



Sub-regions . . . by the numbers (and more)



Ben Slay

Senior economist
UNDP Regional Bureau
for Europe and CIS

21 May 2019





Issues this presentation does not address



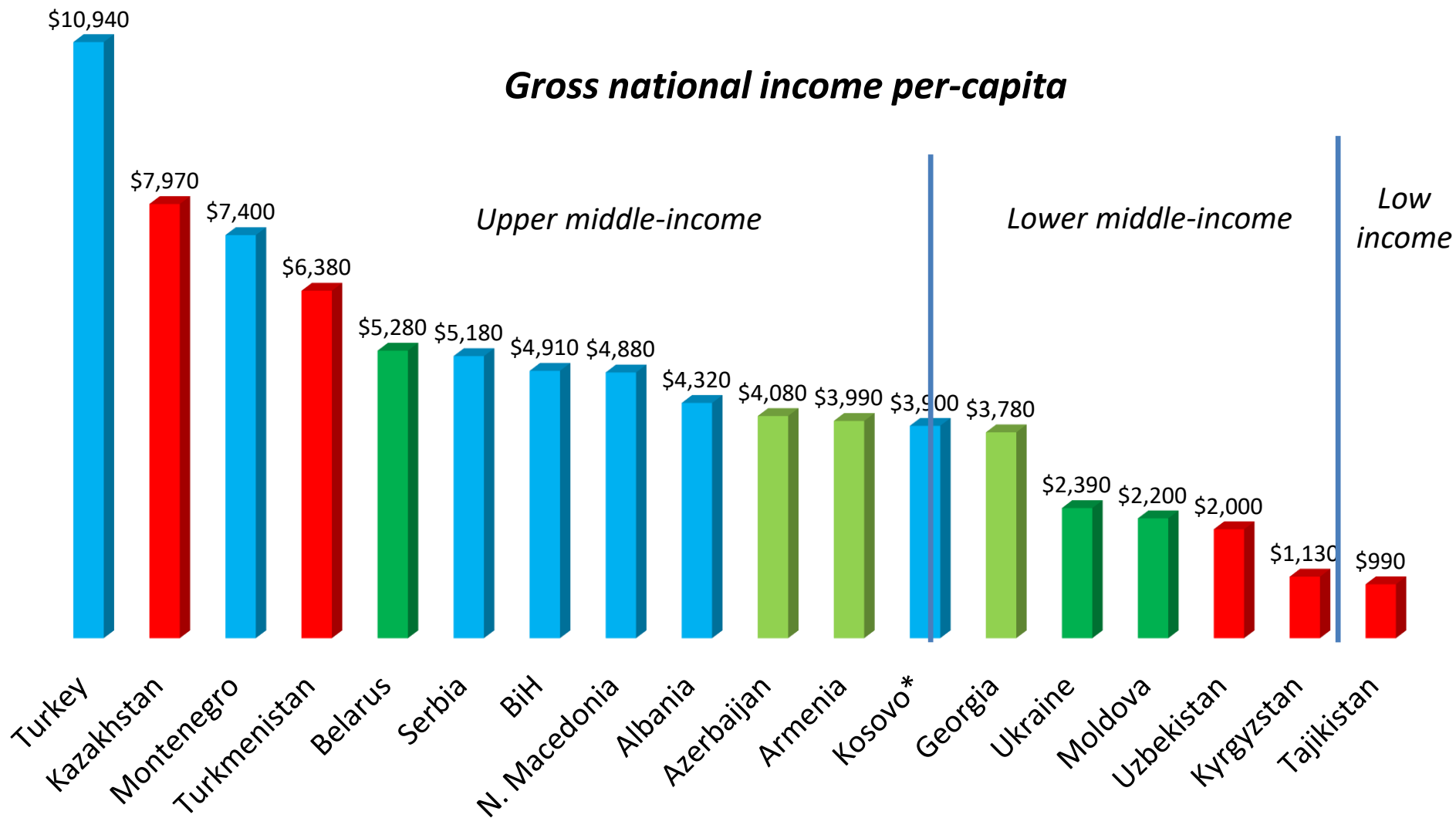
*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

- The “right ” definitions/delineations of sub-regions
 - Framework taken as given (3 or 4 sub-regions, depending)
- Sub-regions that include Russia, EU member states
- Sub-regional inter-state cooperation platforms
 - There are lots of these—possibly a separate discussion?
 - They may matter less than regional frameworks (e.g., EU)
- Cross-border issues/programming
 - These issues tend to have important generic characteristics that are independent of sub-regional specifics



Sub-regional commonalities?

Not in incomes/living standards . . .

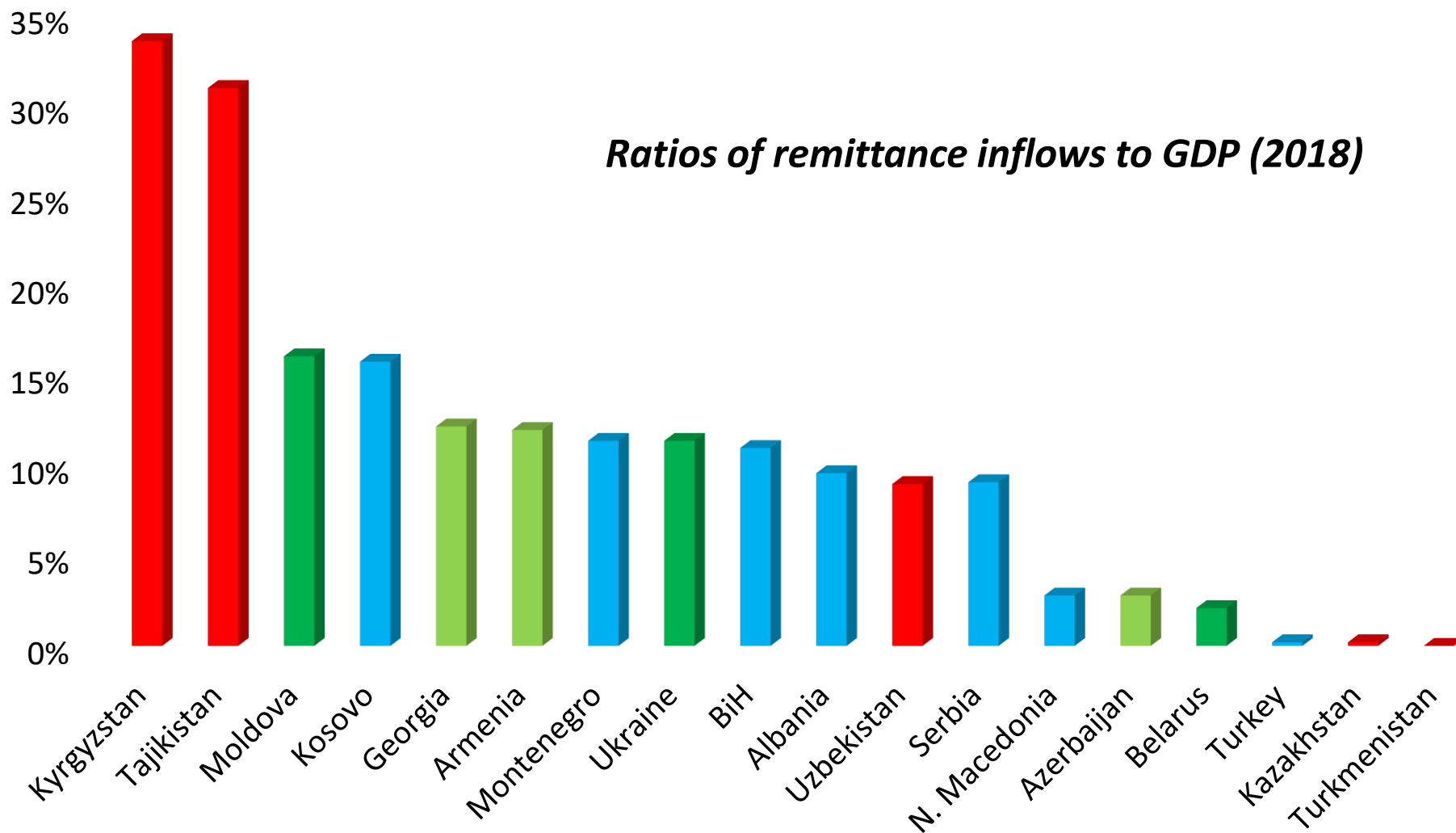


2017 World Bank World Development Indicators data (at Atlas exchange rates).

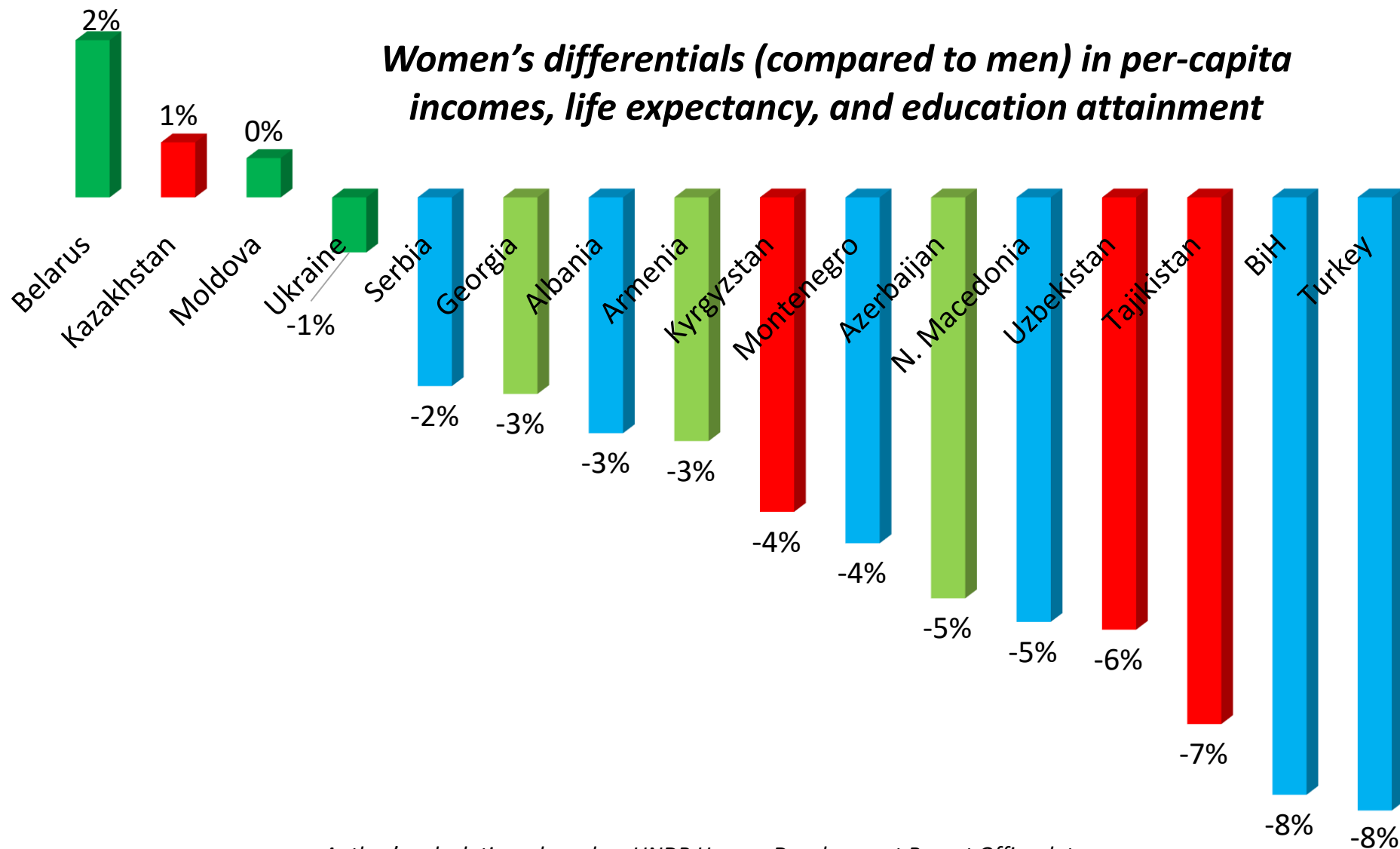
* References to Kosovo are as per UNSCR 1244 (1999).



... Nor in remittances/ migration ...



... Nor (so much) in gender



Author's calculations, based on UNDP Human Development Report Office data.

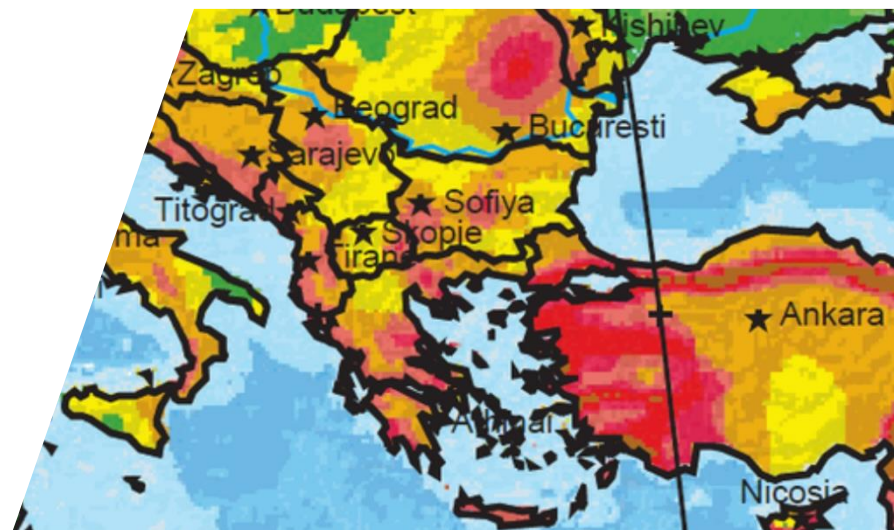


Disaster risks: Present in all sub-regions



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

- Earthquakes:
 - Izmit (Turkey, 1999): 17,000 deaths
 - Spitak (Armenia, 1988): 60,000 deaths
 - Tashkent (Uzbekistan, 1966): 300,000 homeless
 - Skopje (N. Macedonia, 1963): 200,000 homeless
 - Ashgabat (Turkmenistan, 1948): 100,000 homeless
- Major flood, drought risks in most large river basins
 - Implications for hydro power as well as for agriculture, livelihoods

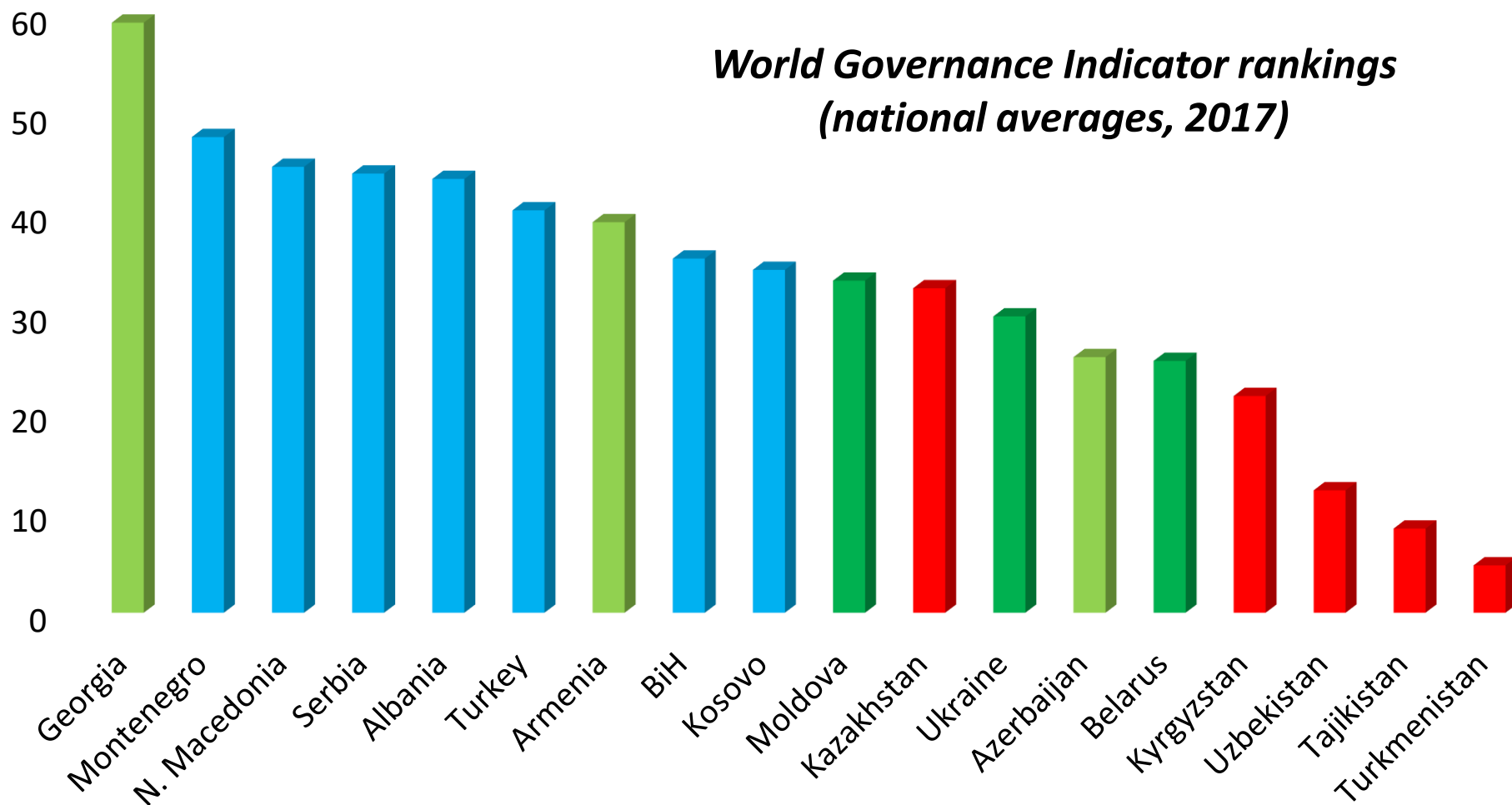




Sub-regional commonalities are more apparent in governance . . .



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



World Bank World Governance Indicators data (annual averages of thematic components).

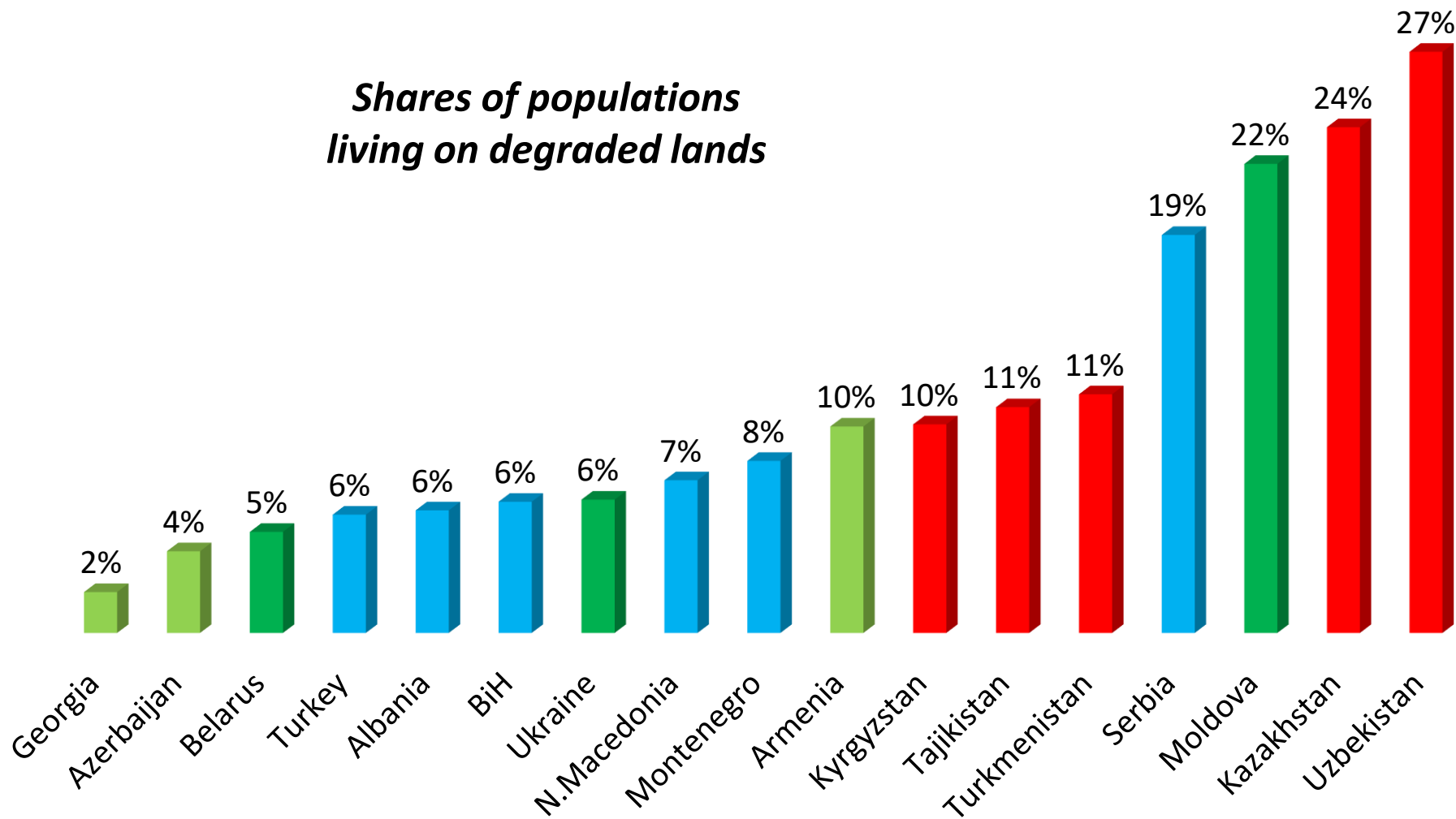


... in land management ...



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

*Shares of populations
living on degraded lands*



FAO data (most recent year).

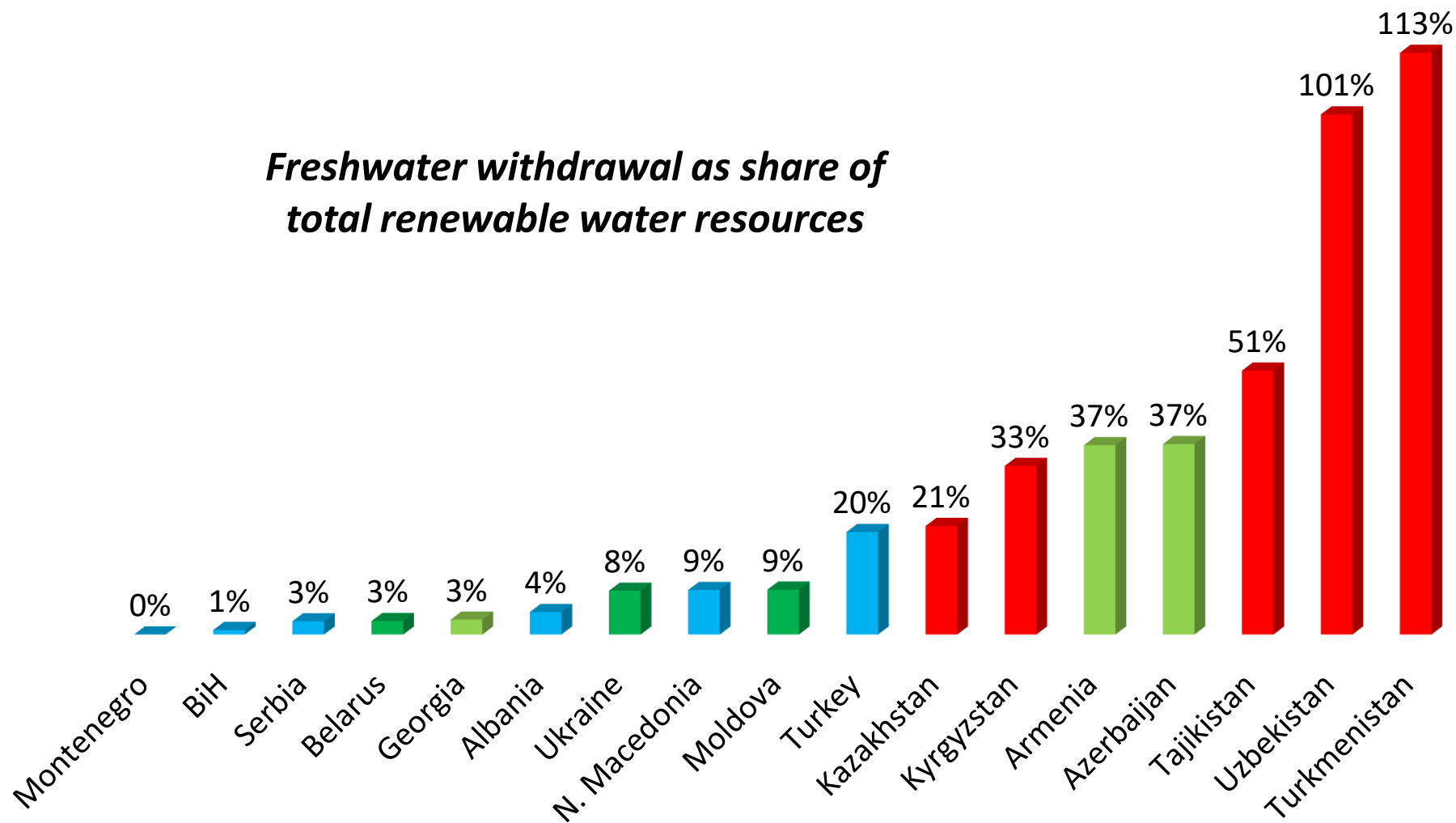


... And especially in water management



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

*Freshwater withdrawal as share of
total renewable water resources*



FAO data (most recent year).



Competing regional initiatives affect different sub-regions differently



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

	EU/NATO integration	Eurasian (Moscow-led) integration	Belt and Road Initiative (China)
Western Balkans, Turkey	Dominant (but weakening) influence	Marginal appeal, except for Serbia, Turkey	Small but growing influence
“Eastern Partnership” countries	Sub-region’s security challenges (Caucasus, Ukraine, Moldova) are reflections of this rivalry between competing integration projects		Growing influence, especially in South Caucasus, Belarus
Central Asia	Largely irrelevant	Sub-region interested in both integration projects, which (so far) have been managed in a generally non-contentious manner	

- This competition makes sub-regional cooperation (programming) more:
 - Difficult
 - Important



Sub-regional cooperation in Central Asia: Window of opportunity?



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

- Reforms in Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan-Tajikistan *rapprochement*
 - Roghun
 - Borders opening
- Big trans-border energy projects are moving
 - CASA 1000
 - TAPI
- Aral Sea—renewed interest?
- Major improvements ongoing in sub-regional transport infrastructure
- ***BUT: Key external players have other interests***





Thank you very much



ben.slay@undp.org

