

MEN, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE MDGs
Results from the International Men and Gender
Equality Survey (IMAGES)

**Gary Barker, Juan Manuel Contreras,
Brian Heilman, Ajay Singh, Ravi Verma**
International Center for Research on Women
Marcos Nascimento and Marcio Segundo, *Promundo*

A Global Snapshot of Gender Inequality

- Women's income 22% that of men globally
- Women spend 2-10 times the amount of men in care work
- 1/3 of women experience physical violence from a male partner during their lifetime
- Women responsible for three-quarters of global contraceptive use

Change in all of these areas requires large-scale change in men and an understanding of what's happening with men



The Questions ...

- Are men changing? What promotes or hinders that change?
- What are men's current practices in care work, health, relationships?
- What do women say about men's practices?
- What factors contribute to more equitable and non-violent relationships?
- ***Are men on board with the global gender equality agenda as articulated in the MDGs?***
- ***Do we need to drag men kicking and screaming into gender equality or can we find ways to engage their self interest? Or both?***



International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)

- **Multi-country study** on men and gender equality, asking men and women about men's practices and attitudes
- Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Croatia, India, Rwanda – 2009-2010
- South Africa MRC study on men, health and violence incorporated some IMAGES questions and provided questions for IMAGES
- 5 additional sites in Asia starting in 2010 coordinated by Partners for Prevention (Joint UN program)
- **Stratified random household surveys** in at least two major urban areas, women and men ages 19-59
- **Sample sizes** ranged from 750 to 2300 men in each country

The International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES)- Partners

Overall Coordination: ICRW and Promundo

Countries

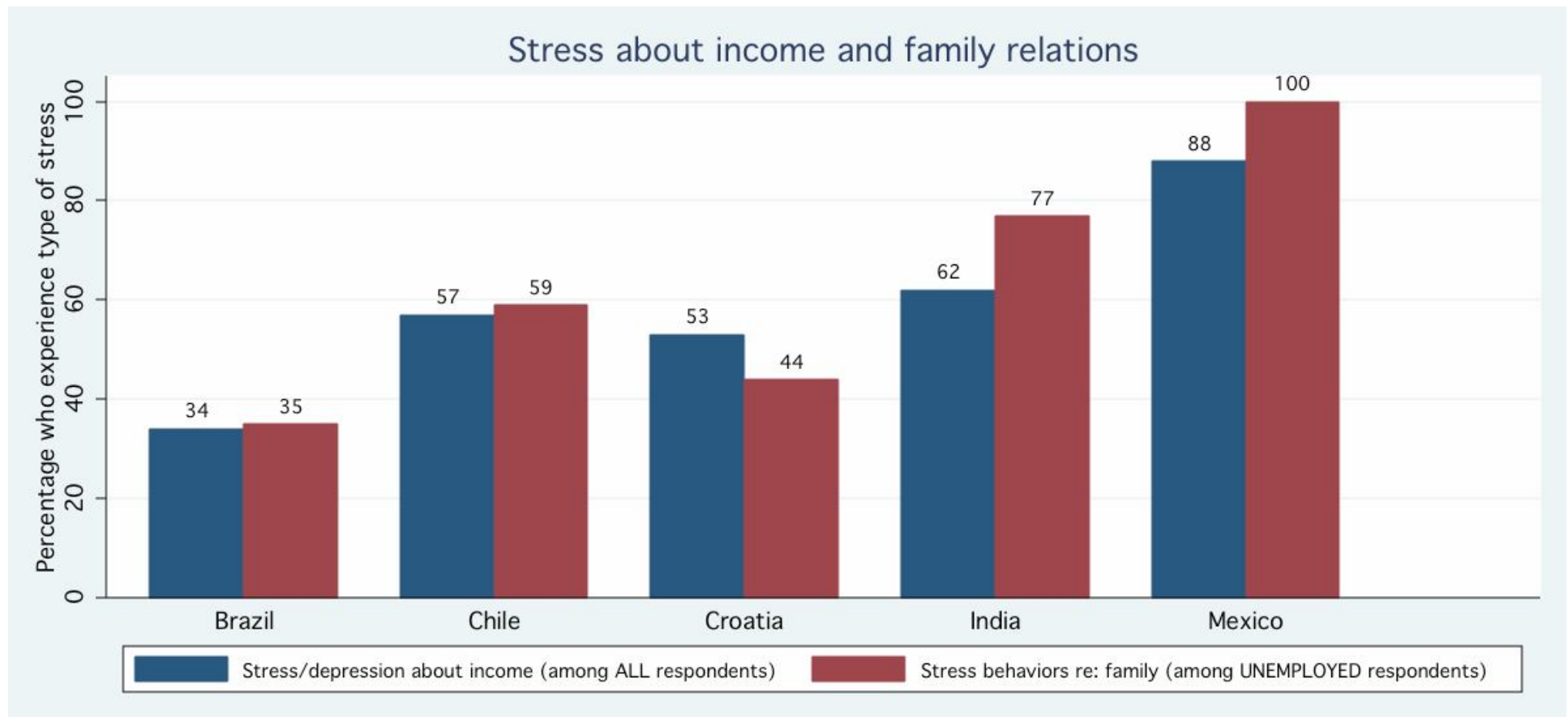
- Brazil, Mexico, Chile, South Africa, Rwanda, Croatia, India

Collaborating Organizations

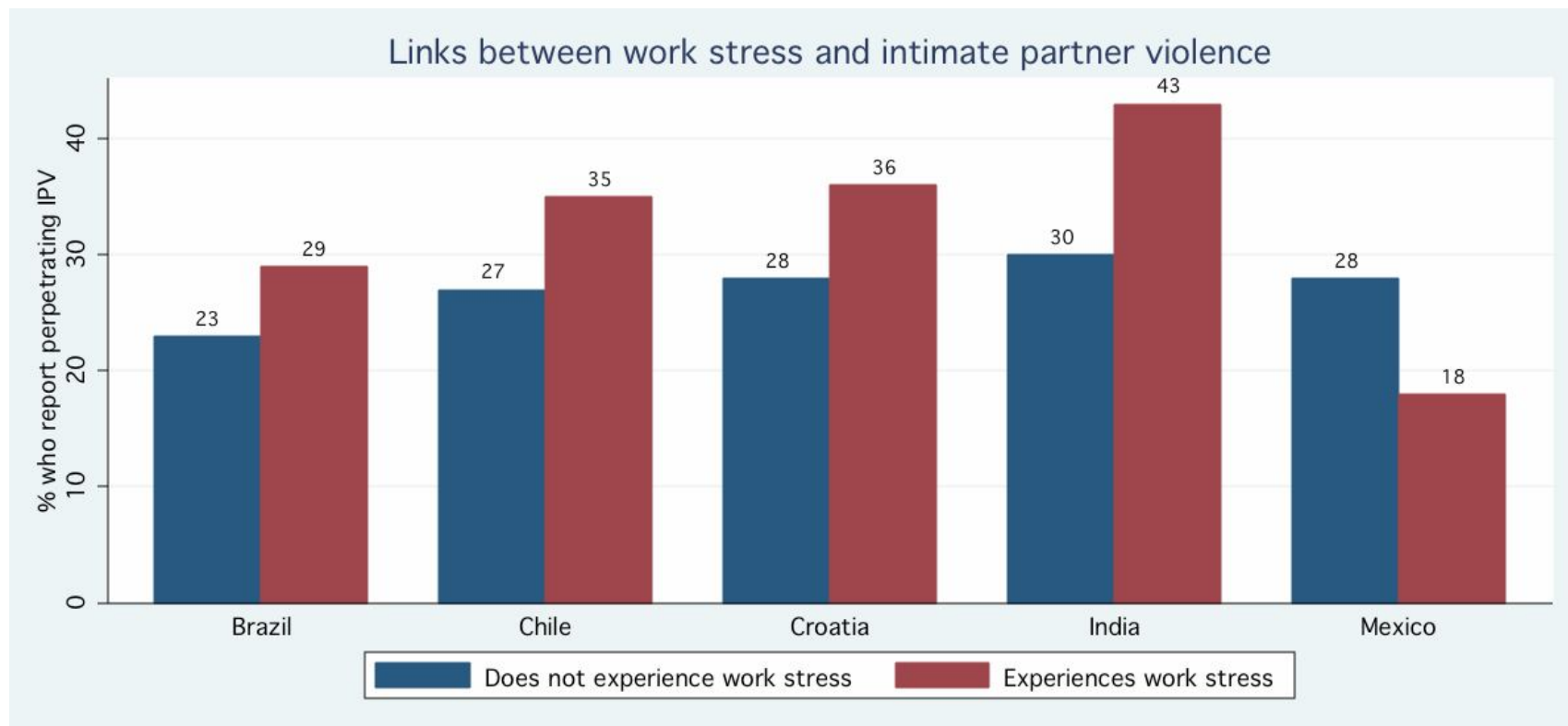
- Center for Gender Studies, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
- ICRW – Asia Regional Office, Delhi, India
- Colégio de Mexico, Mexico, D.F.
- Medical Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa
- University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, South Africa
- CulturaSalud, Santiago, Chile
- Partners for Prevention: A UN Joint Programme for Ending Violence Against Women in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
- CESI, Zagreb, Croatia
- Rwandan Men's Resource Center

**WORK STRESS AND POVERTY: No
work, no manhood?**

Stress related to not having enough work and income is a common experience for men in low and middle income countries



Work stress is related to men's use of violence against women



Statistically significant relationship (at $p < .05$ level) in Chile, Croatia, and India

In IMAGES data, economic stress related to ...

- Higher rates of alcohol use
- Lower condom use
- Higher likelihood of having sex with sex workers
- Criminal activity



Implications of economic stress and gender

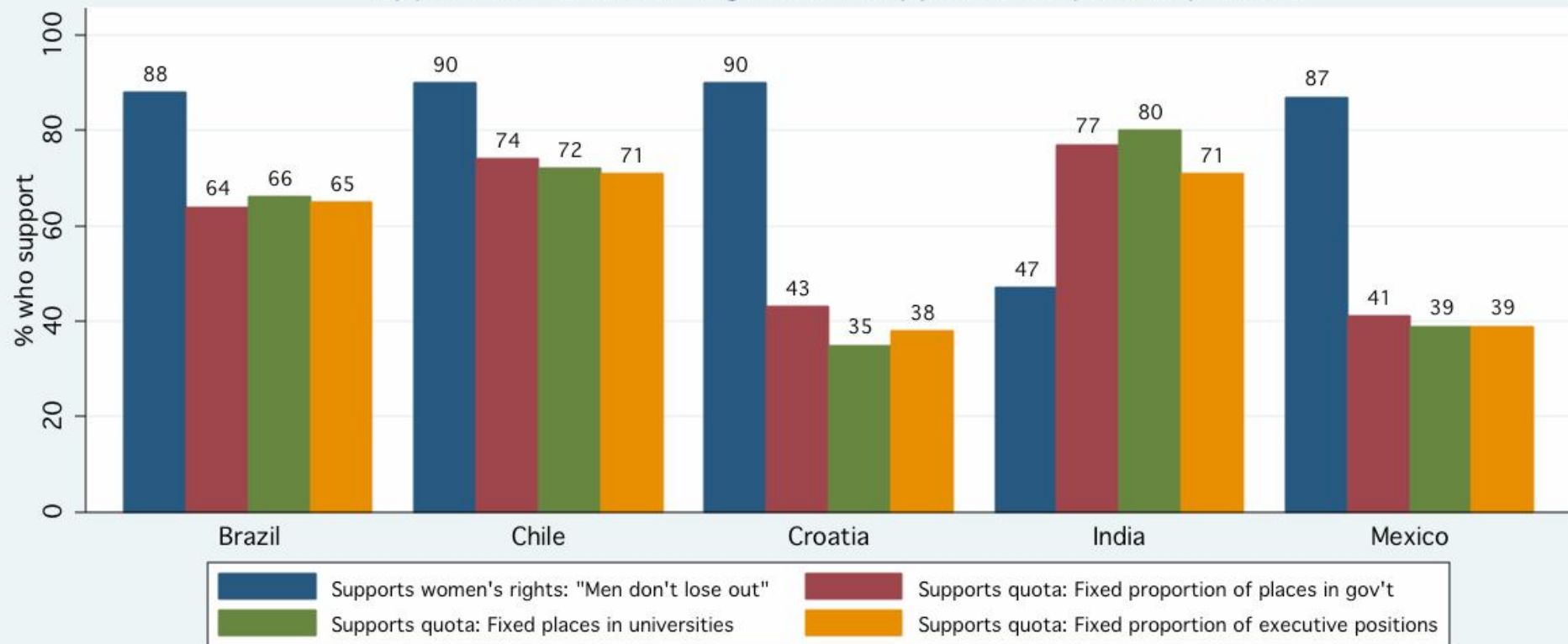
- How to understand this stress without reinforcing the traditional social roles of women and men?
- How can we help men find other meaningful roles in addition to provider?
- How to think about men within the women-focused microfinance movement?
- How to think about men within conditional cash transfers (CCTs)?
- Acknowledging the relationship of economic stress and conflict
- ***How to acknowledge the specific stress that men experience in times of economic instability while keeping the focus on the need to economically empower women?***



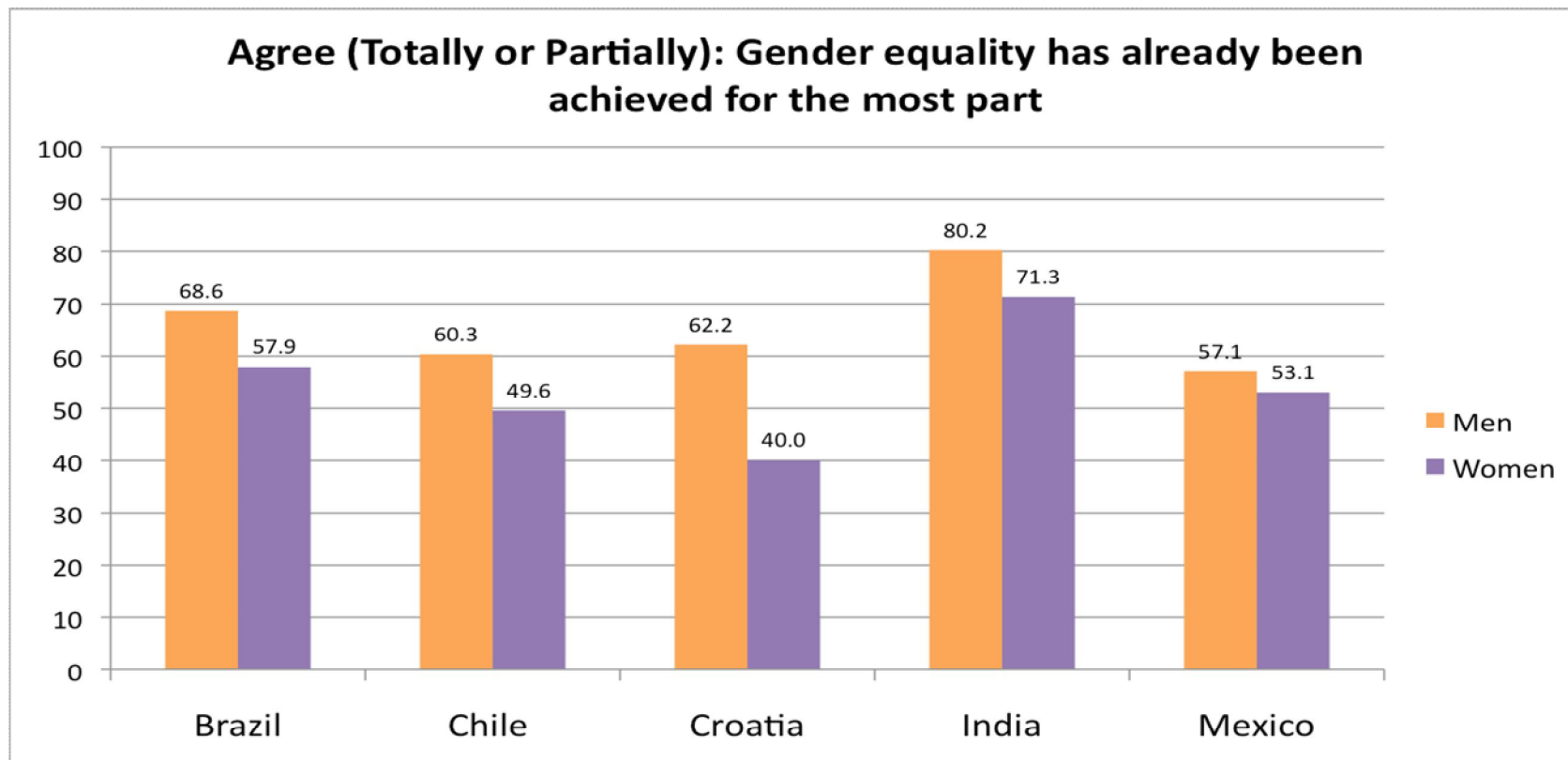
ARE MEN ON BOARD WITH THE
GENDER EQUALITY AGENDA?

Men believe in gender equality in the abstract and in the specific

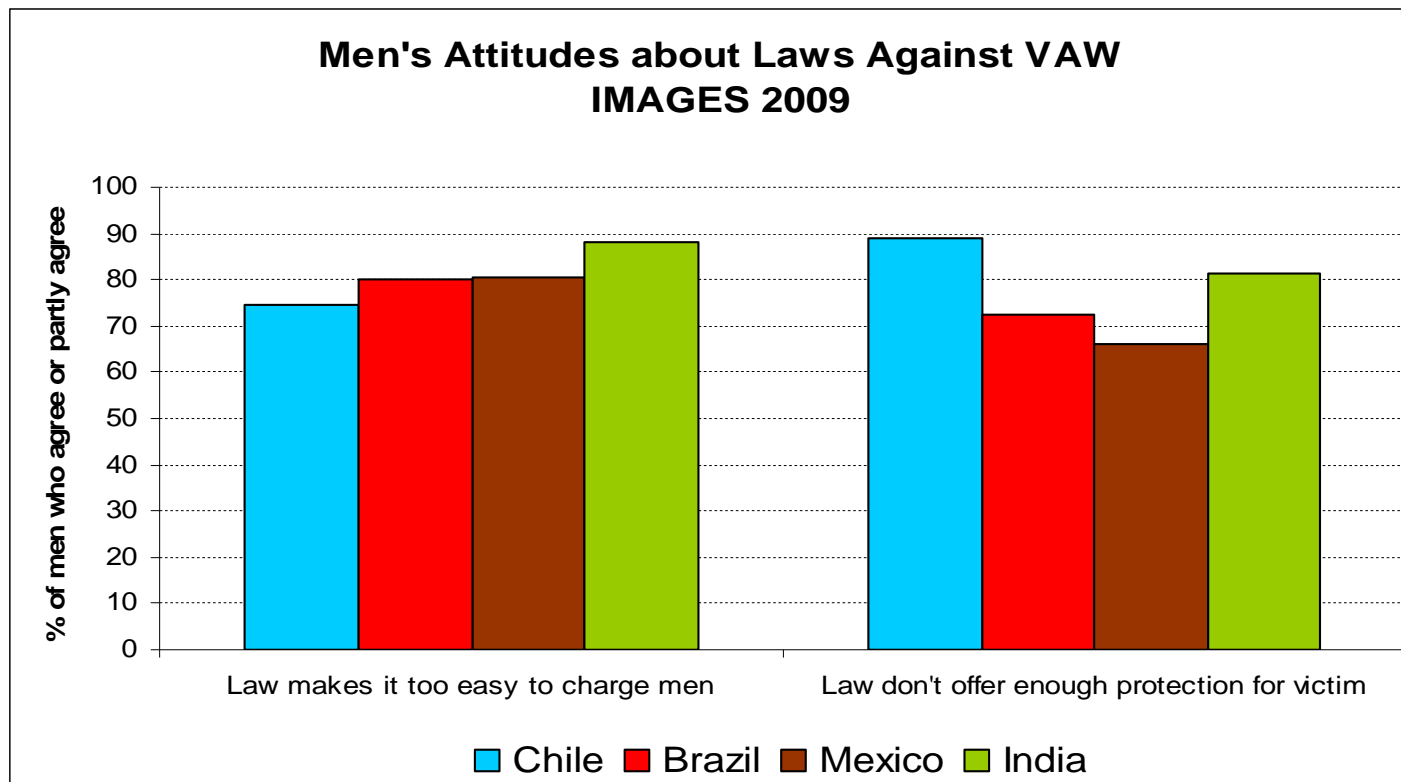
Support for women's rights vs. support for specific policies



But, men think gender equality has come further than women think it has

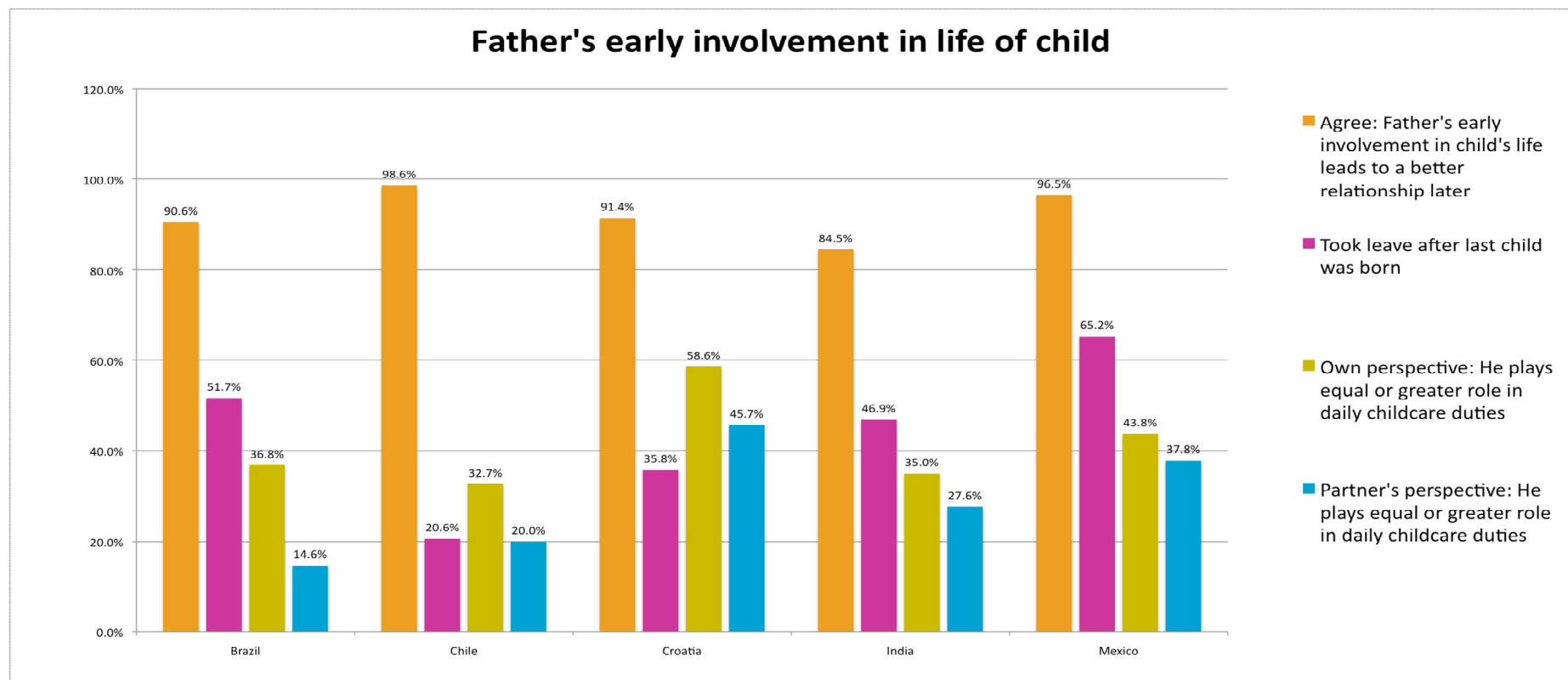


A majority of men think GBV laws make it too easy to arrest men – suggesting the need for more public education

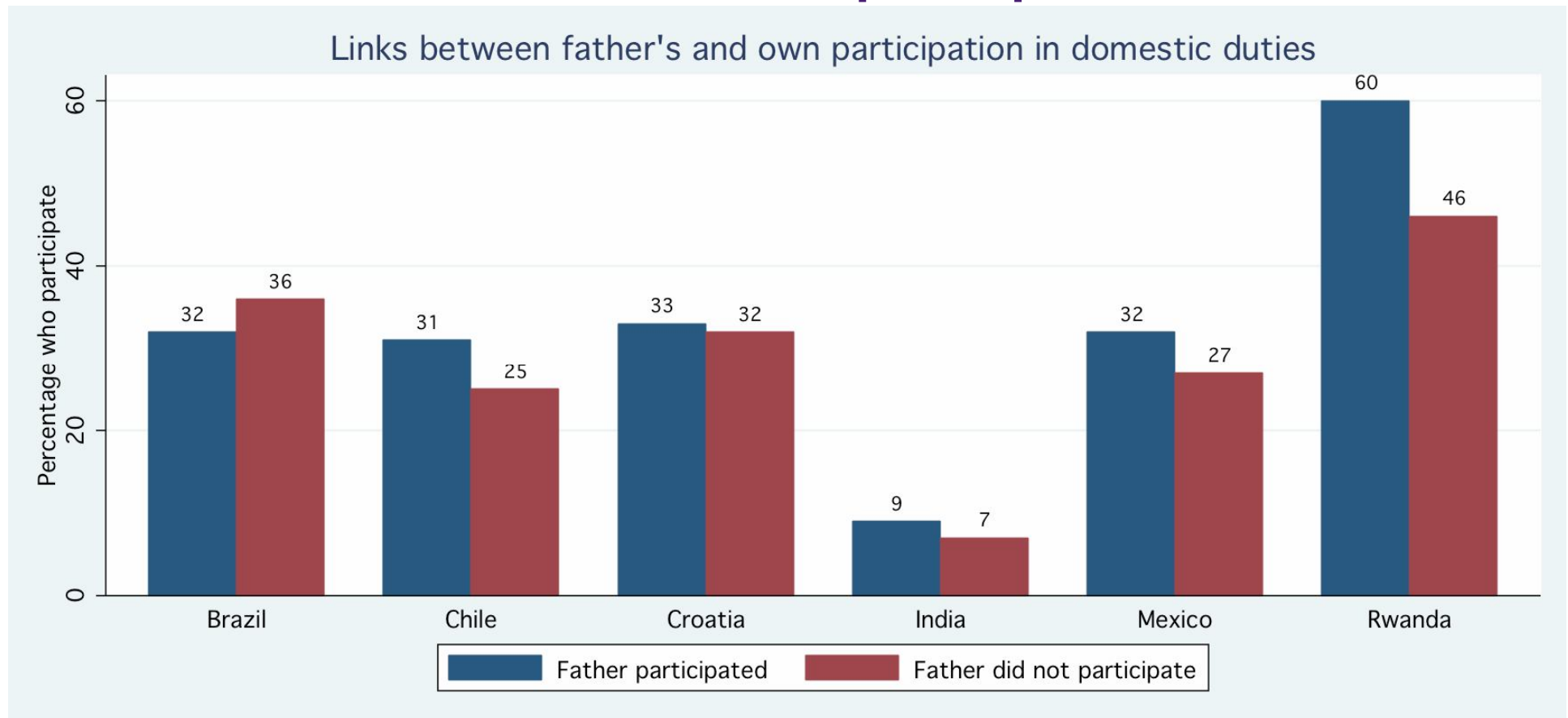


HOME LIFE, CARE WORK: ARE
MEN DOING THEIR SHARE?

Many men say they are doing more care work, although not as many women agree that they are



Domestic duties: In some settings father's participation influences men's participation



Statistically significant relationship (at $p < .05$ level) in Chile and Rwanda

Men's participation in care work associated with women's satisfaction

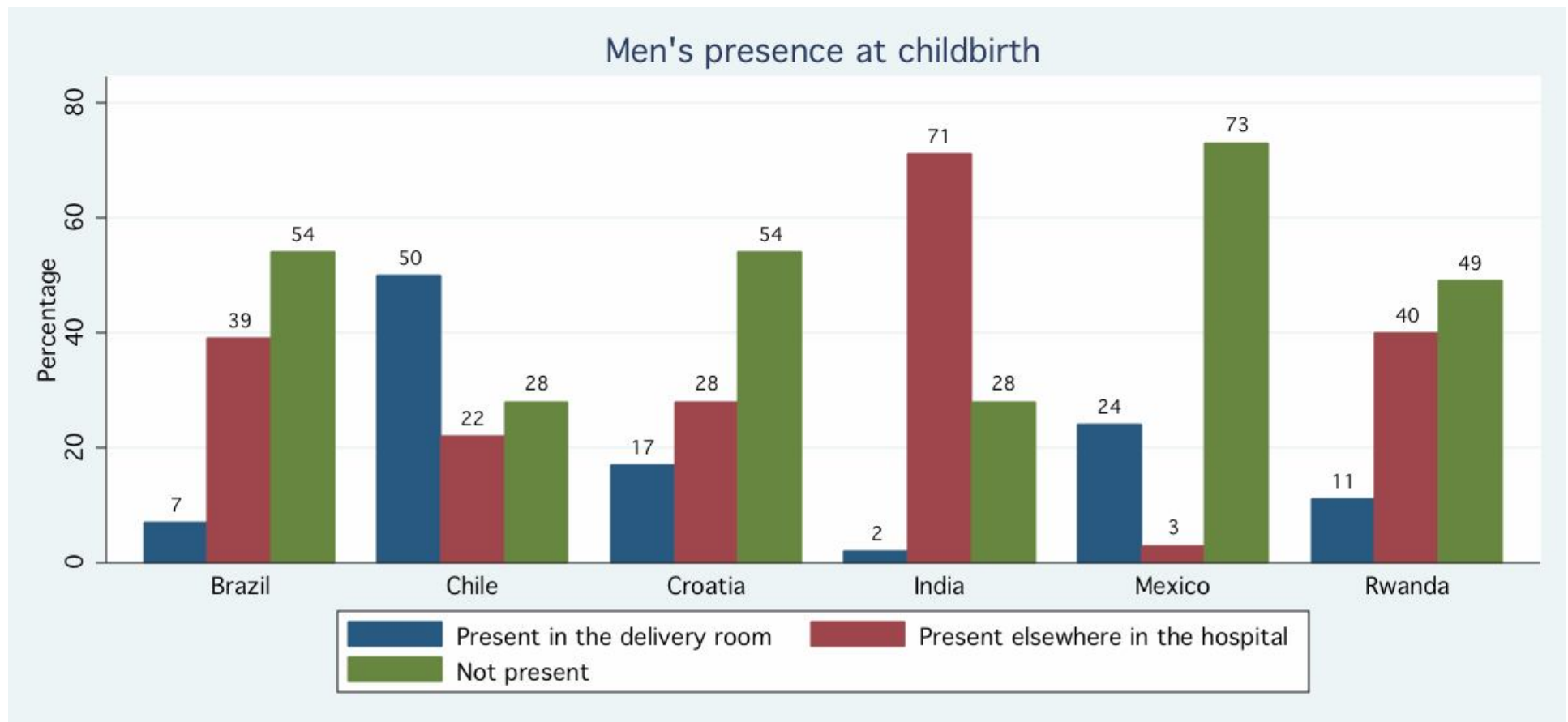
- In India, Brazil and Croatia, men's participation in domestic activities, including child care was associated with:
 - Women's overall satisfaction with their intimate relationship/marriage
 - Women's sexual satisfaction

If many women and men see the benefits of more equitable relationships, why is it so slow to promote faster change?

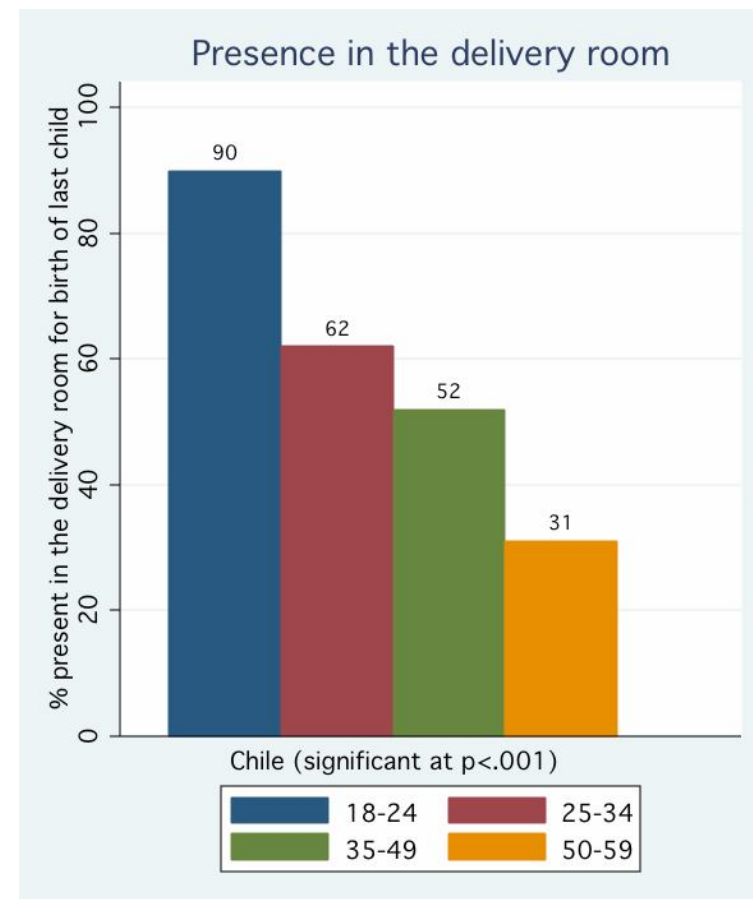


**MEN, CHILDBIRTH AND PATERNITY
LEAVE: Bringing Men into the
Picture from the Beginning**

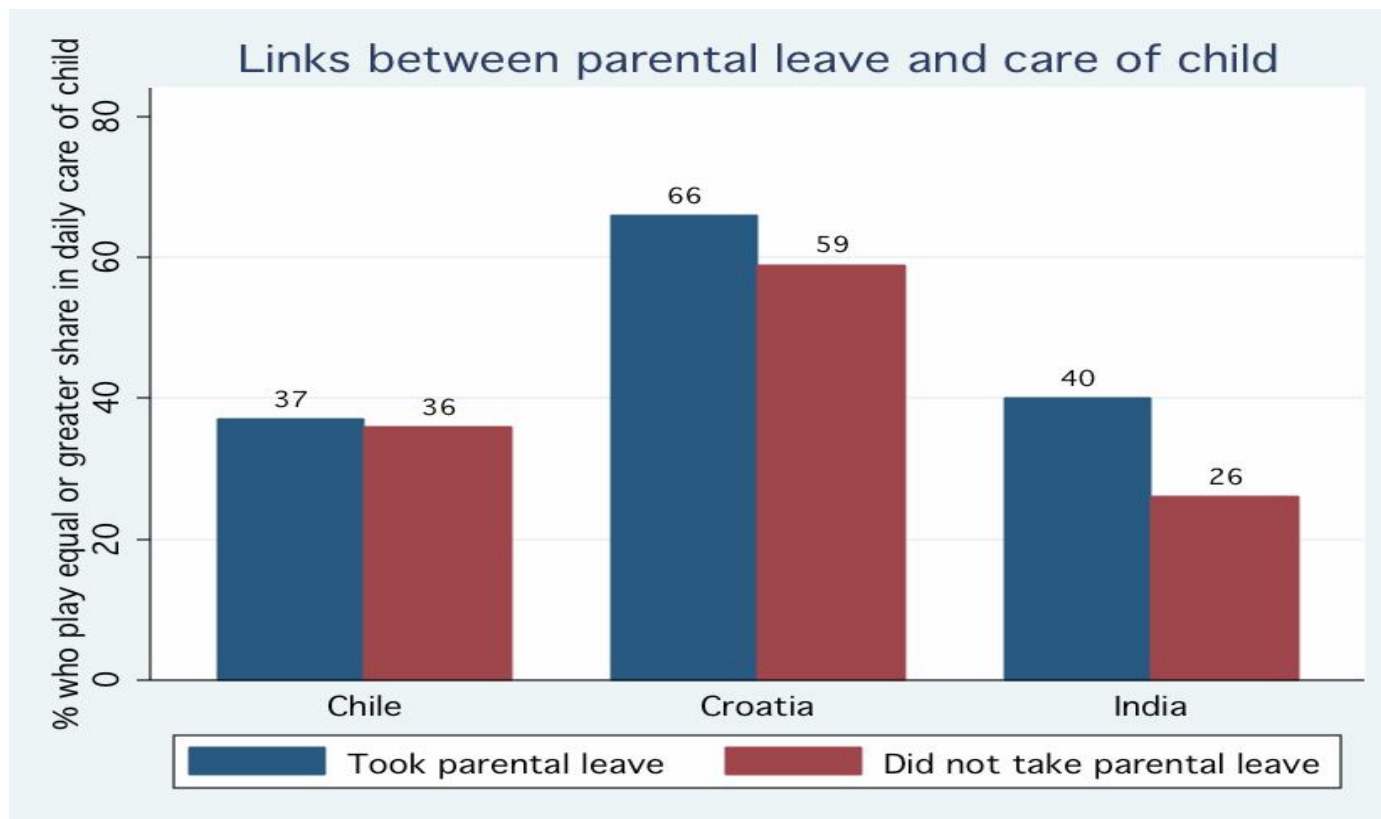
Presence at Childbirth: Most men still not present



In Chile, policy efforts led to a dramatic increase in men's presence during childbirth

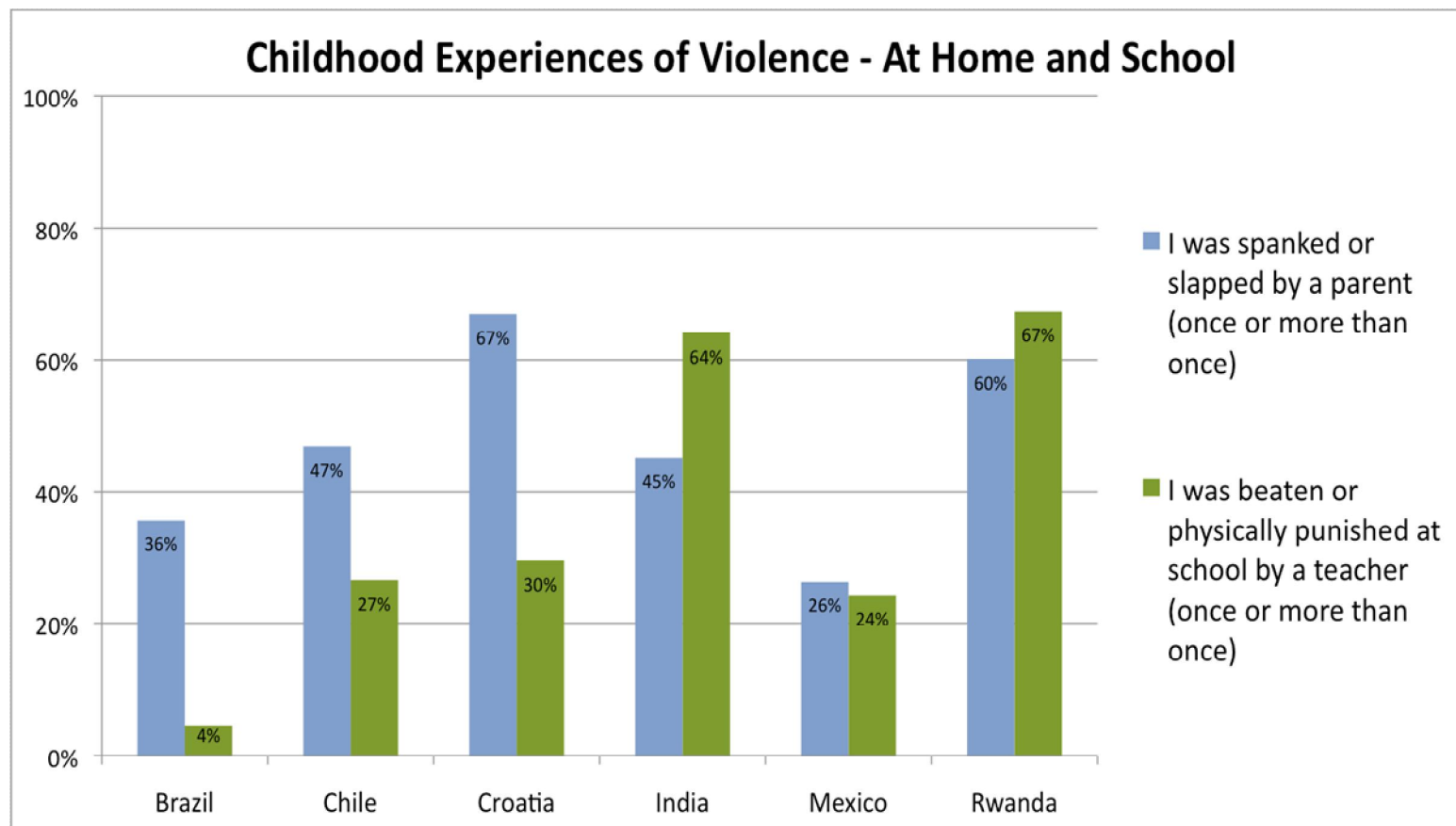


Men who took parental leave were more likely to report later involvement in daily care of child

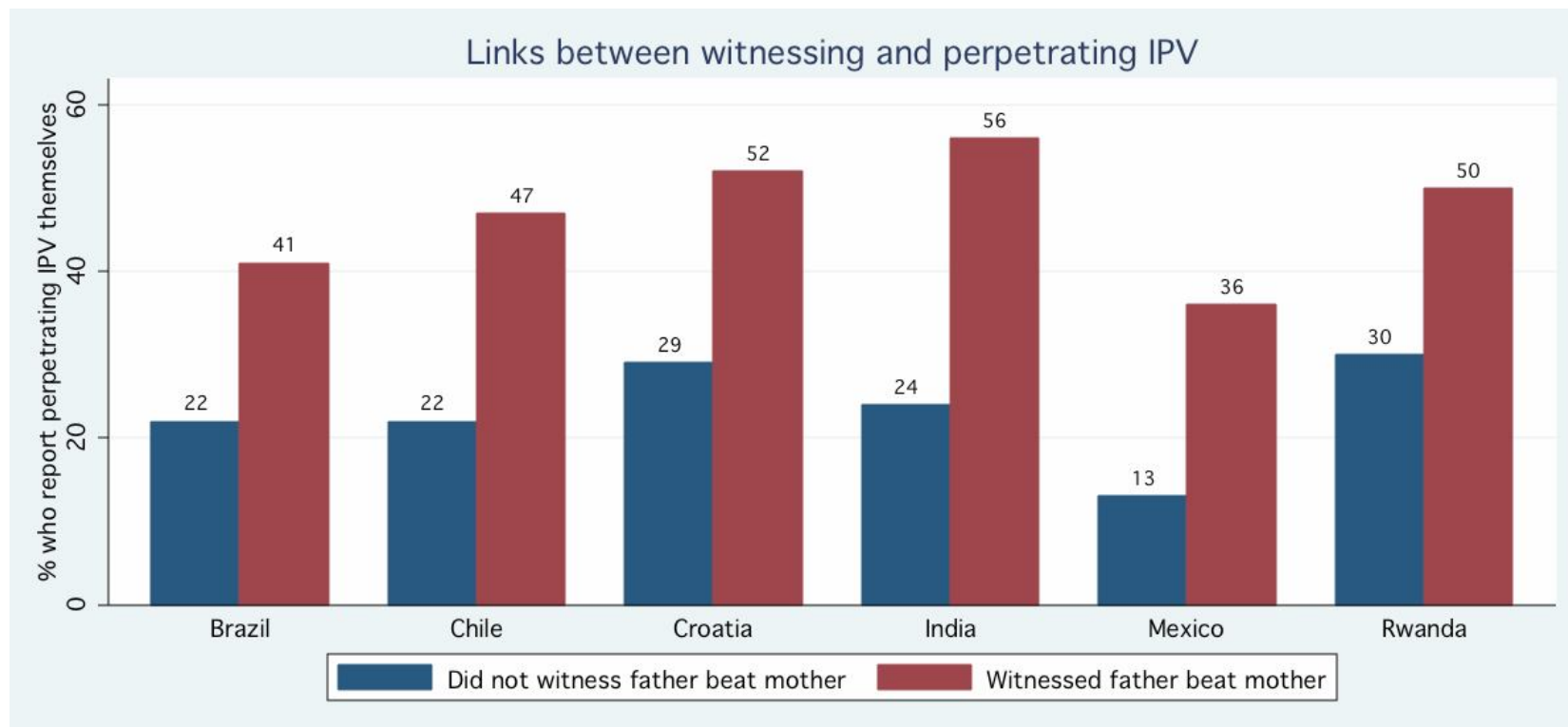


MEN AND VIOLENCE: TAKING PREVENTION SERIOUSLY

Violence common for most boys at home and in school

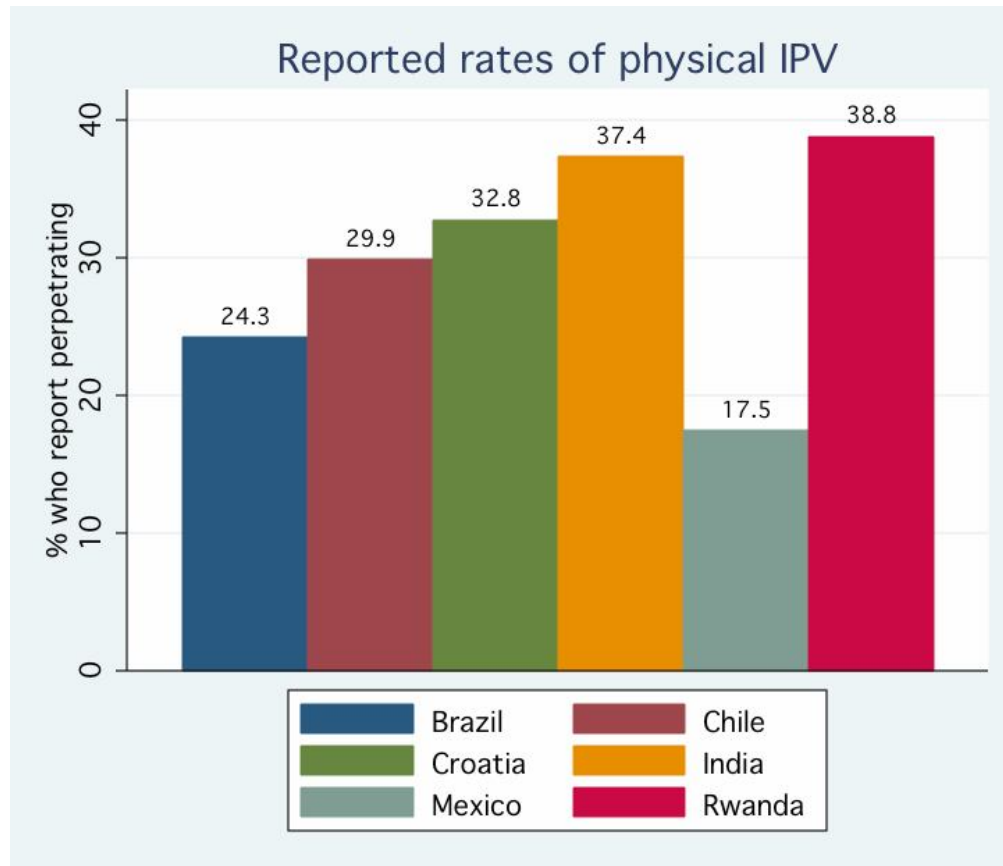


This violence is directly related to men's use of violence against women

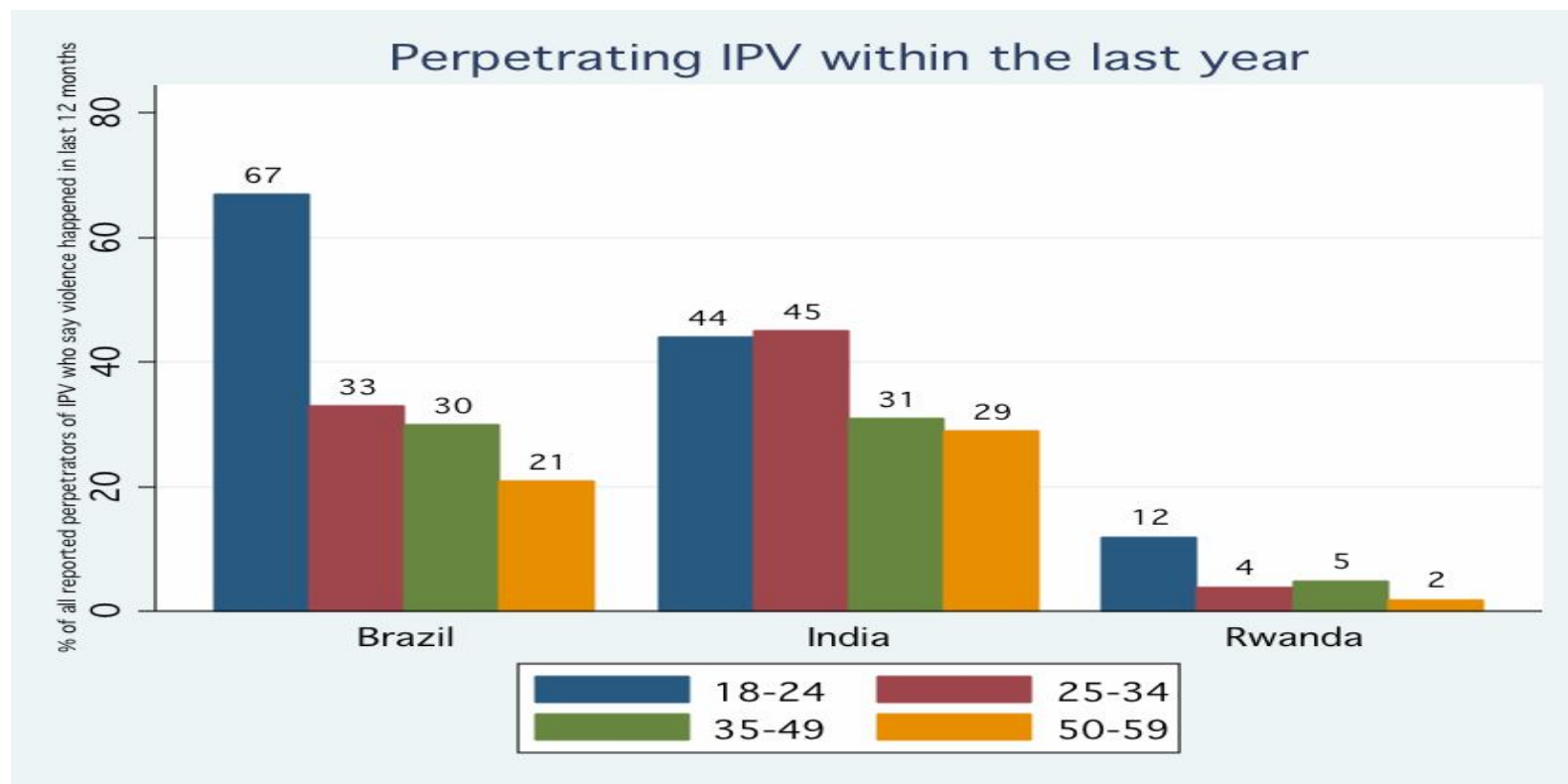


Statistically significant relationship (at $p < .001$ level) in all countries

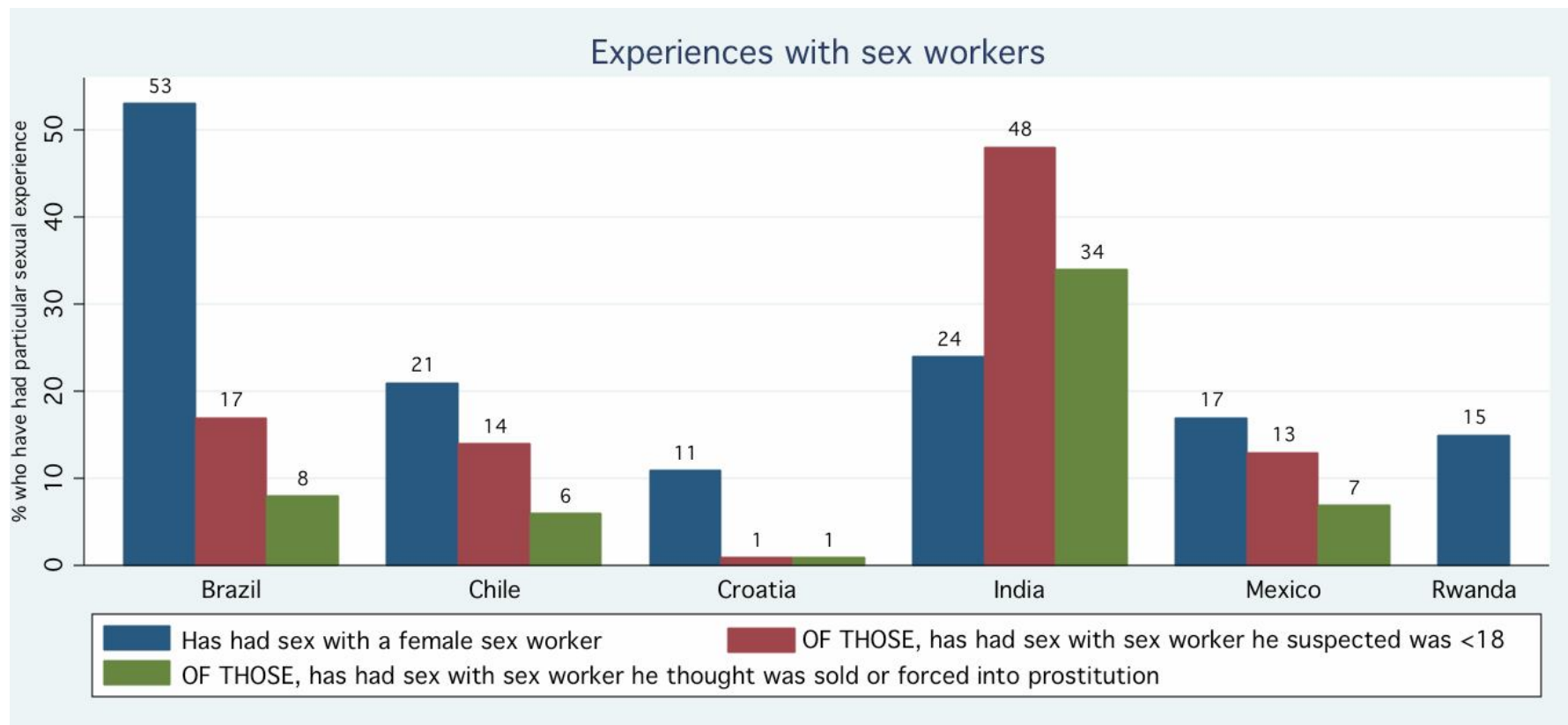
In spite of 5-10 years of laws against GBV and prevention activities, rates still alarmingly high



Younger men seem more likely to use IPV in some settings



Going to sex workers a common experience for many men: *Where is the gender equality in that?*



Reflections from the Qualitative Component: “Men who Care” study

Interviews with men who are the principal caregivers

- **Mexico:** resentment from low income men toward partner and children related to economic stress
- Tremendous generational changes
- Fatherhood as first space for many men for showing emotions and developing close emotional ties
- Men doing care work but not finding a strong sense of identity in it



*“I like to do the work at home because it’s for our well-being, my children and my wife. I clean the house so when my children arrive, they appreciate it. I clean so they look nice **But then I get depressed.** I mean, I’m going to do it, because if I don’t, who will and then it’ll just be a mess.” (Sergio).*

Source: Juan Guillermo Figueroa, Colegio de Mexico

Do gender equality policies “get” men?

- Men still *mostly invisible* in gender policies
- Most policies targeting men are *problem-focused* or response to crisis
- Men conceptualized as obstacles to gender equality in most of the policies
- Policies reinforce stereotypical views of men
- Need to pay attention to gender-related attitudes of those who implement policies
- Need for attention to train those who implement at *local level*

what **men** have to do with it

Public Policies to Promote Gender Equality



men+
gender equality
POLICY PROJECT

coordinated by the
International Center for Research on Women
and Instituto Promundo

It's the personal and the structural...

If we want to change men and engage them as allies in achieving the MDGs ...

- We must change the structural, including understanding the impact of economic stress on women and men
- We must find men's self-interest in change while also creating real sanctions for men who use violence and abuse power
- We must acknowledge the dual inequalities of income and gender
- We must move beyond a zero-sum game approach that views women's gains as men's losses while not losing sight of the inequality we're starting from

