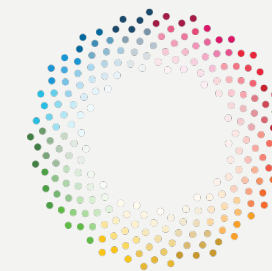
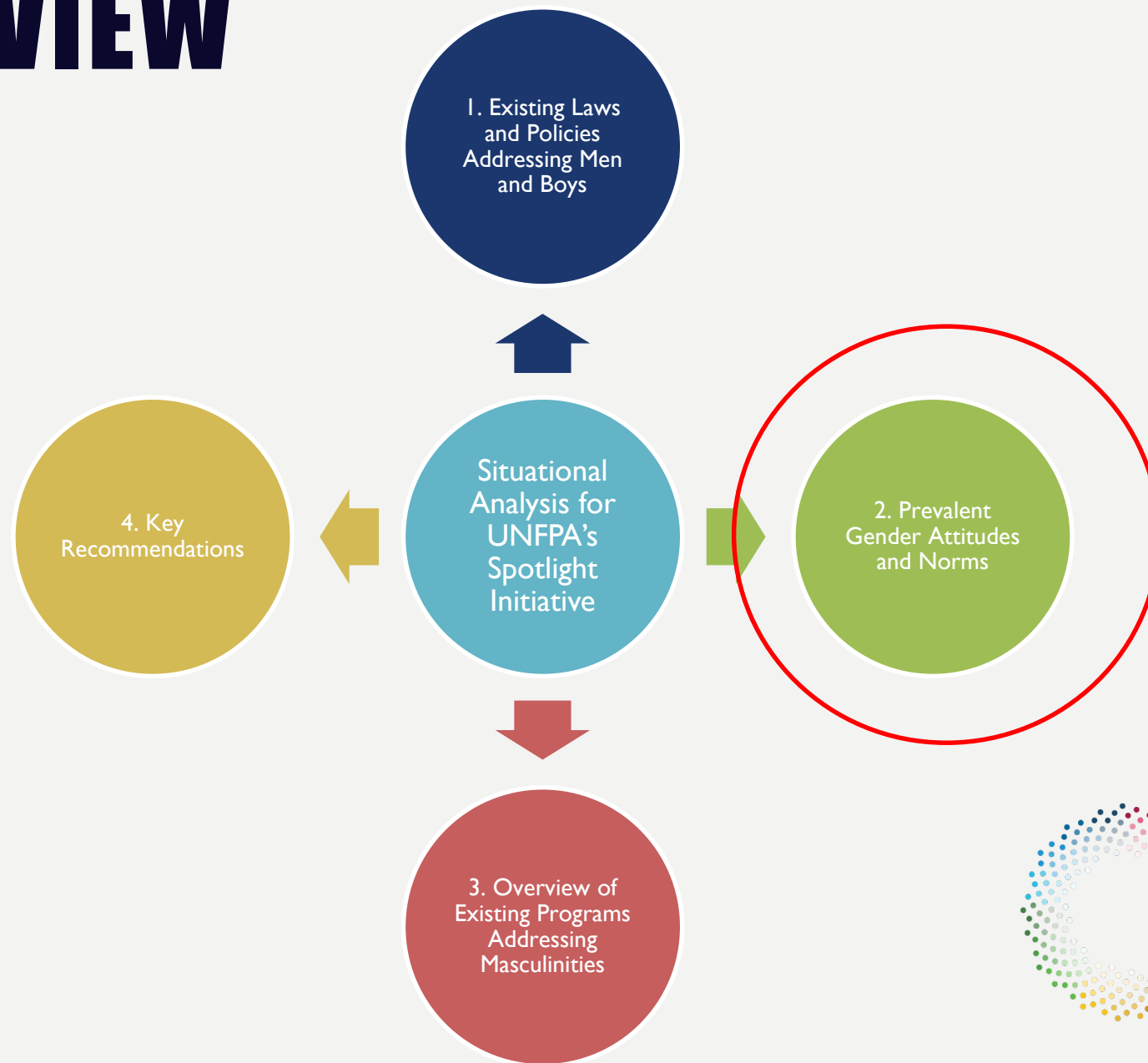




# **MASCULINITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA – WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

**JANE KATO-WALLACE  
EQUIMUNDO SENIOR FELLOW AND GENDER CONSULTANT**

# OVERVIEW

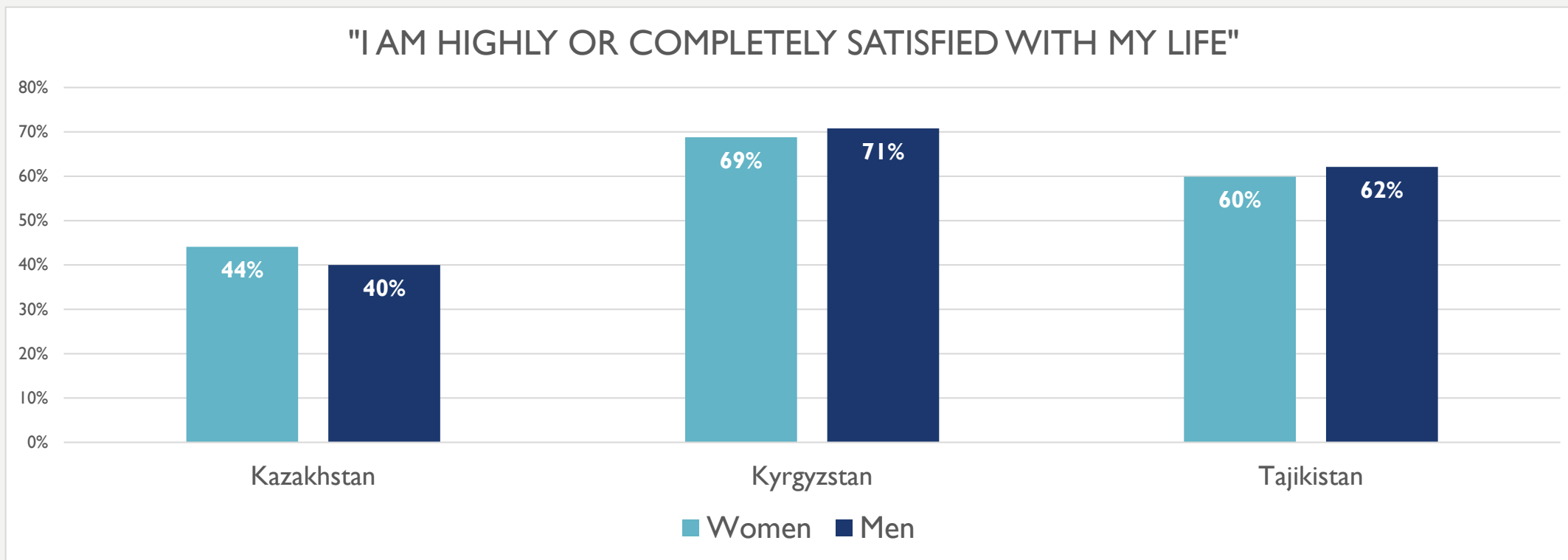


**Spotlight Initiative**  
*To eliminate violence against women and girls*

# KEY QUESTION

What are the prevalent attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors related to men and gender equality in 5 Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)?

# GENERAL ATTITUDES



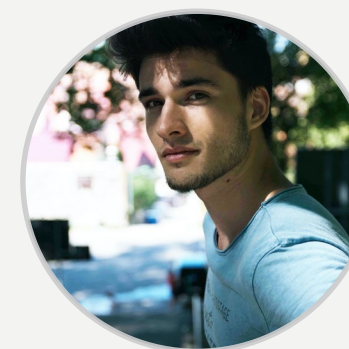
Source: World Values Survey (Wave 7 - 2017-2021) Kazakhstan 2018, Kyrgyzstan 2019, Tajikistan 2020. Nationally representative sample with participants ages 18 -75 years old.

# GENERAL ATTITUDES

**20%** of men in Kazakhstan report experiencing depression.

**33%** of men in Kazakhstan report experiencing stress.

In UN-funded research on mental health research in Turkmenistan, **men are reluctant to admit** to having personal problems.



Alimbekova G.T. et al. "The role of men, their degree of involvement in family life and upbringing of children in Kazakhstan: the results of a comprehensive national sociological study." UNFPA 2021.

"Men, Women And Gender Relations In Turkmenistan: Men's Perceptions And Attitudes." (Ashgabat, forthcoming). UNFPA Turkmenistan.

# GENERAL ATTITUDES

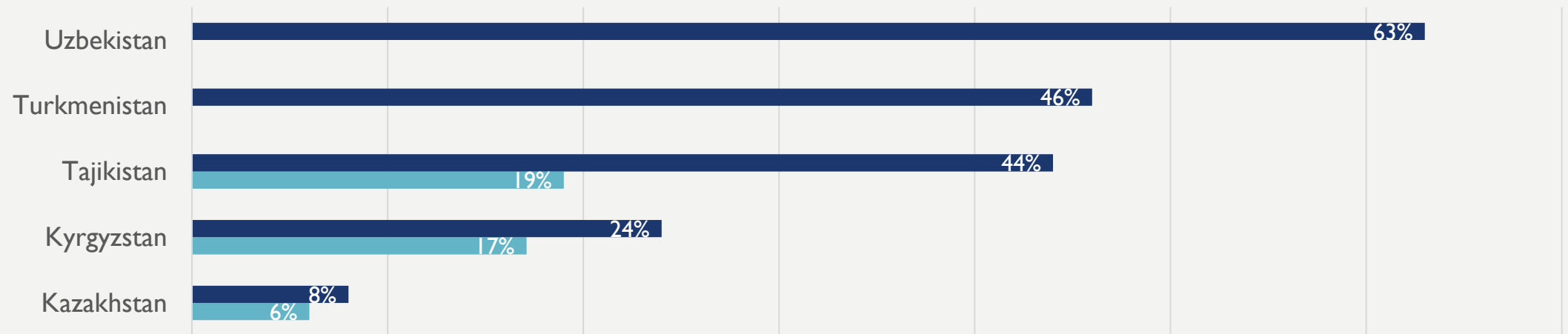
What men worry about "very much" or "a great deal"



Source: World Values Survey (Wave 7 - 2017-2021) Kazakhstan 2018, Kyrgyzstan 2019, Tajikistan 2020. Nationally representative sample with participants ages 18 -75 years old.

# GENDER ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

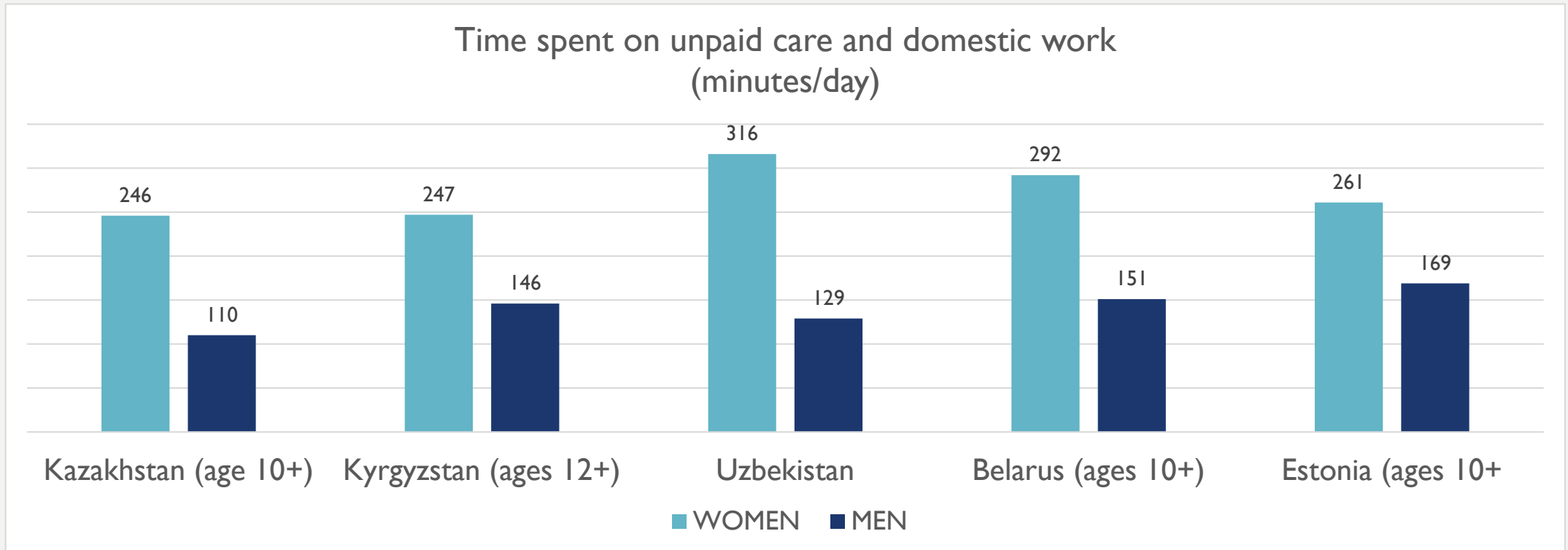
## Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women



■ % of girls and boys 15–19 years old who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one reasons\*

*Source for Prevalence of VAW: UN Women Global Database on VAW which draws from the Statistics Committee of the Ministry of National Economy, 2017. Sample Survey on Violence Against Women in Kazakhstan. Astana, Kazakhstan: Statistics Committee; National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC), Ministry of Health [Kyrgyz Republic], and ICF International, 2013. Kyrgyz Republic Demographic and Health Survey 2012. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, and Calverton, Maryland, USA: NSC, MOH, and ICF International; Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan, and ICF. 2018. Source for VAW Attitudes: UNICEF global databases, 2021, based on DHS, MICS and other national surveys.*

# GENDER ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES



Source: United Nations Statistics Division Time Use Data Portal ([unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/index.html](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/index.html)). Except for Uzbekistan, all data and metadata are compiled by the United Nations Statistics Division based on country-level data from national statistical offices, supplemented by data from EUROSTAT, OECD, UNECE and UNECLAC. Last updated in August 2018. For Uzbekistan, data is from The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, Household Survey 2018.



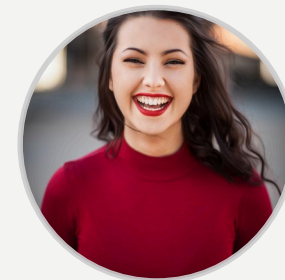
# GENDER ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

A large majority of **BOTH** men and women respondents in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan “agree” or “strongly agree” that women should **still do most** of the household chores **even if men are not working**.

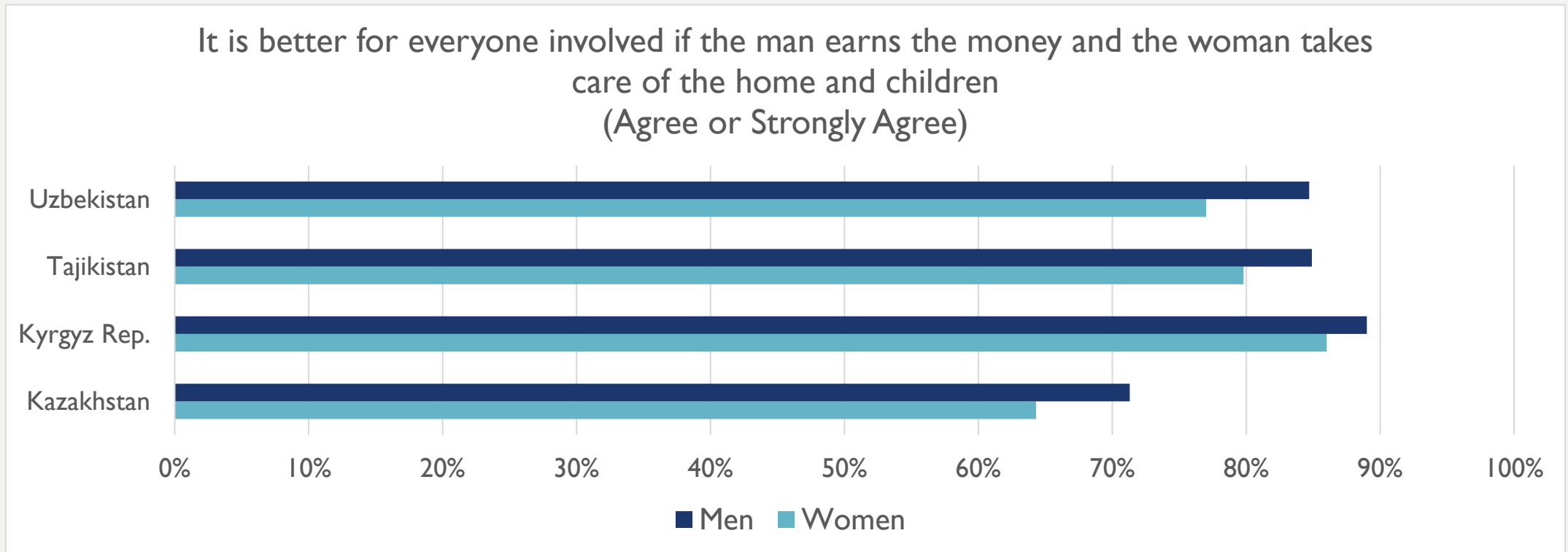
*“It’s a woman’s work, don’t! What would the neighbors say?”*  
– Female study respondent from Tajikistan

*Source: United Nations Statistics Division Time Use Data Portal ([unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/index.html](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/timeuse/index.html)). Except for Uzbekistan, all data and metadata are compiled by the United Nations Statistics Division based on country-level data from national statistical offices, supplemented by data from EUROSTAT, OECD, UNECE and UNECLAC. Last updated in August 2018. For Uzbekistan, data is from The State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, Household Survey 2018.*

*“Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of perception of gender roles and gender-based violence in 6 districts in Tajikistan.” (2016) Oxfam GB and Z-Analytics Company, page 13.*



# GENDER ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES



Source: Aktakke, Nazli and Aran, Meltem A. and Munoz Boudet, Ana Maria, Gender Relations in Europe and Central Asia: Results from the Life in Transition Survey III (April 12, 2019). World Bank Publications, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3426165> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3426165>

# KEY TAKE AWAYS

1. There is consensus. Things are changing, but slowly. Where are the “windows of opportunity” to push for greater gender equality by engaging men and boys?
2. Men’s lives are complex – they earn some unearned privileges from gender inequality, but also face the consequences when they cannot live up to society’s unrealistic expectations.
3. We need a richer picture of masculinities – more research on understanding men’s involvement in caregiving, mental health status, their childhood experiences of violence, and more.
4. It’s about individuals AND systems. As activists and practitioners, we need to engage governments in discussions on how men and boys play a key role in gender equality (e.g. national gender action plans and strategies.)