



Women Who Save: A Comparative Analysis of Ecuador, Ghana and India

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**UN Foundation and ExxonMobil Foundation Workshop, Building a
Roadmap for Women's Economic Empowerment, October 12, 2012**

Main Questions

- Which women save?
- In which types of institutions do women save?
- How are women's savings related to wealth & physical asset ownership?
- Do women use savings to purchase physical assets?
- Are there gender differences in the amount saved?

The Data

- Gender Asset Gap project surveys
 - Ecuador: 2,892 households; 4,668 respondents (18+ years of age)
 - Ghana: 2,170 households; 3,288 respondents
 - Karnataka, India: 4,110 households; 7,185 respondents
- Employed both HH and Individual questionnaires
 - Savings data based on Individual questionnaire: refers to respondent only

Incidence of formal savings accounts

Percentage of respondents who have formal savings accounts, by sex and locale

	Rural	Urban
Ecuador		
Women	23%	32%
Men	31%	49%
Ghana		
Women	13%	32%
Men	24%	56%
Karnataka*		
Women	22%	23%
Men	42%	46%

*Excludes Bangalore

Incidence of formal savings accounts by key characteristics of women & their households

Highest rates:

- All 3 countries: urban, literate
 - Rural & urban wage workers
 - Tend to be from households in wealthiest quintiles
- Ecuador, Ghana: urban, single women
- Karnataka: urban, widowed

Where women save

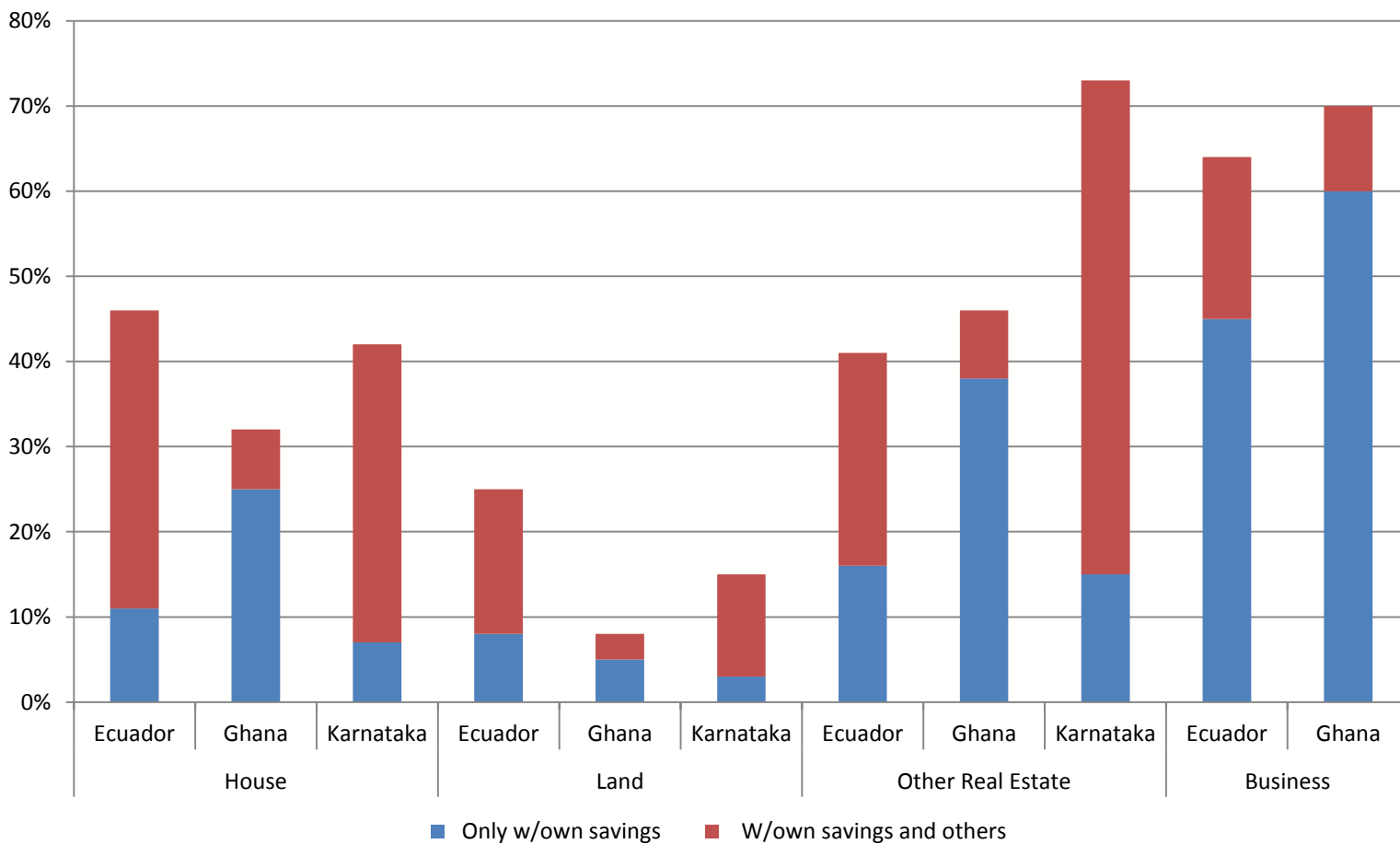
(highest incidence by locale)

- Ecuador
 - Urban: banks
 - Rural: cooperatives/credit unions
- Ghana
 - Urban: banks
 - Rural: cash savings
- Karnataka
 - Urban: coop/NGO/microfinance
 - Rural: coop/NGO/microfinance

Are current women formal savers more likely to be over-represented among asset owners compared to non-savers?

	(Woman respondent owns individually or jointly):			
	Land	Dwelling	Other Real Estate	Business
Ecuador				
Rural		Yes	Yes	Yes
Urban		Yes	Yes	Yes
Ghana				
Rural		Yes		Yes
Urban	Yes		Yes	
Karnataka				
Rural	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Urban	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Share of women asset owners who used own earnings/savings to purchase assets (Urban)



Mean positive savings balance, by sex and locale (in US Dollars)

	Rural			Urban		
	Formal	Informal	Any	Formal	Informal	Any
Ecuador, Women	314	96	286	596	99	487
Ecuador, Men	423	143	383	1023	262	947
P values	.205	.361	.193	.062 *	.020**	.022**
Ghana, Women	349	73	190	366	73	251
Ghana, Men	588	138	397	384	126	352
P values	.369	.004***	0.105	.835	0.004***	0.120

Policy Implications

1. Overall levels of savings are low for both men and women
2. Gender gap in incidence of formal savings and amounts saved
3. Poverty and illiteracy major constraints, yet poor non-literate women can be reached by formal savings programs
4. Incidence of cash savings at home (particularly in Ghana) suggest potential demand for formal accounts if meet needs of women savers

Policy Implications

5. While unable to analyze institutional characteristics, can draw a few inferences
- Ecuador – savings & credit cooperatives appear relatively successful in incorporating rural women
 - Ghana – coops/credit unions relatively new; potentially could do much more to attract women savers
 - Karnataka – microfinance sector has been relatively successful in encouraging women's savings

Thank You

Project website: <http://genderassetgap.iimb.ernet.in>