Measuring masculinity norms and their impact on WEE and VAW

Hyeshin Park
Economist, Gender Programme Co-ordinator
OECD Development Centre

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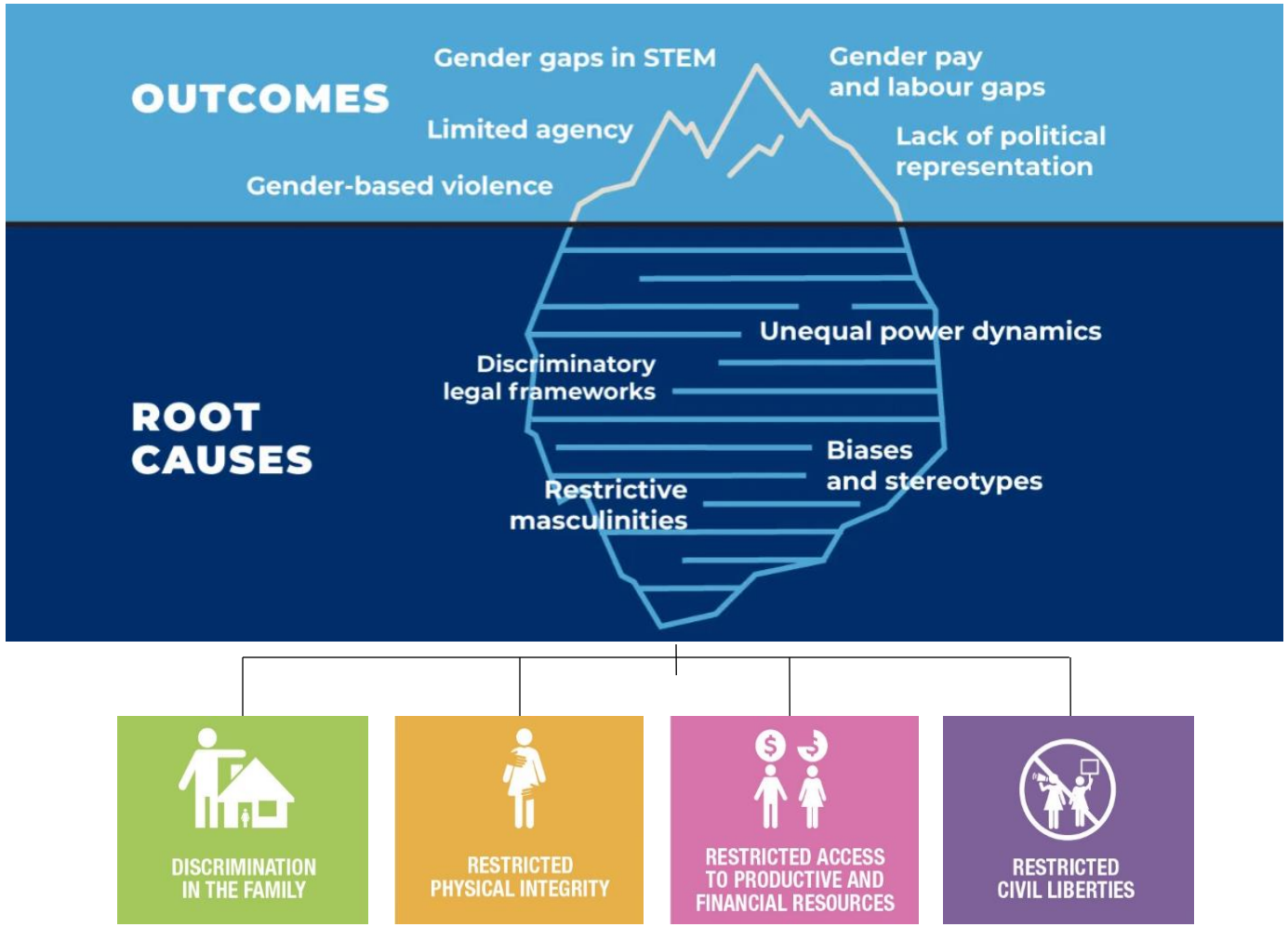
Social norms are key drivers of gender equality

Social Institutions & Gender Index

The SIGI looks at **formal and informal laws, social norms and practices** that restrict women's and girls' rights, opportunities, and access to resources.



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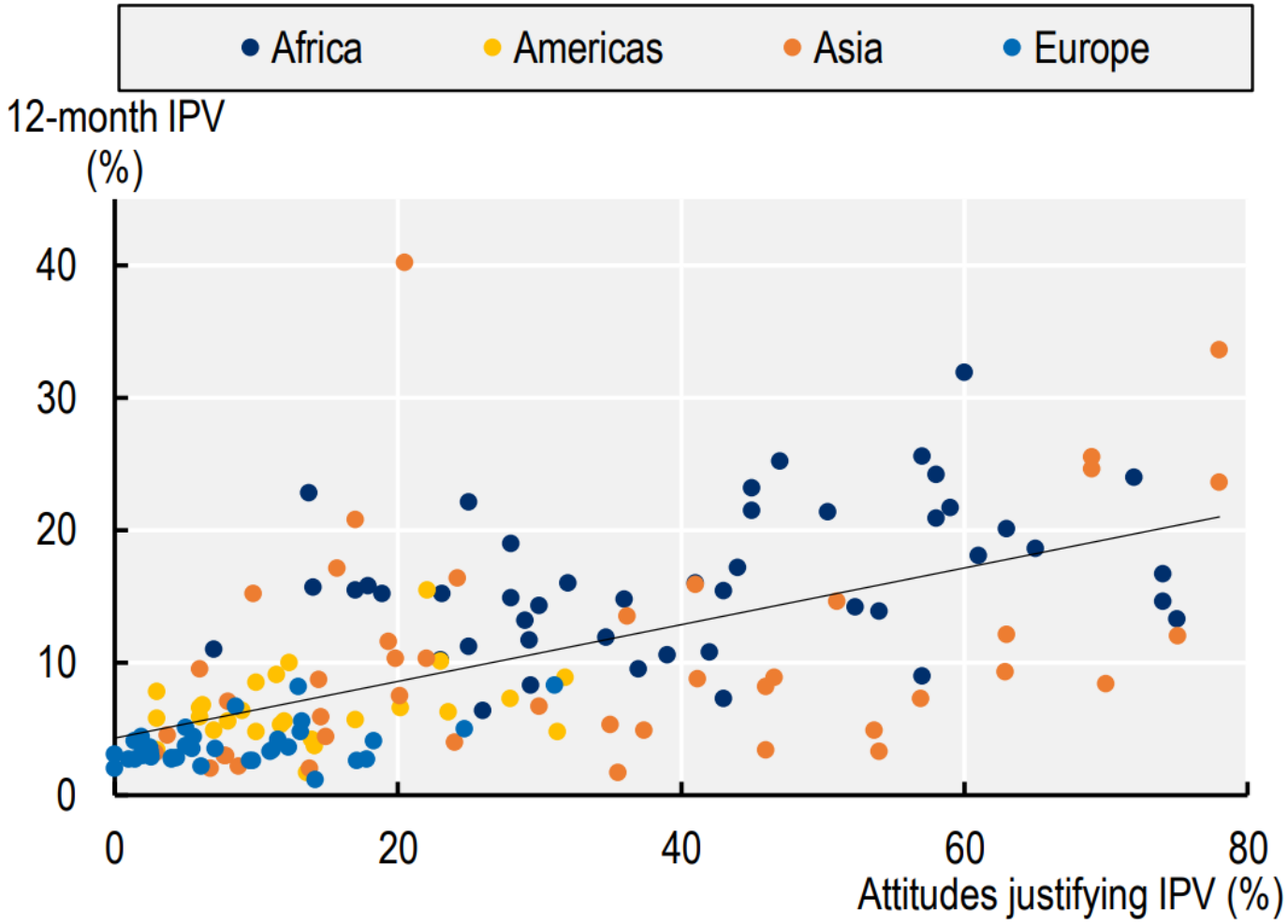
Globally, **attitudes justifying IPV** are strongly associated with **higher rates of women reporting IPV** in the past year (SIGI 2023).

Correlation between 12-moth IPV and social acceptance of IPV



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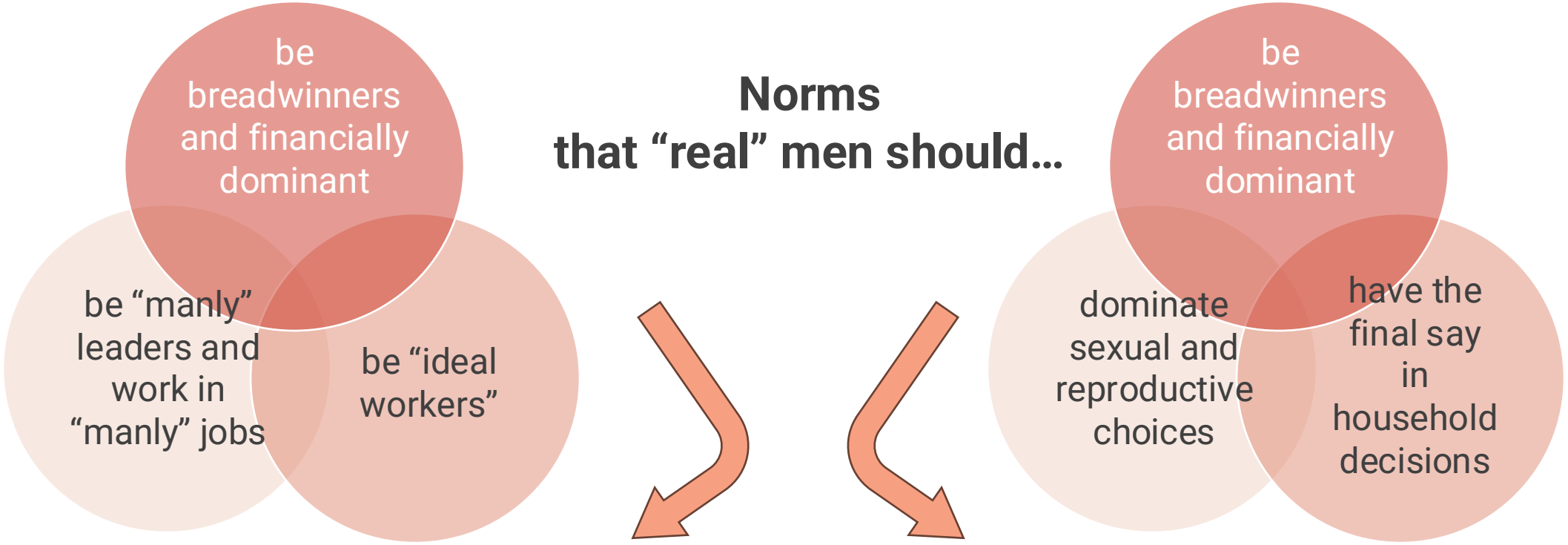
Norms of masculinities affect **women's empowerment** and **well-being**



Impact **women's economic empowerment**

Can lead to **gender-based violence**

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OECD framework on restrictive masculinities

Masculinities encompass the various socially constructed ways of being and acting, values and expectations associated with **being and becoming a man** in a given society, location and temporal space.

Restrictive masculinities have direct consequences on gender equality outcomes.

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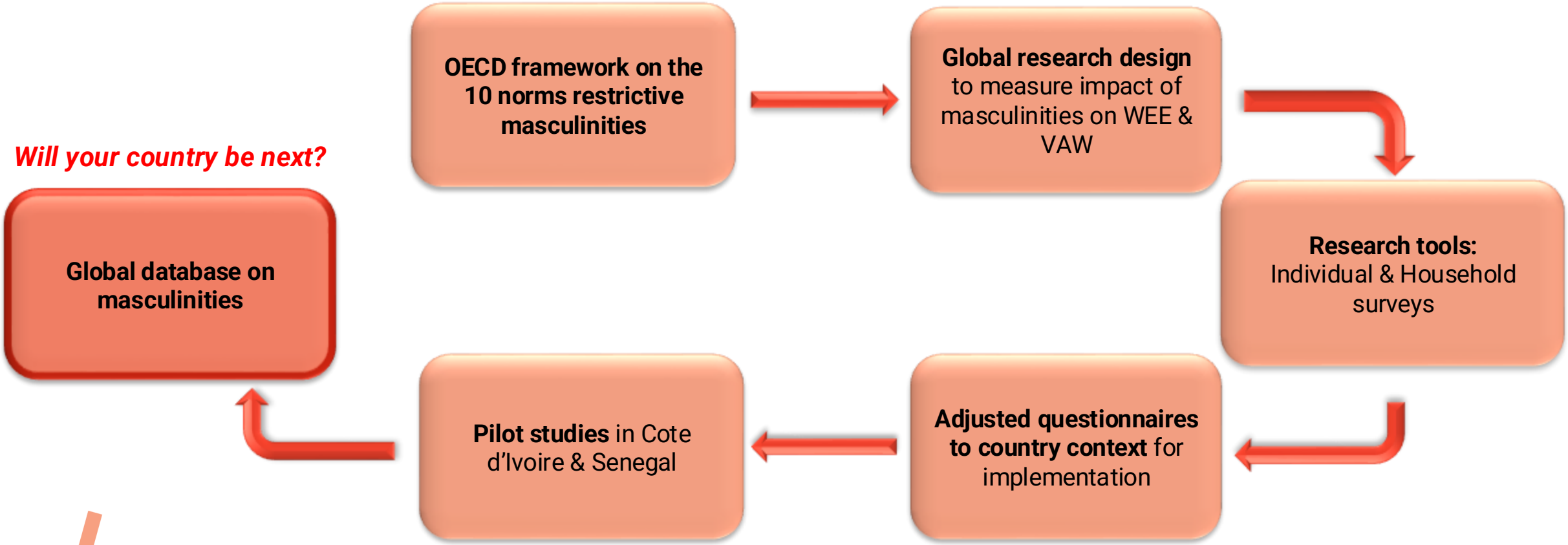
OECD Masculinity Project

Objective: Measuring norms of masculinities and understanding their impact on women's economic empowerment and gender-based violence



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Methodology

Questions and Analytical plans

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Objectives

1. Measure the state of restrictive norms of masculinities	2. Analyse the effects of norms of masculinities on WEE & VAW	3. Explore how norms of masculinities affect men's well-being
Prevalence of norms of masculinities	Women's economic empowerment	
Misalignment of individual and perceived community norms	Violence against women	

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Prevalence of masculine norms

1. Measure the state of restrictive norms of masculinities

Prevalence of norms of masculinities

Misalignment of individual and perceived community norms

Masculinities norms

- I think the most important role of a man is to provide financially for his family.
- I think a woman should obey her husband or partner.
- I think it is normal for a man to use physical force to assert his authority and/or resolve conflict.

Misalignment of individual and perceived community norms

- Could you tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “A woman can refuse to have sexual relations with her husband or partner.”
- Now how about 10 men/women in your town/village. How many of them do you think would agree that “a woman can refuse to have sexual relations with her husband or partner.”?

Prevalence of norms of masculinities: Multidimensional Masculinity Norms Index (MMNI)

1. Survey Data Collection	• 10 normative domains, each measured via 2+ attitudinal questions • Responses captured on Likert-type ordinal scales (e.g., Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree)
2. Data Processing	• Reverse-code where needed so higher values = stronger restrictive norms • Normalise responses to a 0–1 scale
3. Norm-Specific Indicators	• Compute weighted average of normalised item scores per norm
4. Composite MMNI Score	• Compute weighted average of the 10 norm-specific indicators

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Research Questions – The impact of masculinities norms on violence against women

MMNI

Adherence to restrictive masculinities norms

OUTCOMES

- Prevalence of intimate partner violence
- Prevalence of physical violence (non-intimate)
- Prevalence of sexual violence (non-intimate)

- Does higher adherence to masculine norms (MMNI) increase the likelihood of being a victim or perpetrator of violence?
- Are these effects different for intimate partner violence (IPV) vs non-IPV violence?

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The impact of masculinities norms on violence against women

Committing Violence

- Are men who agree with the belief that men should be sexually dominant more likely to **commit** sexual violence (non-IPV & IPV) and physical violence (non-IPV & IPV)?
- Are men who feel economically disempowered (not financially dominant) more likely to **commit** IPV (any type)?
- Are men who agree with the belief that men should control household decisions or assets more likely to **commit** economic or psychological IPV?
- Are men who adhere to dominant beliefs about men's guardianship more likely to **commit** IPV?

Experiencing Violence

- Are women who agree with the belief that men should be sexually dominant more likely to **experience** sexual violence (non-IPV & IPV) and physical violence (non-IPV & IPV)?
- Are women who justify their husbands use of violence more likely to **experience** physical violence (IPV)?
- Are women who agree with men's role as guardian more likely **experience** IPV?
- Are men who do not comply with the dominant norms of masculinity more likely to **experience** violence (non IPV physical)?

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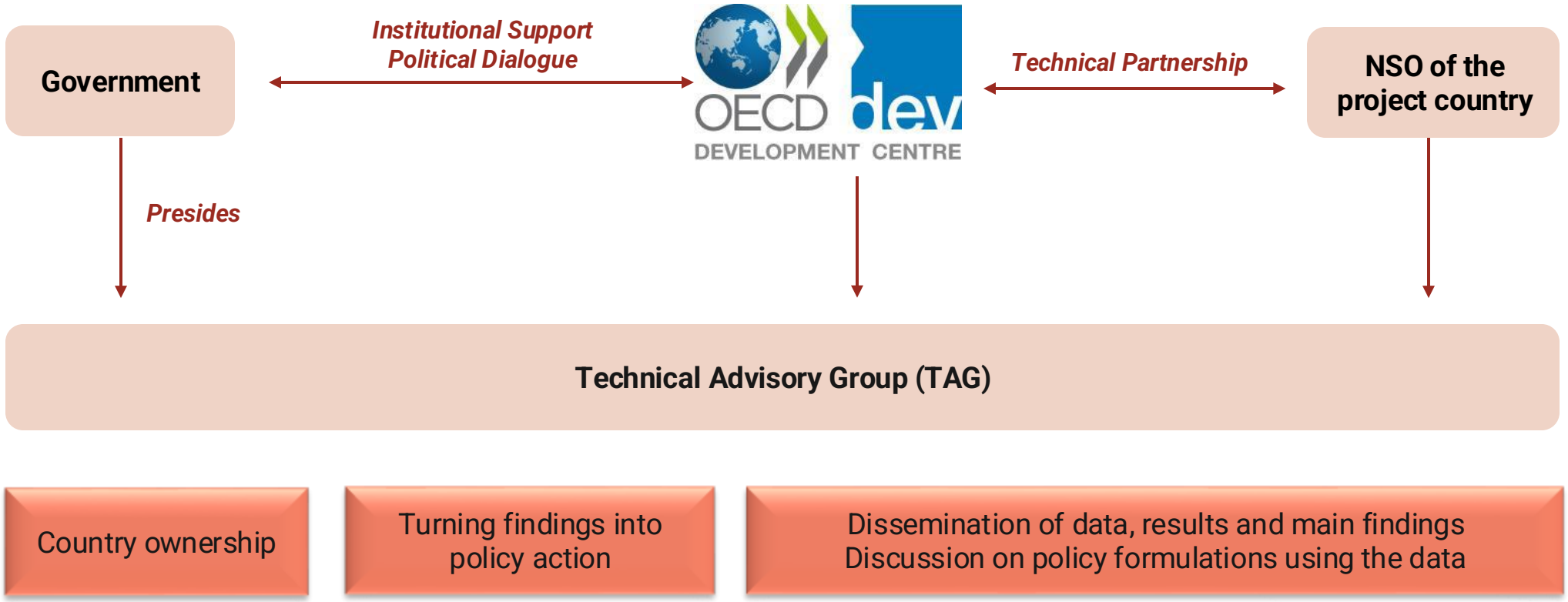
Triangular collaboration for country ownership and data use



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Contact:

Hyeshin Park

OECD Development Centre

Hyeshin.park@oecd.org

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