

# BURKINA FASO SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND GENDER INDEX (BURKINA FASO-SIGI)



With the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation and in partnership with the Burkina Faso Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and Family (MFSNF) and the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD), the OECD Development Centre initiated the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) country study in Burkina Faso in 2015. This country study, the second of its kind after the Uganda-SIGI study, aims at strengthening national statistical capacities and informing policy making seeking to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Burkina Faso-SIGI country study provides policy makers, civil society and the development community with a comprehensive database of information on discriminatory social institutions at the sub-national level. For the first time, discriminatory informal laws, attitudes, norms and practices have been recorded and quantified across the different regions of Burkina Faso, putting the spotlight on the effects of discrimination on gender inequalities, poverty and the marginalisation of women. This project also includes analysis and policy recommendations to transform discriminatory social institutions at the sub-national level.

The results highlight how regional disparities at the sub-national level are often hidden by national-level statistics, and the importance of designing policies that specifically target local issues and involve communities. This new data on discriminatory social institutions brings to light the need to include social norms in policy approaches aimed at empowering women and eliminating gender inequalities at both the local and national levels.

### **The objectives of the Burkina Faso-SIGI country study**



#### **What are discriminatory social institutions?**

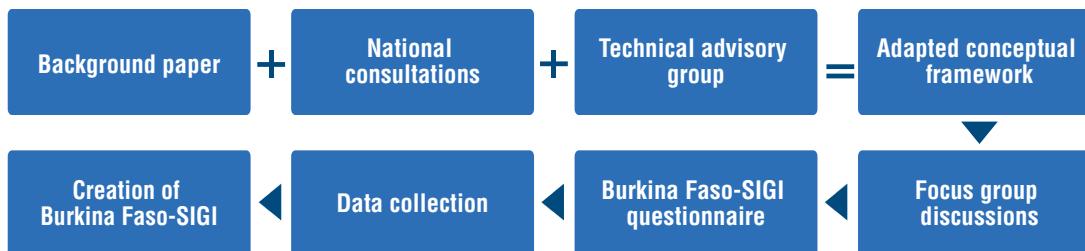
Discriminatory social institutions are formal and informal laws, social norms and practices that restrict women's and girls' rights, access to empowerment opportunities and resources.

## The Burkina Faso-SIGI country study

The Burkina Faso-SIGI country study is a tailor-made policy and research tool, adapting the methodology and conceptual framework of the global SIGI to the national context. The adapted Burkina Faso-SIGI framework is the result of consultations, workshops, in-depth research and field surveys including:

- **National consultations** bringing together government officials and policy makers, researchers, civil society organisations and other experts to identify the national specificities of Burkina Faso.
- **A background paper** providing a detailed overview of existing indicators on discriminatory social institutions in Burkina Faso and proposals of discriminatory social institutions which should be included in the index.
- **A National Technical Advisory Group** chaired by the MFSNF and including independent gender experts and representatives of the MFSNF and INSD, as well as of civil society and international organisations.
- **Focus group discussions** conducted in the 13 regions of Burkina Faso to verify the pertinence of the Burkina Faso-SIGI questionnaire and complement the survey's data findings through qualitative highlights.
- **A Burkina Faso-SIGI questionnaire** including two modules (household and individual) conducted across Burkina Faso by INSD and administered to 3 204 households and 5 622 individuals between October and December 2016.

### The approach of the Burkina Faso-SIGI country study



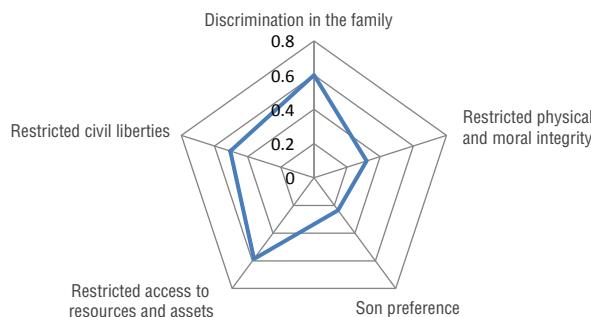
## Key findings and recommendations

Burkina Faso has been firmly committed to gender equality. Measures taken have resulted in improvements in education, health and women's political participation. However, gaps and challenges remain across some key areas affecting women's and girls' rights and opportunities. The Burkina Faso-SIGI country study shows that investment in reducing gender discrimination in social institutions holds important potential to promote women's empowerment, reduce gender inequalities and foster national development.

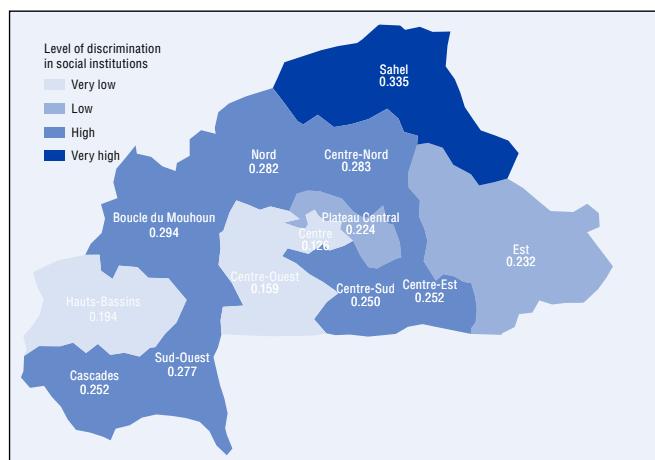
Higher levels of education in communities are related to less discriminatory attitudes and practices. Transforming social norms around gender equality therefore requires a particular focus on education. Increasing education levels appears to effectively support policies targeting the elimination of gender inequalities across the country and promote women's rights through elimination of gender-based discrimination in social institutions.

Furthermore, in some regions, the persistence of discriminatory informal laws and practices adversely impacts the implementation and efficiency of legislative frameworks promoting gender equality. For example, customary laws often restrict widows' rights to inheritance, limiting their economic empowerment opportunities. To overcome the negative influence of discriminatory social norms, legal reforms need to be accompanied by long-term interventions such as awareness-raising campaigns and community dialogues to ensure utter acceptance of harmonisation between customary law and statutory law.

- **Discrimination in the family:** Early marriage is pervasive and persistent, and particularly discriminates against girls. As much as 44% of women were married before turning 18 years old, compared to 4% of men. Stability of these rates across age cohorts suggests the practice is not decreasing. Instead, its persistence is notably explained by its social acceptance, as 44% of the population think a girl can be married before reaching age 18. Yet, this restricts girls' education opportunities: girls' school enrolment is lower in provinces where the practice of early marriage is widespread.



Note: The sub-indices range from 0 for no discrimination to 1 for very high levels of discrimination.  
Source: OECD (2018), Burkina Faso Social Institutions and Gender Index, <http://stats.oecd.org>.



Note: This map shows the regional levels of discrimination, as measured by the Burkina Faso-SIGI. The thresholds are the following: very low ]0; 0.21] , low ]0.21; 0.24] , high ]0.24; 0.31] , very high ]0.31; 0.67].

Source: OECD (2018), Burkina Faso Social Institutions and Gender Index, <http://stats.oecd.org>.

- Restricted physical and moral integrity:** One in three women (37%) has been victim of domestic violence in their lifetime, compared to one in five men (16%). The legal framework prohibits all forms of violence against women, however it does not criminalise domestic violence. Social norms justifying spousal violence against women are widespread: 34% of the population agree that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances, while 4% would deem it acceptable for a wife to beat her husband. Domestic violence restrains women's economic empowerment and is costly for survivors, their families and the economy.
- Son preference:** Fertility preferences are influenced by the perception of girls as transient family members destined to join their husband's family after marriage. More than 44% of the population would prefer their first child to be a boy, compared to 17% in favour of a girl. Son preference also translates into preferential treatment of sons over daughters with respect to education, which intensifies gendered differences in educational outcomes.
- Restricted access to resources and assets:** Secure access to land remains a challenge for women. They represent 55% of the agricultural workforce but only 40% of landowners. Even when they own land, they have limited decision-making power over it. Prevalence of customary laws and community-based land management contribute to the fact that only 14% of female landowners can sell their property, compared to 32% of male landowners. This compounds women's difficulties to access financial resources, for example, and has wide-ranging adverse effects on their economic empowerment opportunities.
- Restricted civil liberties:** Women appear to face discrimination in access to justice. The majority of women (60%) would not appeal to the court to solve a conflict, while 60% of men would. This is linked to the fact that 40% of women perceive systematic discrimination in favour of men in judicial decisions. Protecting women's rights is paramount for achieving long-term and inclusive growth; yet, access to justice is essential to ensure that women and women's rights organisations can claim their rights.

## The conceptual framework of the Burkina Faso-SIGI

As a composite indicator, the Burkina Faso-SIGI scores regions and provinces of Burkina Faso on 21 indicators. These indicators combine detailed information on informal laws, cultural and traditional practices as well as social norms and attitudes that discriminate against women.

The 21 indicators are grouped into five sub-indices that each measure one dimension of social institutions related to gender inequality:

- **Discrimination in the family** assesses social institutions that limit women’s decision-making power and undervalue their status in the household and the family.
- **Restricted physical and moral integrity** covers social institutions that restrict women’s and girls’ control over their bodies and increase their vulnerability to a range of forms of violence.
- **Son preference** measures intra-household bias towards sons and devaluation of daughters.
- **Restricted access to resources and assets** captures restrictions on women’s access to, control of and entitlement over resources that have negative impacts on their opportunities for economic development.
- **Restricted civil liberties** compiles restrictions on women’s access to, participation and voice in the public and social spheres.

### The composition of the Burkina Faso-SIGI

Burkina Faso Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)				
Discrimination in the family	Restricted physical and moral integrity	Son preference	Restricted access to resources and assets	Restricted civil liberties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early marriage</li> <li>• Parental authority</li> <li>• Inheritance rights</li> <li>• Gender roles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violence</li> <li>• Reproductive autonomy</li> <li>• Female genital mutilation</li> <li>• Teenage pregnancy</li> <li>• Decision-making power over own health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertility preferences</li> <li>• Domestic responsibilities of children</li> <li>• Education preferences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to financial services</li> <li>• Access to land</li> <li>• Access to entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Access to employment</li> <li>• Decision-making power over own income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to politics</li> <li>• Access to justice</li> <li>• Decision-making power over place of residence</li> <li>• Freedom of association</li> </ul>

## The Burkina Faso-SIGI methodology

### Data collection

The data used to construct the Burkina Faso-SIGI and its sub-indices come from the 2016 Burkina Faso-SIGI survey. It consists of household and individual surveys representative at the national and regional levels as well as by place of residence (urban or rural). The questionnaires were designed by the OECD Development Centre in partnership with INSD and with support from the technical advisory group.

### Construction of the sub-indices using Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

The Burkina Faso-SIGI groups 46 variables into 21 indicators. Variables and indicators are selected according to their reliability, conceptual relevance and statistical association.

The sub-indices aim to provide a summary measure of each dimension of gender discrimination in social institutions by extracting common information captured by variables and indicators, avoiding redundancy and minimising statistical biases. Each sub-index combines indicators using weights defined through a Principal Component Analysis (PCA).

### Computing the Burkina Faso-SIGI

The Burkina Faso-SIGI is a composite indicator built as an unweighted average of a non-linear function of the sub-indices:

$$BF-SIGI = \frac{1}{5} Discrimination\ in\ the\ family^2 + \frac{1}{5} Restricted\ physical\ and\ moral\ integrity^2 \\ + \frac{1}{5} Son\ preference^2 + \frac{1}{5} Restricted\ access\ to\ resources\ and\ assets^2 \\ + \frac{1}{5} Restricted\ civil\ liberties^2$$

#### Why are the sub-indices equally weighted in the SIGI?

- No dimension is more important than another in terms of the deprivation experienced by women.

#### Why square each SIGI sub-index?

- Very high inequality in one sub-index can be only partially offset by low inequality in another sub-index.
- The deprivation experienced by the affected women increases more than proportionally when discrimination increases.

The OECD Development Centre was established in 1962 as an independent platform for knowledge sharing and policy dialogue between OECD member countries and developing economies, allowing these countries to interact on an equal footing. Today, 27 OECD countries and 25 non-OECD countries are members of the Centre. The Centre draws attention to emerging systemic issues likely to have an impact on global development and more specific development challenges faced by today's developing and emerging economies. It uses evidence-based analysis and strategic partnerships to help countries formulate innovative policy solutions to the global challenges of development.

For more information on the Centre and its members, please see [www.oecd.org/dev](http://www.oecd.org/dev).



For more information about the OECD Development Centre's gender programme:

[dev.gender@oecd.org](mailto:dev.gender@oecd.org)

[www.genderindex.org](http://www.genderindex.org)