

*How does poverty differ among
refugees? Taking an age and gender
lens to the data*

Lucia Hanmer, Diana J Arango, Eliana Rubiano and Julieth Santamaria

Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics

Tokyo, Japan

November 2018



Outline

1. Syrian refugees in Jordan
2. Using a gender and age lens
3. Gender and Poverty – results for male and female headed households
4. Why are non traditional households poorer when female headed?
5. Key Findings
6. Conclusion

Syrian refugees in Jordan

- More than half of Syria's pre-war population of 11 million has been displaced, either across borders or within the country.
- Jordan is ranked as the country with the seventh largest refugee population in the world in 2017 89 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants.
- 668,123 registered Syrian refugees, the majority of whom (83 percent) live outside refugee camps.
- Jordan opened schools and health services to refugees.
- Limited access to employment 2015, only 5,700 Syrian refugees were working legally in Jordan.
- Informal sector; estimates range from 42,000 to 150,000 (World Bank 2016).
- It is estimated that unemployment among the Syrian refugee community stood at 60 percent (ILO 2017).

Using a gender and age lens

- Purpose is to understand how gender inequality affects poverty experienced by refugees- focus on income poverty rates
- Examine relationship between gender of household head and household poverty
- Informed by a body of research that shows female headed households are extremely heterogenous
- Households are disaggregate by family type and gender of principal applicant

The data

The Data


- 54,408 Syrian refugee households, comprising 208,014 individuals
- Syrian Refugees who arrived in Jordan 2011-2014
- Data Sources: ProGres and Home Visits survey, round 3

The Poverty Line

- 50 Jordanian Dinars (JD) per capita per month

Humanitarian Assistance

- UNHCR per household per month
 - 1-2 members 50JD; 3-5 member 100JD; more than 5 members 120JD
- WFP vouchers - total value of JD 24 per person per month.



*Verme et al (2014)
Welfare of Syrian
Refugees: Evidence
from Jordan and
Lebanon*

Using a gender and age lens

Gender of Household
Head

Male and female
principle applicants

8 Household types: Different vulnerabilities

Unaccompanied children: Person or group of people below the age of 18 without an accompanying adult (person over the age of 18)

Single person : One person reporting no other dependents or cohabitantes;

Single caregiver : A household composed of only one adult caregiver who cares for children of his/her own below the age of 18, and/or for the children of others living in his/her household, and/or for the elderly and/or for the disabled

Couple without children: Married couples (at least one of whom is over the age of 18) living without children or members of their extended family , including couples with adult sons and daughters

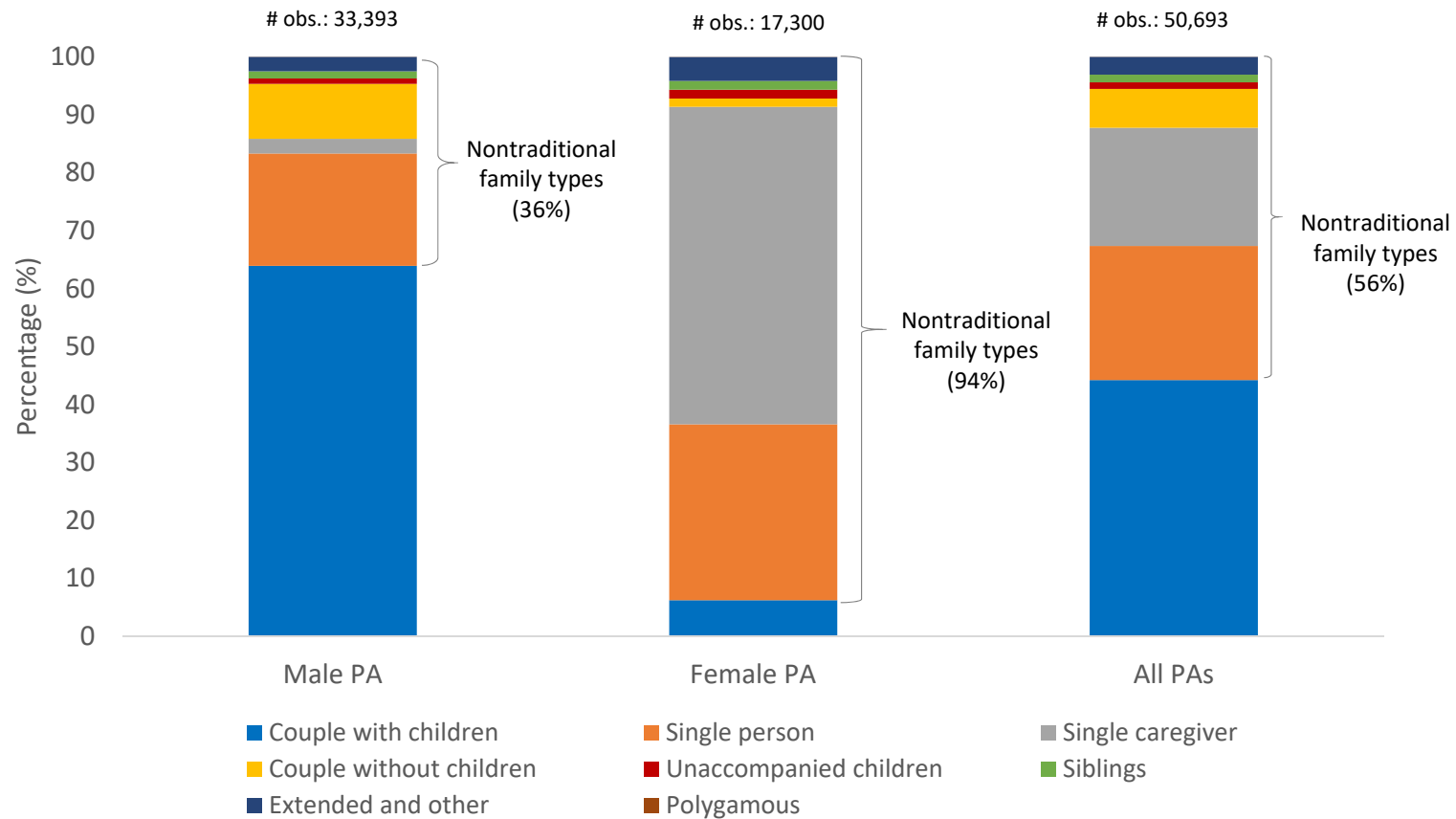
Couple with children: Married couple (at least one of whom is over the age of 18) that provides care to children of their own or to separated children);

Siblings: Group of brothers and sisters that share one or both parents including at least one adult;

Extended family and other households: All other types of households that include extended family members.

Polygamous: Families with one adult male who has registered more than one wife with or without children

Family types by Gender of Principal Applicant



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

Child Marriage

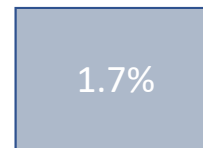
Pre Crisis Syria 13% marriages involved 15-17 year old girls

In Jordan 2014 31% marriages (UNICEF estimates)

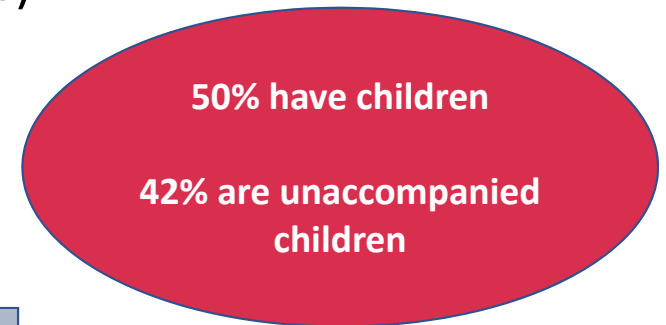
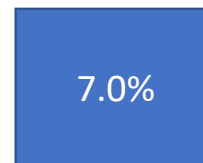
Our data

788 child brides = 1.4% households

Couples with children →

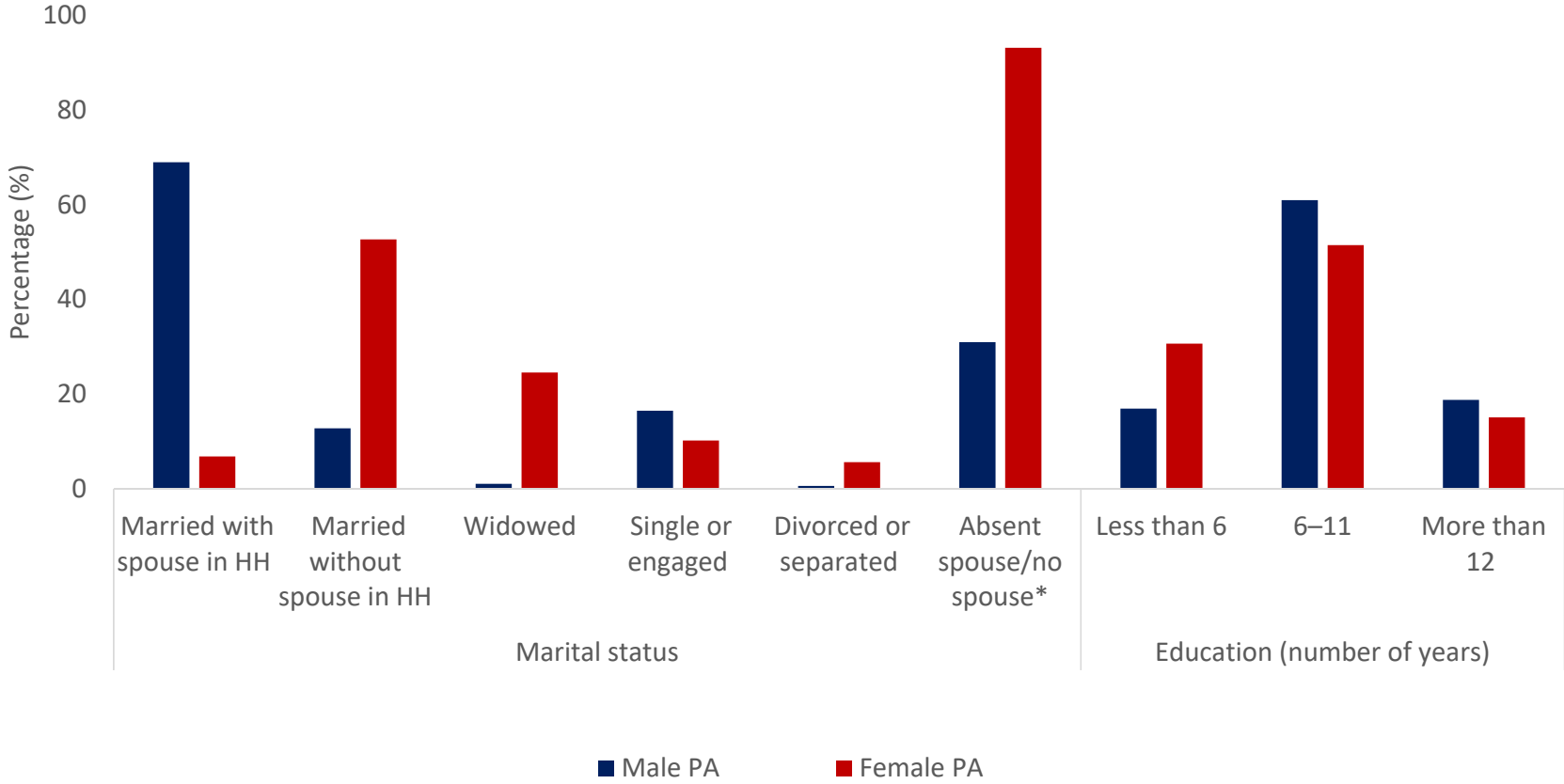


Couples without children →



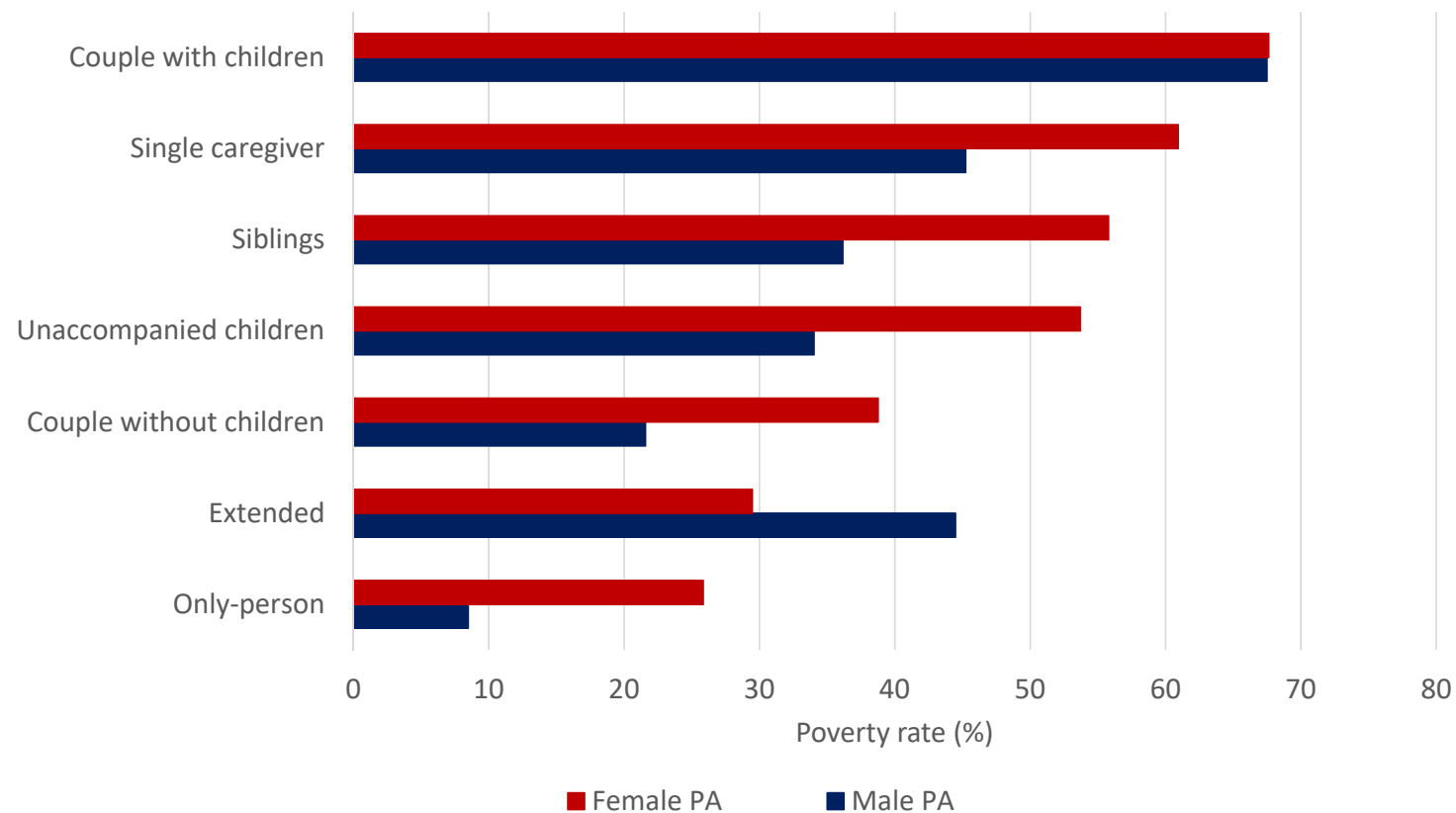
← Male PA

Characteristics of Principal Applicants



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

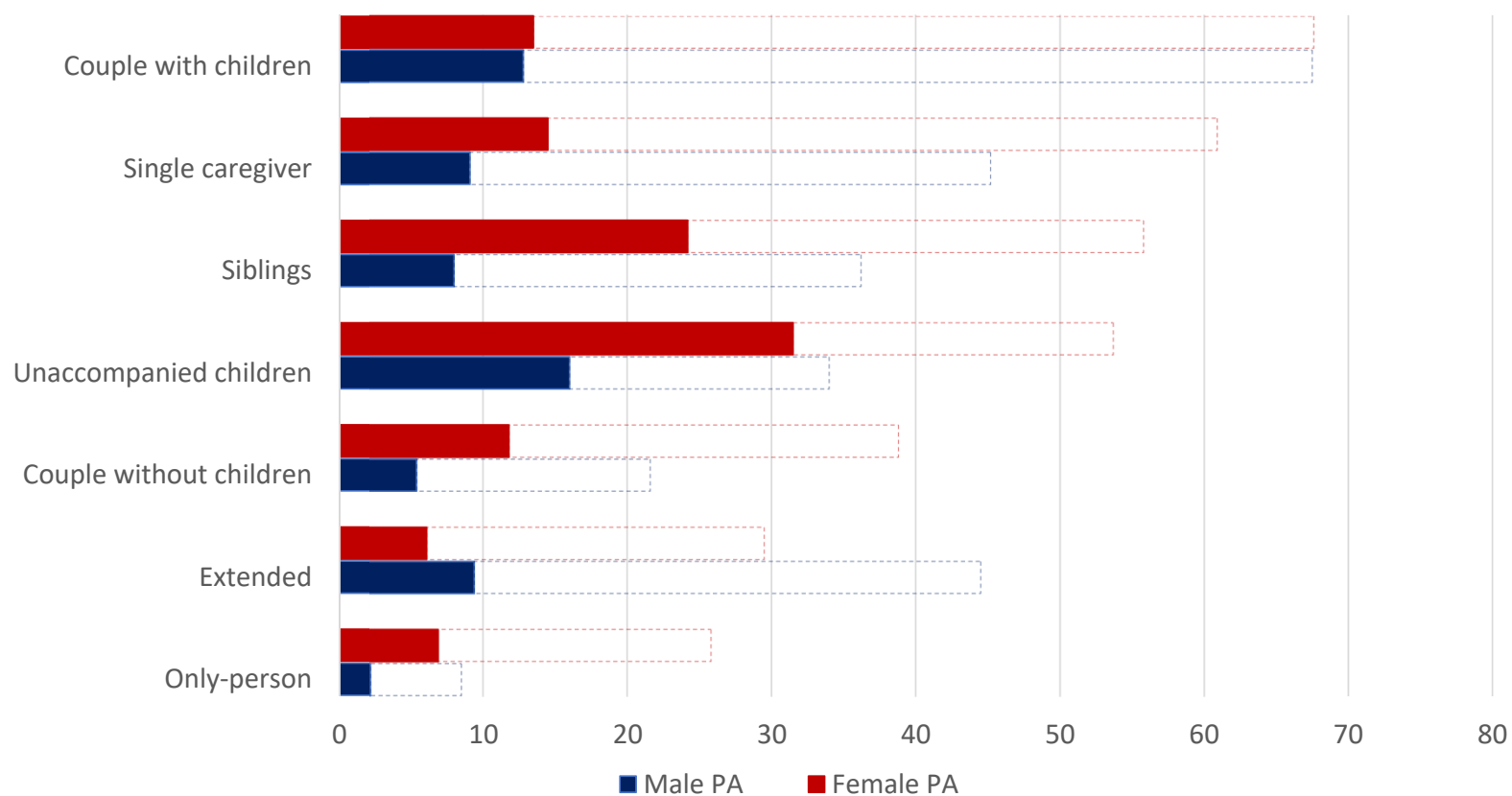
Gender of Principal Applicant and household poverty rates before humanitarian assistance



53.1 % of Syrian refugee households are poor

Source: Own calculations based on ProGRES and HV database.

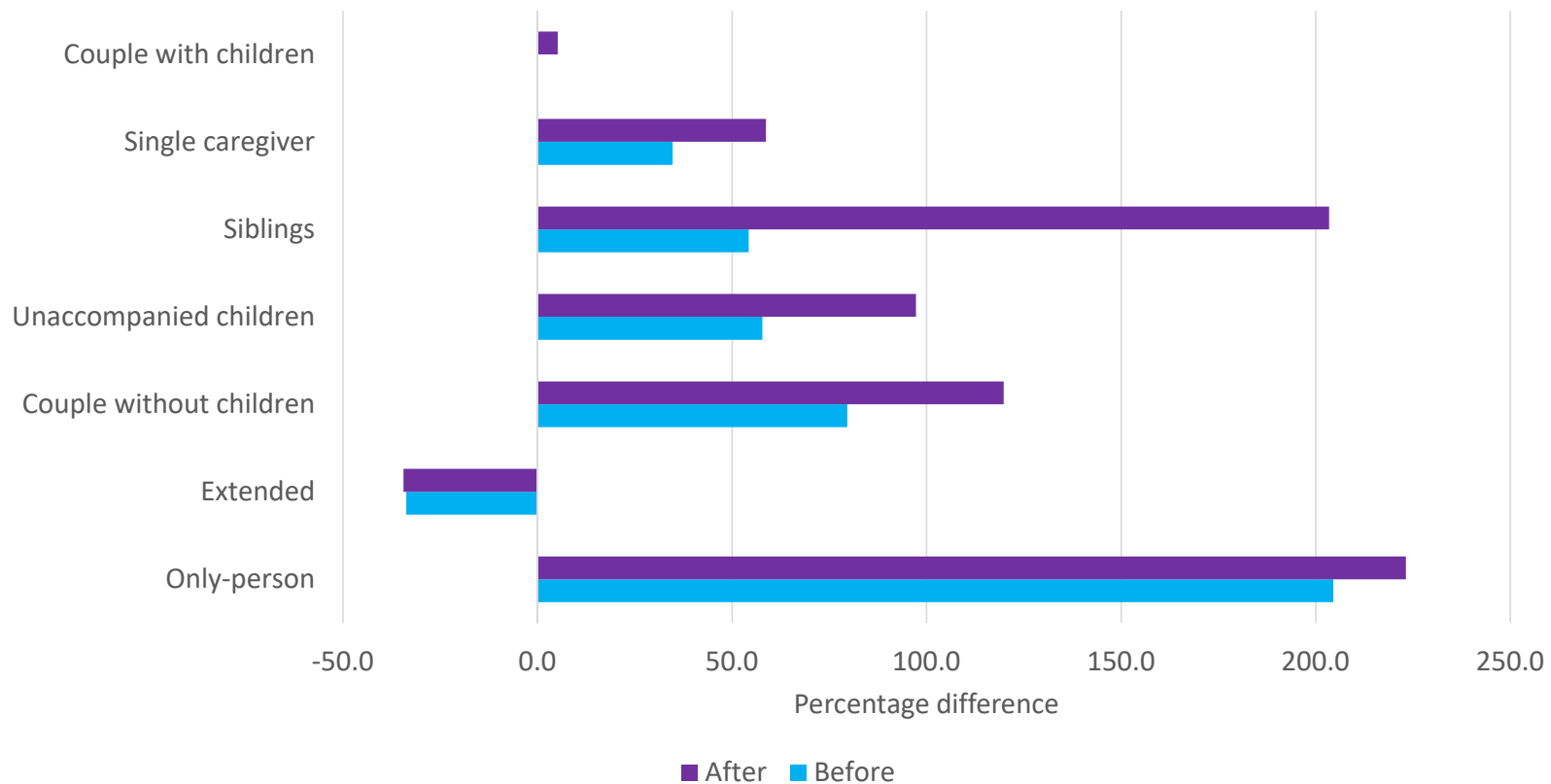
Gender of Principal Applicant and household poverty rates after humanitarian assistance



11 % of Syrian refugee households are poor

Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database. Dashed portion of the bars shows the reduction in poverty rates.

Gender poverty gap before and after cash assistance



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

Note: Poverty gap = $(P_f - P_m) / P_m * 100$ where P_f = poverty rate of female headed households, P_m = poverty rate of male headed households

Why are non traditional households with a female principal applicant poorer?

Our Model

$$P_i = \beta_0 + X_i' \beta_1 + W_i' \beta_2 + \varepsilon_i$$

Where:

$P_i = 1$ if household i is below the poverty line; $P_i = 0$ if the household i is on or above the poverty line

X_i = vector of individual characteristics of principal applicant of household i

W_i = vector of household i characteristics

ε_i = normally distributed error term

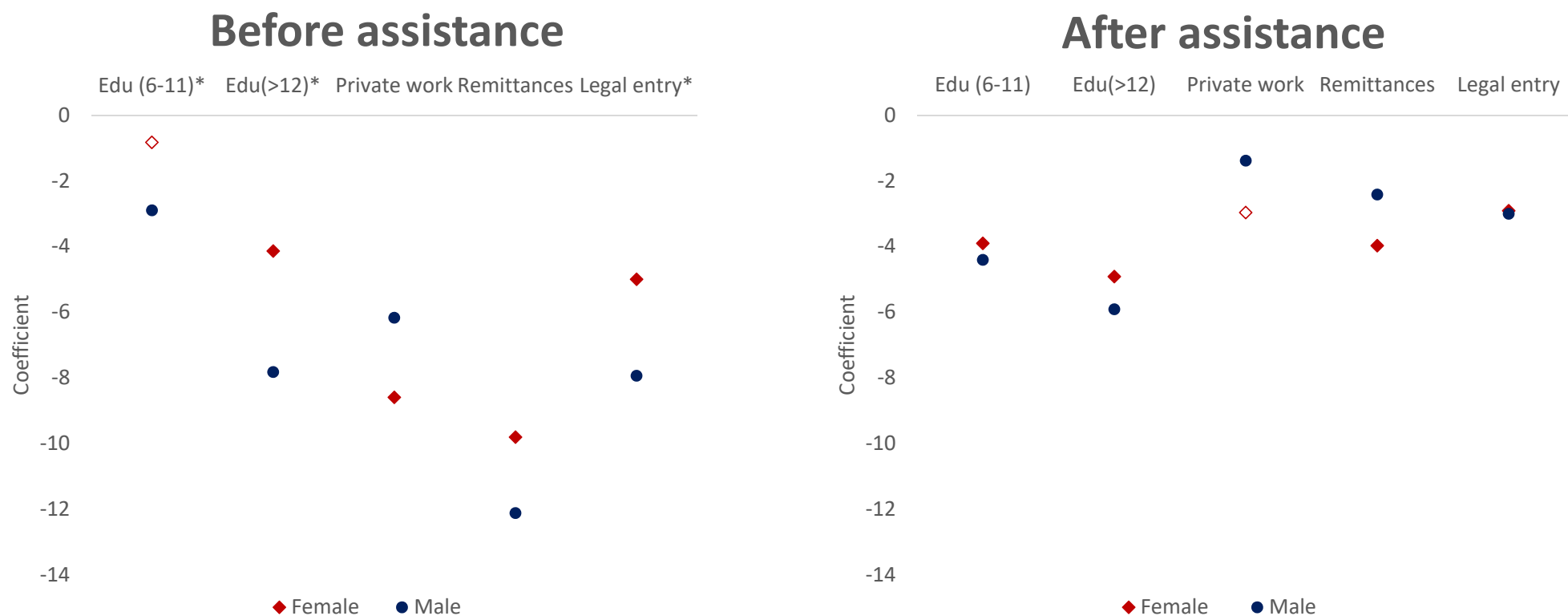
Individual characteristics

Age of the PA; education level (cat.);
entry status (cat.); marital status (cat.)

Household characteristics

Presence of children age 5 (dich.); presence of disabled people (dich.);
elderly (dich.); expenditure; family type (cat.); household size; wage
income (cat.); remittances (cat.); income per capita; number of male
adults; proportion of females; location; camp (dich.)

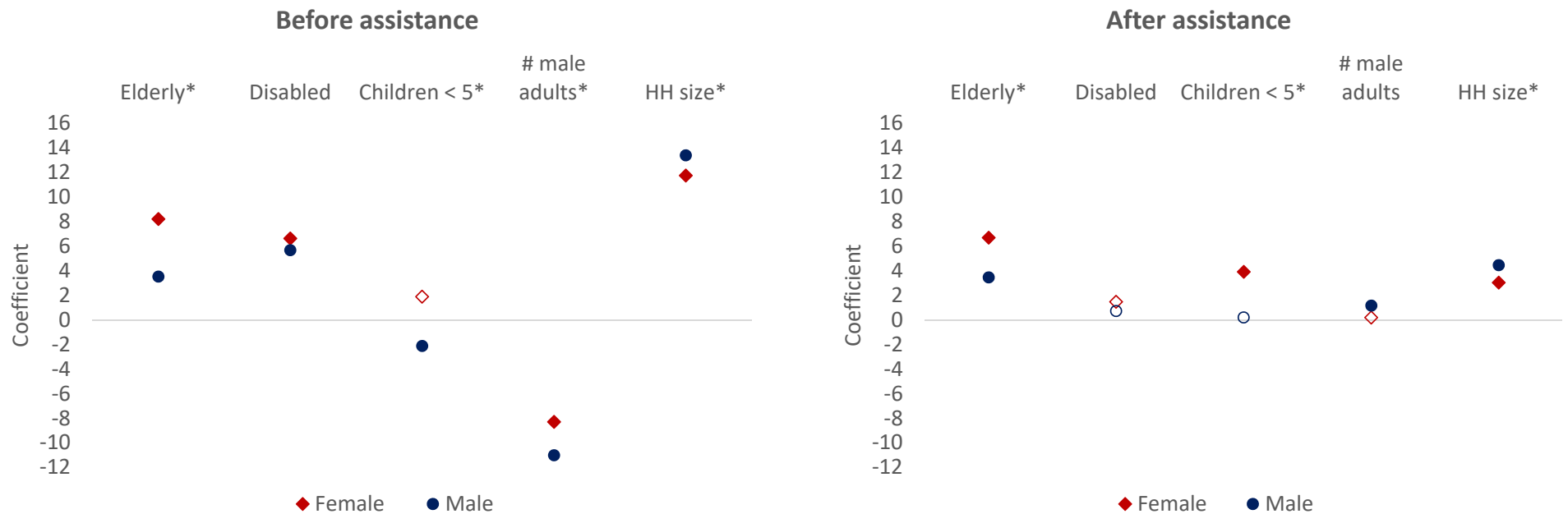
Protective factors: education and employment



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

Note: A negative sign (-) indicates decreased likelihood of poverty. A positive sign (+) indicates increased likelihood of poverty. A hollow marker indicates that coefficient is not statistically significant. An asterisk (*) indicates that coefficients difference (male – female) is statistically significant.

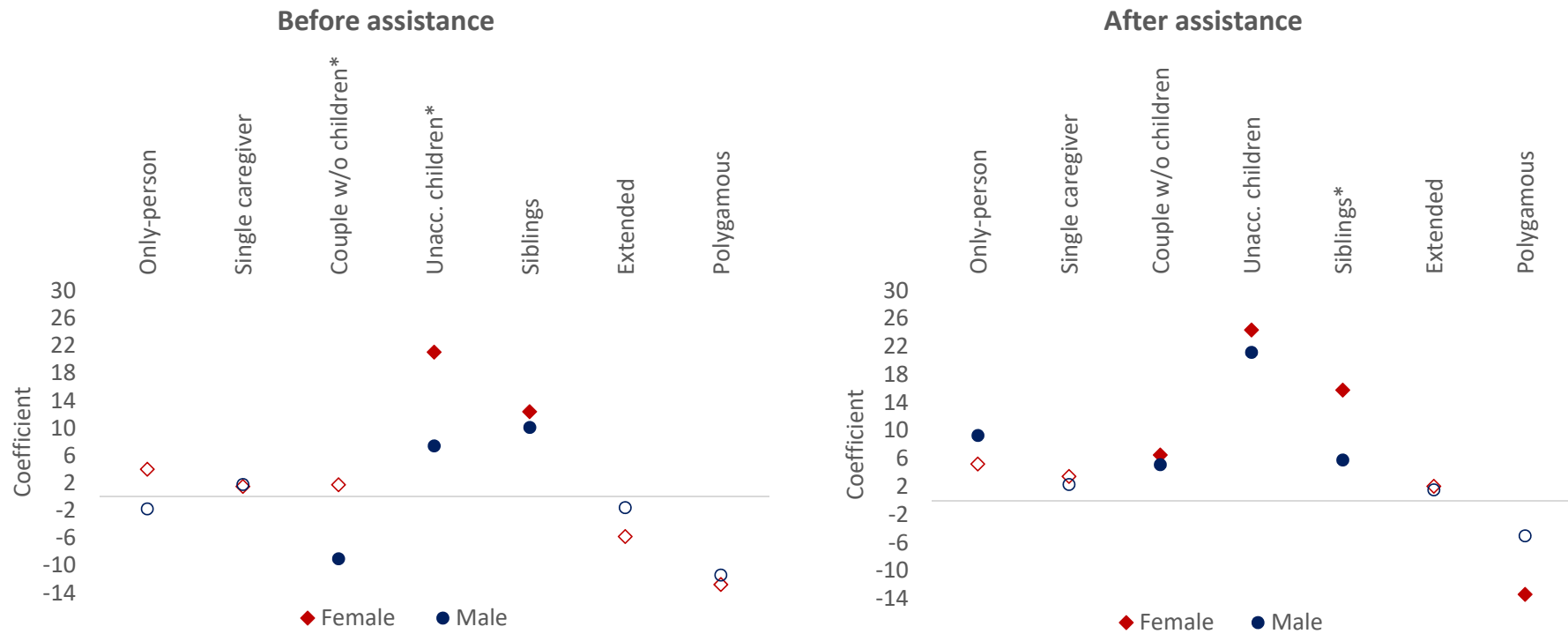
Risk factors: household composition



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

Note: A negative sign (-) indicates decreased likelihood of poverty. A positive sign (+) indicates increased likelihood of poverty. A hollow marker indicates that coefficient is not statistically significant. An asterisk (*) indicates that coefficients difference (male – female) is statistically significant.

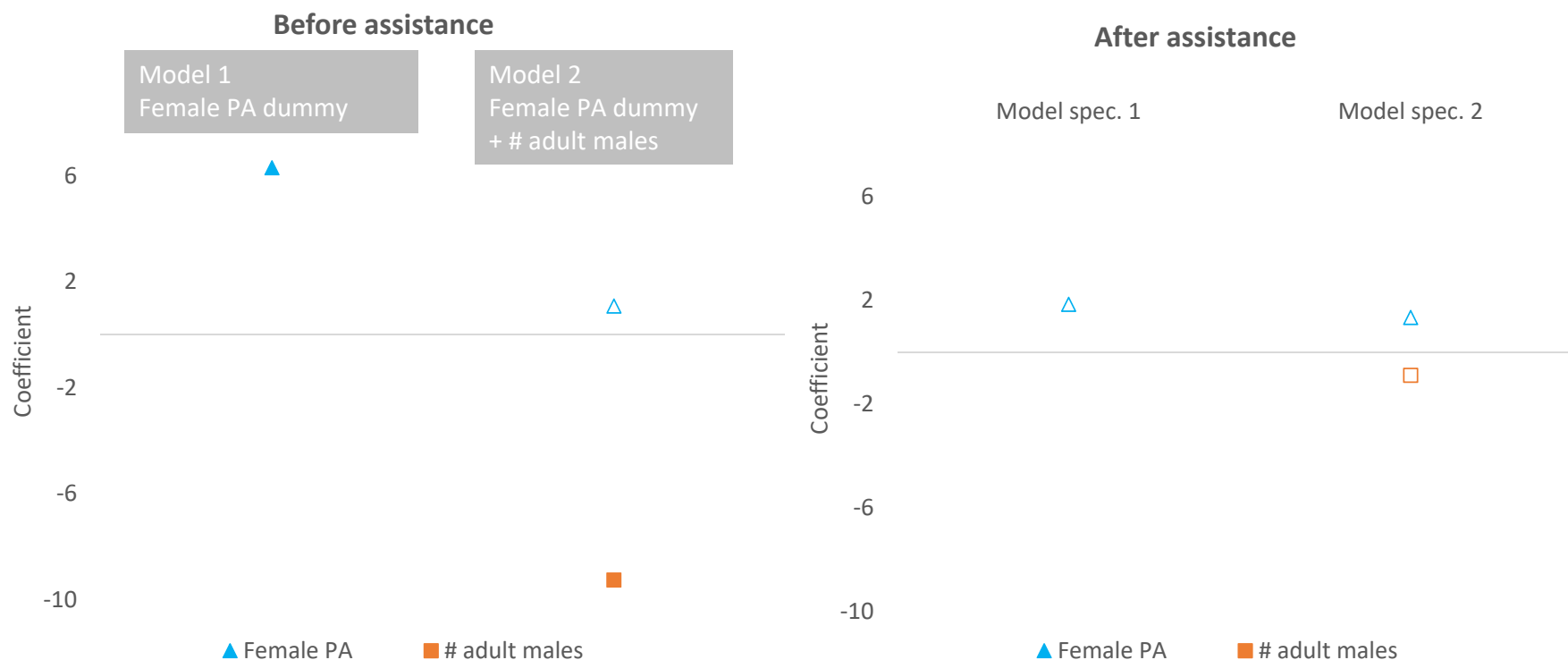
Risk factors: Family type



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

Note: A negative sign (-) indicates decreased likelihood of poverty. A positive sign (+) indicates increased likelihood of poverty. A hollow marker indicates that coefficient is not statistically significant. An asterisk (*) indicates that coefficients difference (male – female) is statistically significant.

Comparing like with like (PSM) : Female PA households are no more likely to be poor after assistance



Source: Own calculations based on ProGres and HV database.

Note: Models estimated using a matched sample. A negative sign (-) indicates decreased likelihood of poverty. A positive sign (+) indicates increased likelihood of poverty. A hollow marker indicates that coefficient is not statistically significant. Model spec. 1 controls for individual and household characteristics as well as family types. Model spec. 2 is the same as spec. 1 but includes number of adult males as additional control.

Findings: female principal applicants and poverty

- Single caregivers
- Unaccompanied children
- Siblings
- Couples without children
- Single person



Poverty Higher for
Female Principal Applicant
Households
Before and After Assistance

Before Assistance

50% Poverty
rate
female PA

20 % poverty
rate male PA

Couples with children



Highest rates of poverty
No difference between male
and female PAs

68% poverty
rate

Findings: female principal applicants and humanitarian assistance

- Single caregivers
- Unaccompanied children
- Siblings
- Couples without children
- Single person

Reduced poverty risk factors

- Disability
- Household size

Significant difference in poverty rates between male and female Principal Applicant Households

Increased poverty risk factors

- Elderly
- Children under 5 (Female PA)

After Assistance

Overall HH Poverty

13% Poverty rate female PA

11% poverty rate male PA

Female PA Households: no link between poverty risk and # adult males

Conclusions

Disruption that displacement causes to family structure has a gender specific impacts:

- Female headship is associated with greater vulnerability to poverty in non traditional family types
- Siblings and child headed households are very vulnerable groups even after assistance, especially if headed by a woman or a girl

Humanitarian assistance has greatly reduced gender disadvantage and been well targeted to the most vulnerable

Conclusions

- The association between female headship and household poverty is driven by gender disadvantage
 - Female PA do as well as a male PA when given opportunities in the form of cash assistance or the “asset” of an adult male when households are similar.
- Policy responses need to increase women’s labor market access and replace the “asset effect” of adult males for female headed households.
- More data and research needed on impact of child marriage and other forms of Gender-based violence