higher poverty rates than older men. Compared to the more developed regions, older women and men in the less developed regions are less likely to live in one-person households. The proportion of women over 60 years living in one-person households is 32 per cent in the more developed regions, compared to 10 per cent in the less developed regions, while for men it is 13 per cent in the more developed regions, compared to 6 per cent in the less developed regions.11 Furthermore, women may not become a more vulnerable group with age in contexts where the elderly are expected to receive support from their children or relatives.12

### B. Individual access to and control over resources

1. Inequality in intrahousehold allocation of resources

According to some analysts, the focus on poverty rates for female-headed households “avoids the more important and more difficult area of intrahousehold poverty”13 or what has also been termed secondary poverty for women. As shown in the first part of the chapter, household-based measures of poverty can give an indication of the overall economic status of women relative to men when applied to certain types of households — for instance, when adult women and men live separately in one-person households or in households of lone parents with children. However, the most common type of household is one where an adult woman lives with an adult man, with or without other persons. The concerns are that within such households women may have a subordinated status relative to men, that they may have less decision-making power on intrahousehold allocation of resources, and that ultimately fewer resources may be allocated to them.

Yet, it is difficult to measure intrahousehold inequality using consumption as an indicator of individual welfare, as traditionally used at household level. When collecting data on individual consumption, only part of the goods — for example, adult clothing, alcohol or tobacco — can be assigned to specific members of the household. It is less easy to measure how much of the food or household common goods (such as housing, water supply or sanitation) is consumed or used by each individual household member. In addition, when different patterns of consumption are

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