Measuring gender-based discrimination in social institutions to inform policy-making: Insights from the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019

Alejandra Meneses
Gender Policy Analyst
OECD Development Centre

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Focusing on the invisible part of the iceberg

**Discriminatory social institutions**

= Formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that restrict or exclude women and girls

- **Legal framework**
  - Criminalise domestic violence in 133 countries

- **Social norms:**
  - 27% of women justify domestic violence

- **Practice:**
  - 33% of women have been victims of domestic violence
SIGI’s conceptual framework

Elements of SIGI 2019

**DISCRIMINATION IN THE FAMILY**
- Child marriage
- Household responsibilities
- Divorce
- Inheritance

**RESTRICTED PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**
- Violence against women
- Female genital mutilation
- Missing women
- Reproductive autonomy

**RESTRICTED ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**
- Secure access to land assets
- Secure access to non-land assets
- Secure access to formal financial services
- Workplace rights

**RESTRICTED CIVIL LIBERTIES**
- Citizenship rights
- Political voice
- Freedom of movement
- Access to justice
SIGI holistic approach

180 countries included in the GID-DB and 180 SIGI country profiles are available.

SIGI indicators

Law
Social norm
Social practice

Qualitative info
Quantitative info
Construction of the SIGI: a 2-year process

2017-2018
Qualitative data collection, review and validation

2018
Coding manual and scoring process

June 2018
Quantitative data collection and harmonisation

August 2018
Construction of the SIGI and its four sub-indices

Country Profiles
GID-DB
GID-DB
SIGI ranking
The SIGI, a Global Policy and Research Tool (I)

- Gender, Institutions and Development Database
- 180 country profiles
- Index classifying 120 countries
- Policy Simulator
Republic of Moldova

The 2006 Law on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (referred to hereafter as “Equality Law”) enshrines women and men’s equal rights in the “political, economic, social, cultural, and other spheres of life, rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Moldova, with a view to preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination based on the criterion of sex.” In the case of a discrepancy between provisions of the Equality Law and those of international treaties which Moldova is party to, international treaties shall prevail (Article 4). The law is far reaching in the sense that any domestic policy or actions, as well as any legal act deemed to be discriminatory or containing discriminatory provisions based on sex, can be declared null by the proper authorities, in accordance with the law (Article 5). Article 25 mandates the government to submit proposals to Parliament for bringing effective legislation in conformity with the Equality Law and to approve normative acts necessary for its implementation.

On 31 January 2011, Moldova’s Parliament passed Law No. 5 amending and supplementing articles in existing laws to strengthen legislation on non-discrimination and gender equality. Changes were made to laws governing the Press (No. 241), Civil Protection (No. 271), Healthcare (No. 451), the Prison System (No. 1030), Advertising (No. 1227), Broadcasting (No. 260), the Electoral Code (No. 1381), State Labour Inspectorate (No. 1409), Labour Code (No. 154), and on the Law for Ensuring Equality between Men and Women (No. 15).

Moldova's Constitution also contains an equality clause. Article 16(2) guarantees that “all citizens of the Republic of Moldova shall be equal before the law and public authorities, regardless of race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, religion, sex, opinion, political affiliation, property or social origin.”

1. Discrimination in the family

a) Overarching legal framework for marriage

The Family Code and Civil Status Law (Law No. 100, 2000) govern marriage and non-marital relationships in Moldova. Article 1(3) of the Family Code provides women and men with the same right to marry and marriage is based on the principle of monogamy and consent of both parties. A declaration to marry must be submitted, in person, by people who wish to marry in a civil body with mutual consent expressed personally and unconditionally by both partners (Family Code, art. 10-11).

Moldova co-sponsored the UN Resolution on Child, Early and Forced Marriage adopted on 21 November 2014 along with 116 other countries (Girls Not Brides, 2014). While there are currently no specific provisions against forced marriage, given that marriage must be voluntary and consensual, forced marriage could therefore not be legally upheld.

b) Child marriage

The minimum age of marriage is 18 for both women and men (Family Code, art. 13). Nonetheless, Article 14(1) of the Family Code was amended in 2015 to allow marriage to be permitted, with good reason, up to two years less than the matrimonial age, at the discretion of local public administration
The SIGI, a Global Policy and Research Tool (II)

- Gender, Institutions and Development Database
- 180 country profiles
- Index classifying 120 countries
- Policy Simulator
SIG tools (II): the Gender Institutions and Development Database (GID-DB)

21% Women victims of domestic violence in Czech Republic

[oe.cd/ds/GIDDB2019]
The SIGI, a Global Policy and Research Tool (III)
What have we learned? SIGI 2019 results

Key messages

[1] Progress in legal reforms, shifting norms and resulting practices

[2] Legal barriers and social norms still lock women’s empowerment opportunities

[3] Social norms governing the family are the most pervasive and persistent forms of discrimination
How to use it (I): cost of discriminatory social institutions

An income loss of USD 6 trillion (7.5% of global GDP)

Note: Regional income losses associated with current levels of gender-based discrimination in social institutions. Income losses are measured in terms of 2017 real income at current PPP.
• **Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

• **Target 5.1**: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere

• **Indicator 5.1.1** “Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”
How to use it (III): SIGI Policy Simulator

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Policy Simulator

Watch the tutorial of the SIGI policy simulator

oe.cd/sigiSIM
Construction of the SIGI

- Categorical variables describe the level of discrimination in legal frameworks
- Attitudinal variables describe the level of discrimination in social norms
- Prevalence rate variables describe the level of discrimination in practice.
Conception of the SIGI

Conceptual relevance:
Variable closely related to the conceptual framework of discriminatory social institution

Data quality, reliability and coverage:
High quality variables, reliable data and extensive coverage across countries

Distinction:
Variables should not measure the same information

Statistical association:
Each variable in each dimension captures similar areas of social institutions without being redundant
Construction of the SIGI

**Step 1:** Building the Gender, Institution and Development Database
- Truncating quantitative data at equality benchmark and inverting scale
- Assigning a score to qualitative variables

**Step 2:** Constructing indicators
- Logarithmic and exponential transformations are used to aggregate raw data into indicators

**Step 3:** Aggregating indicators to build the sub-indices
- Logarithmic and exponential transformations are used to aggregate indicators into dimensions

**Step 4:** Computing the SIGI
- Unweighted average of a non-linear transformations of the dimensions
Construction of the SIGI

The SIGI is a composite indicator built as an unweighted average of a non-linear of the dimensions.

Properties of the SIGI 2019 aggregation function

Partial compensation

Penalisation of high inequality

More realistic country classification

\[
SIGI = \ln \left( \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Discrimination in the family}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Restricted physical integrity}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Restricted access to productive and financial resources}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{\text{Restricted civil liberties}} \right)
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