The Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion

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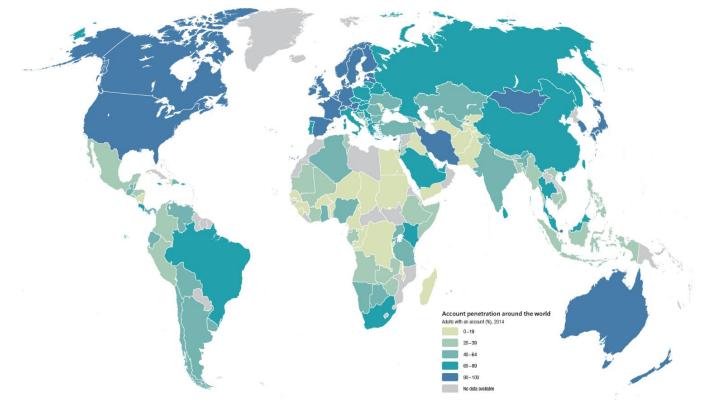
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Account Ownership Around the World



Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex

In 2014, the World Bank -- with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the support of Gallup, Inc. – updated and expanded the Global Findex dataset, an unprecedented study of financial inclusion based on interviews with almost 150,000 adults in over 140 countries worldwide.

Closing the Gender Gap

How Can Financial Inclusion Help Women?

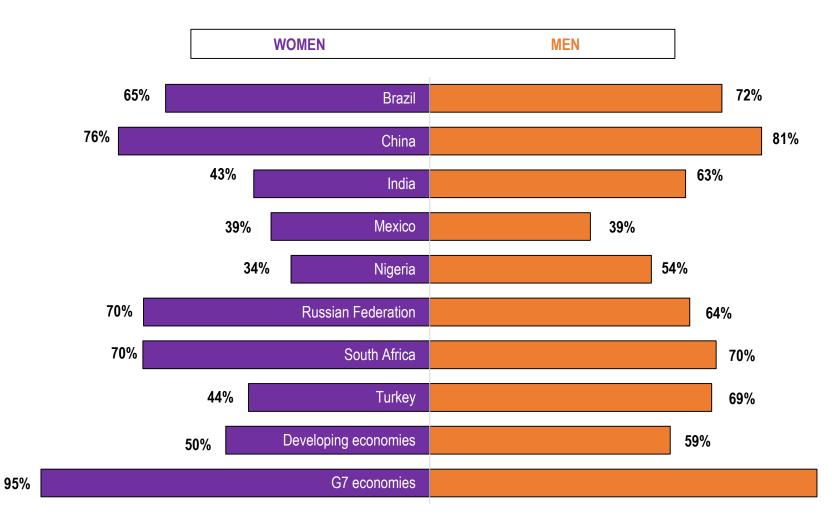
Financial services help women shape household spending decisions, make investments, and manage economic risk.

- Access to insurance helped women farmers in Burkina Faso and Senegal increase yields and better manage food security (Delavallade et al., 2015)
- In Niger, mobile cash transfers strengthened women's bargaining power, boosted spending on nutritious foods, and allowed women to spend more time on productive tasks by reducing the need to travel to receive cash payments (Aker et al., 2015)
- Women in the Philippines who used a savings account reported **greater influence** over household decisions and increased spending on items they needed, such as washing machines and kitchen appliances (Ashraf et al., 2010)
- In Kenya, women merchants who received a basic account invested more in their businesses; they also spent 13% more on food and 38% more on private expenses (Dupas and Robinson, 2013)
- Women-headed households in Nepal spent 20% **more on education** and 15% more on meat and fish after receiving a savings account (*Prina*, 2015)

The Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion

Account ownership

Total percentage of adults



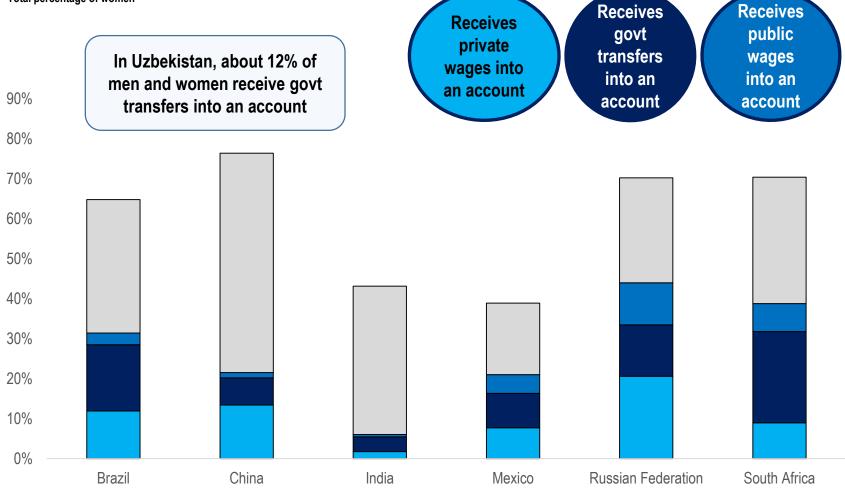
95%

Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex

Receiving Payments Into Accounts

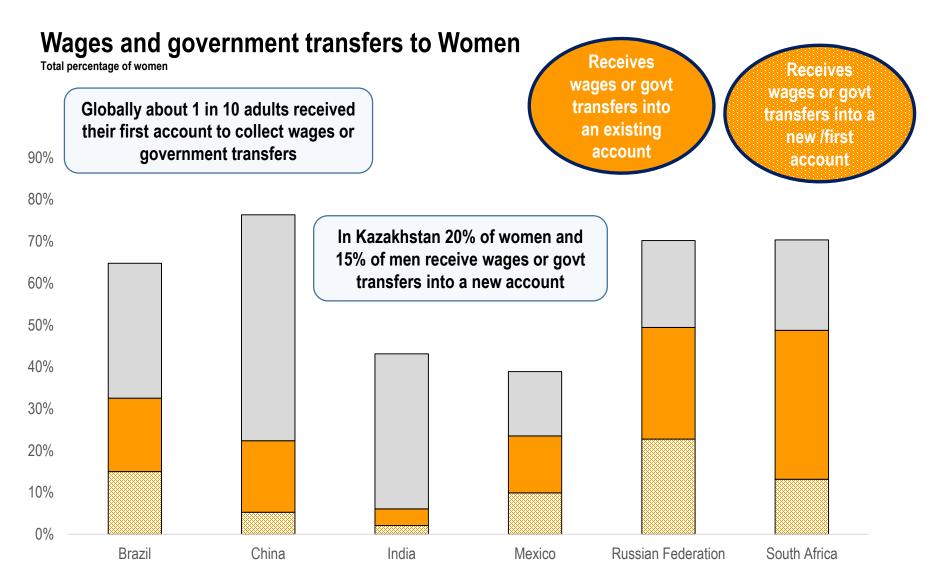
Wages and government transfers to Women

Total percentage of women



Source: Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex Note: The height of the bar is the share of adults with an account.

Receiving Payments Into New Accounts



Source: Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex Note: The height of the bar is the share of adults with an account.

How Can Digital Payments Help Women?

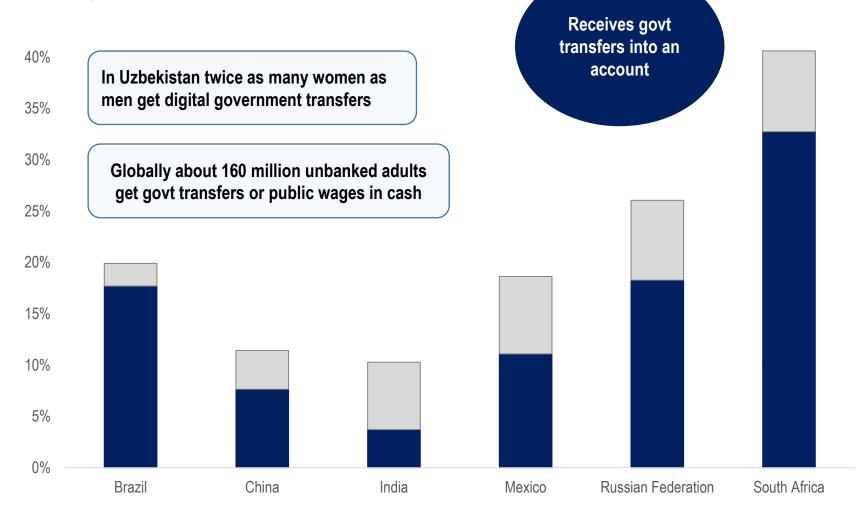
Digital payments can facilitate wage, transfer and remittance payments and has the potential to increase income by allowing households to smooth consumption and accumulate savings

- Increasing the security, privacy and control over the funds received (Docquier, Lowell and Marfouk, 2009; Dupas and Robinson, 2009; Morawcynski and Pickens, 2009; Duflo, 2012)
- Lower cost and time to send and receive payments (Aker et al., 2013; CGAP, 2011b; Babatz, 2013; Lindert, et al., 2007)
- Increased security of payments and lower associated crime (McKenzie and Yang, 2014; Ashraf, et al., 2014; Wright et al., 2014)
- More transparency and thus lower leakage between sender and receiver (Muralidharan et al., 2014)
- Helps people meet unanticipated expenses (Jack and Suri, 2011; Blumenstock et al., 2012)
- Provides a first entry point into the formal financial system; Encourages savings; Builds transaction history which can improve credit access (Allen et al., 2013; Li et al., 2014; Aportela, 1999; Prina, 2012; Masino and Nino-Zarazua, 2014; Batista and Vicente, 2013)

Government Transfers and Financial Inclusion

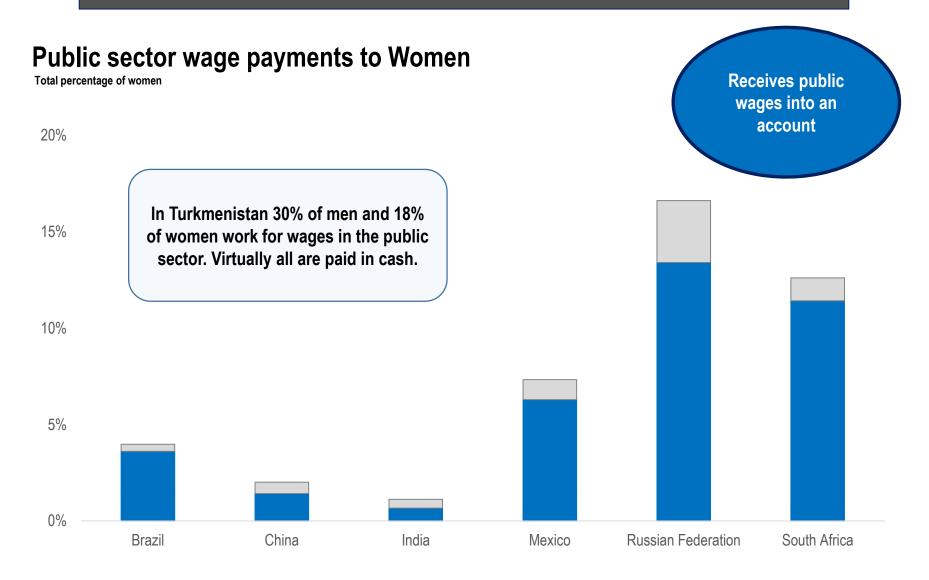
Government transfers to Women

Total percentage of women



Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex Note: The height of the bar is the share of adults who receive government transfers.

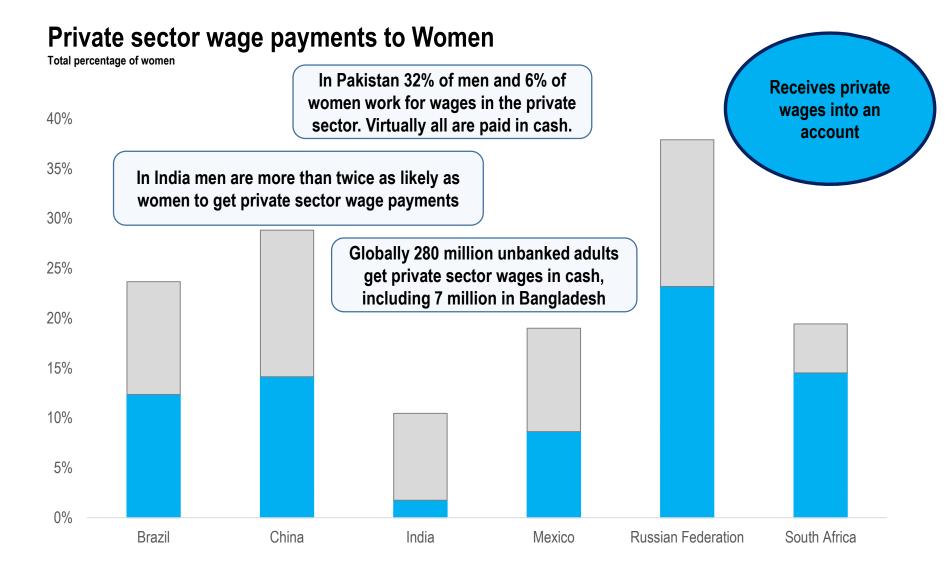
Digital Payroll and Financial Inclusion



Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex

Note: The height of the bar is the percentage of adults receiving public sector wage payments.

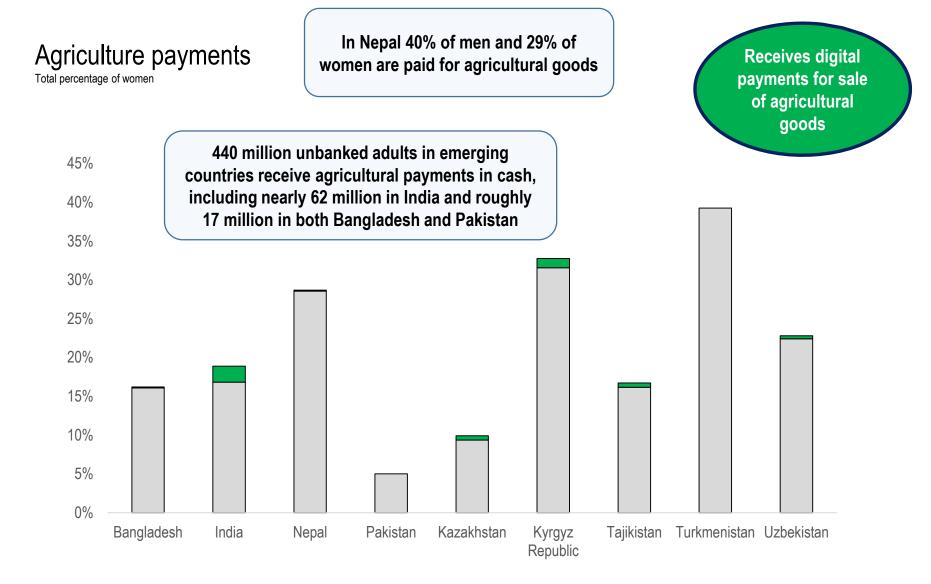
Digital Payroll and Financial Inclusion



Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex

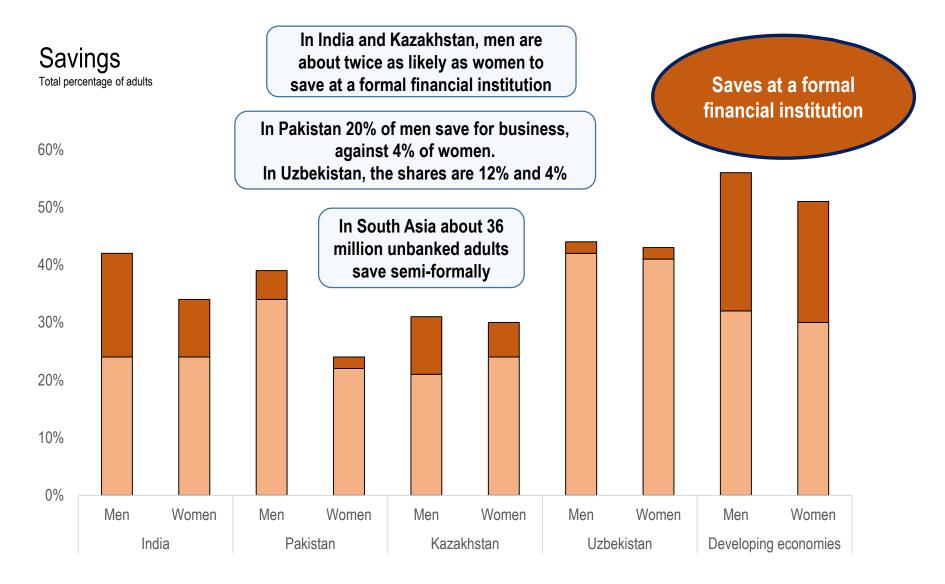
Note: The height of the bar is the percentage of adults who receive private sector wage payments.

Receiving Agriculture Payments



Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex. Note: The height of the bar is share of adults who get paid for agricultural goods.

Saving Money

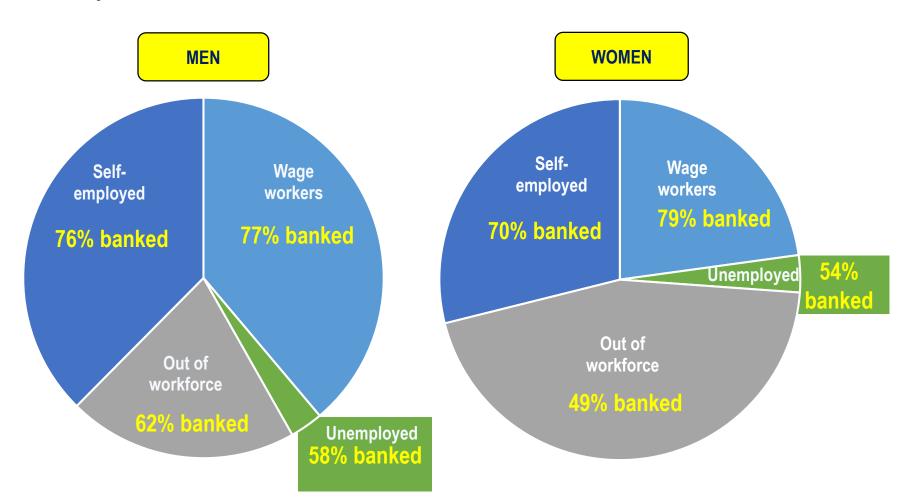


Source: Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex. Note: The height of the bar is share of adults who save money.

Challenges in Closing the Gender Gap

Account ownership by economic participation in BRIC countries

Total Percentage of Adults in BRIC Countries

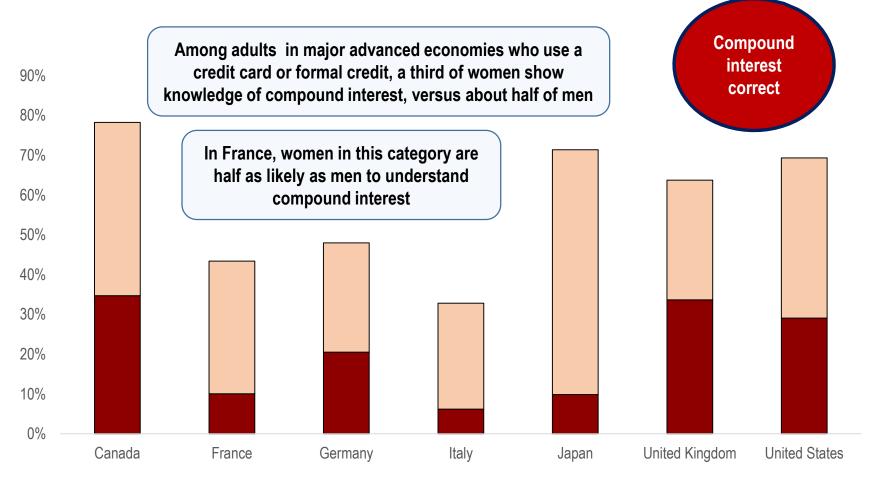


Source: Gallup World Poll and Global Findex (2014); http://www.worldbank.org/globalfindex

Challenges in Closing the Gender Gap

Financial literacy of Women Borrowers

Knowledge of interest compounding among adults who use a credit card or have formal credit (%), 2014

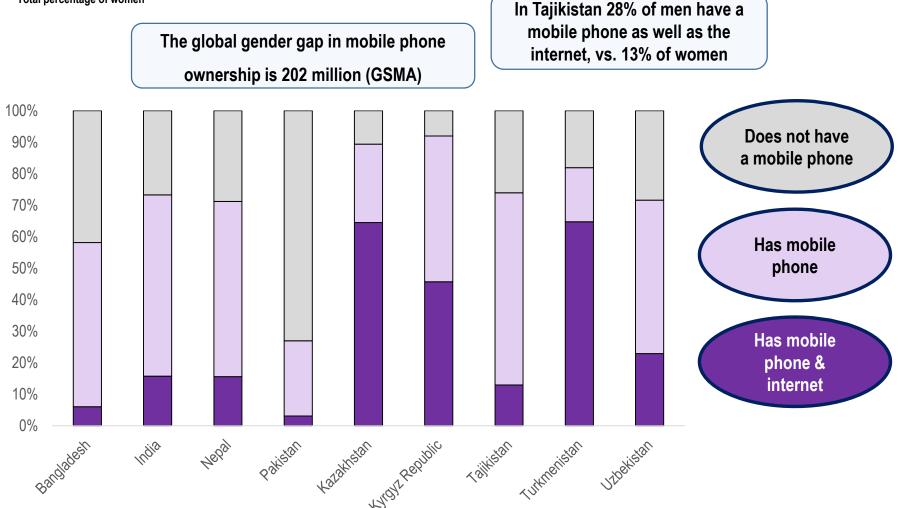


Source: S&P FinLit Database (2014); https://www.spglobal.com/corporate-responsibility/global-financial-literacy-survey Note: The height of the bar is the share of adults who use a credit card or formal credit.

Challenges in Closing the Gender Gap

Technology gaps for Women

Total percentage of women



Source: Gallup World Poll (2016) and GSMA. Note: The height of the bar is the share of adults who have their own mobile phone.