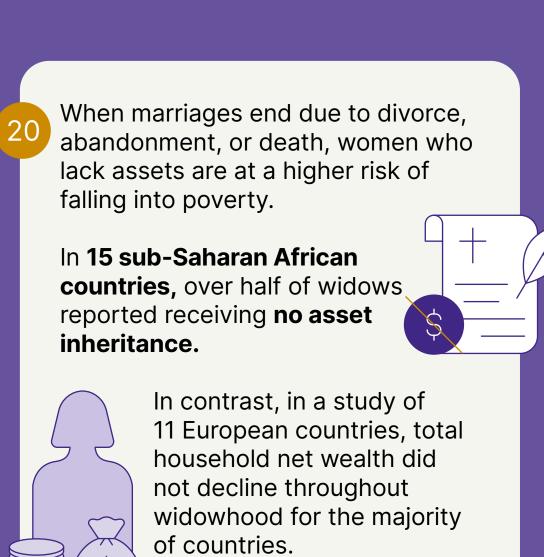
Marriage laws affect women's wealth

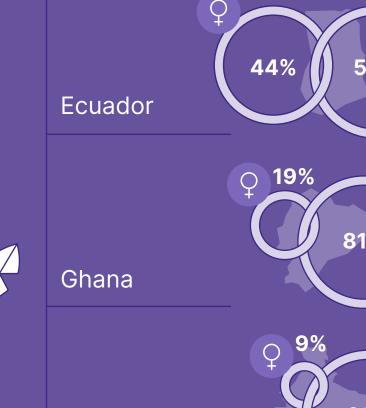
In countries where property acquired during marriage is typically shared between spouses, women own a more equal share of wealth. This is the example of Ecuador, where women own 44% of wealth within couples.

In contrast, where property is usually owned individually, the woman's share is much smaller: In Ghana, married women's share of couple wealth is only 19% and in India* just 9%.

contributing to the rise in the

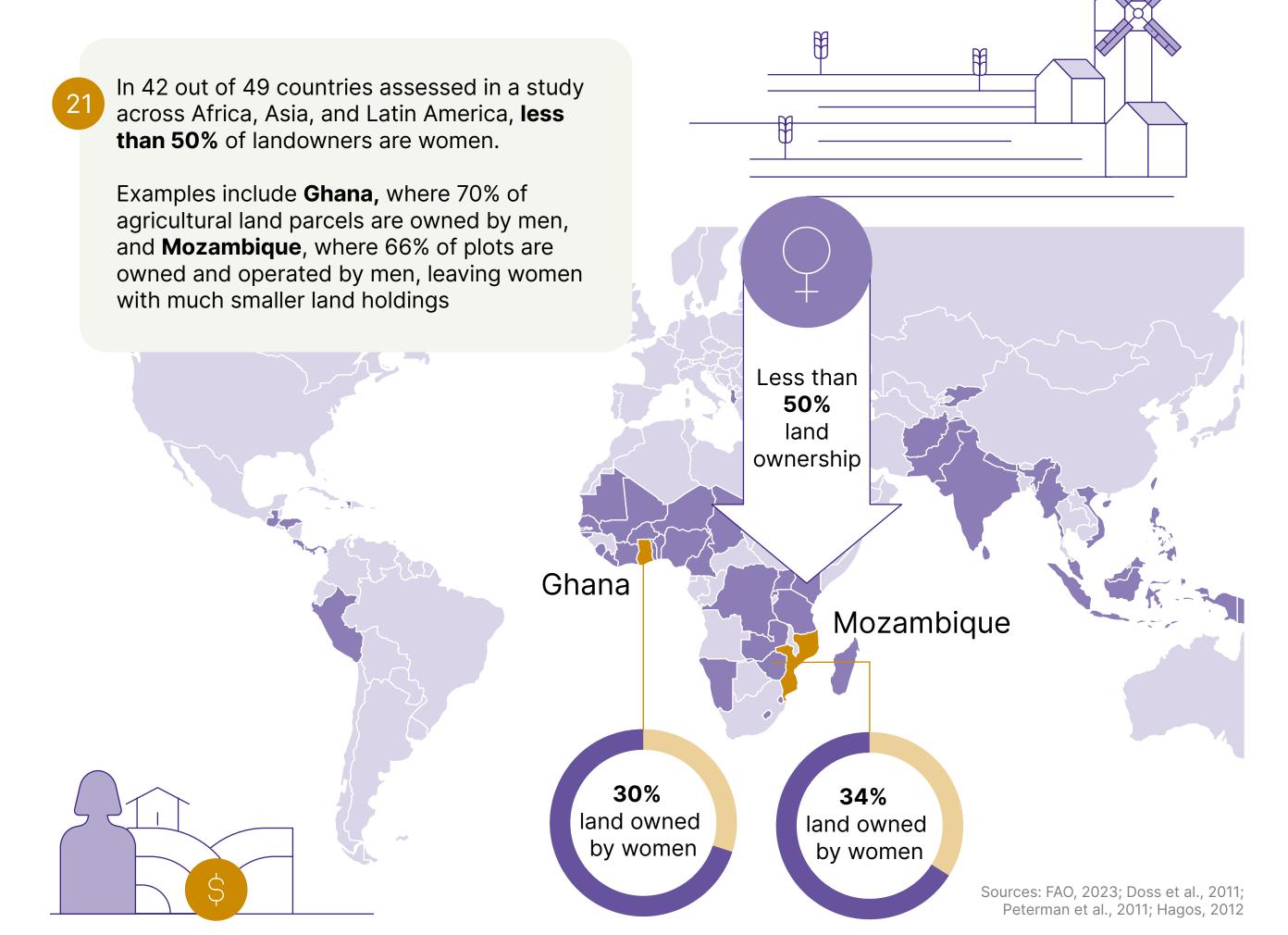
gender wealth gap.





*In India, the state of Karnataka was selected as the case study as it is comparable in size, economy and population.
Sources: Doss et al., 2011; Deere et al., 2013; Peterman, 2012; Panda & Agarwal, 2005; Kapelle and van Winkle. 2024: Lee AW. 2022

Land ownership is unequal



What can we do?

Wealth, business or land ownership, as well as income levels, are not only relevant in themselves. They influence the types of education women can access, their housing, and the quality of healthcare they can afford. These factors affect women's economic independence, the ages at which they marry and have children, as well as their position in families and communities. They also influence the time women have for personal development, such as upskilling, and their access to information, networks and opportunities that can drive growth.

All of these variables are key in securing upward social mobility. In addition, when women are relegated to low-paying jobs with precarious working conditions, this perpetuates the cycle of inequality that they face every day around the world.

Evidence shows that empowering women uplifts entire communities, as their success creates a ripple effect, leading to more economically stable, healthier and more educated families and societies.



Whether through education, quality childcare, financial awareness, land and property ownership or inclusive entrepreneurship, the projects supported by the Julius Baer Foundation connect groups across the wealth spectrum to collaborate on solutions that enable social mobility and equal opportunities.

As part of this approach, tackling the gender inequality challenge is both crucial and instrumental in reducing the wealth inequality gap in the interests of all.