

Women's Entrepreneurship in the Pamir Mountains: Women's Empowerment in Rural Alay

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Feminist Development Theory

- ▶ Women In Development (WID)
 - ▶ Problematize gendered disparities
 - ▶ Boserup, 1970; Rathgeber, 1990
- ▶ Women And Development (WAD)
 - ▶ Framework focused on social and cultural context
 - ▶ Visvanathan, 1997
- ▶ Gender And Development (GAD)
 - ▶ Rejection of gender essentialism and embrace of decolonialism and emancipation
 - ▶ Young, 1993
- ▶ Women, Environment, and Development (WED)
 - ▶ Include gendered knowledges and agency
 - ▶ Merchant, 1980; Shiva, 1989; Agarwal, 1991
- ▶ Feminist political ecology
 - ▶ Gender and gender relations as key variable in resource allocation
 - ▶ Elmhirst, 2015; Nightingale, 2006

Women and Entrepreneurship

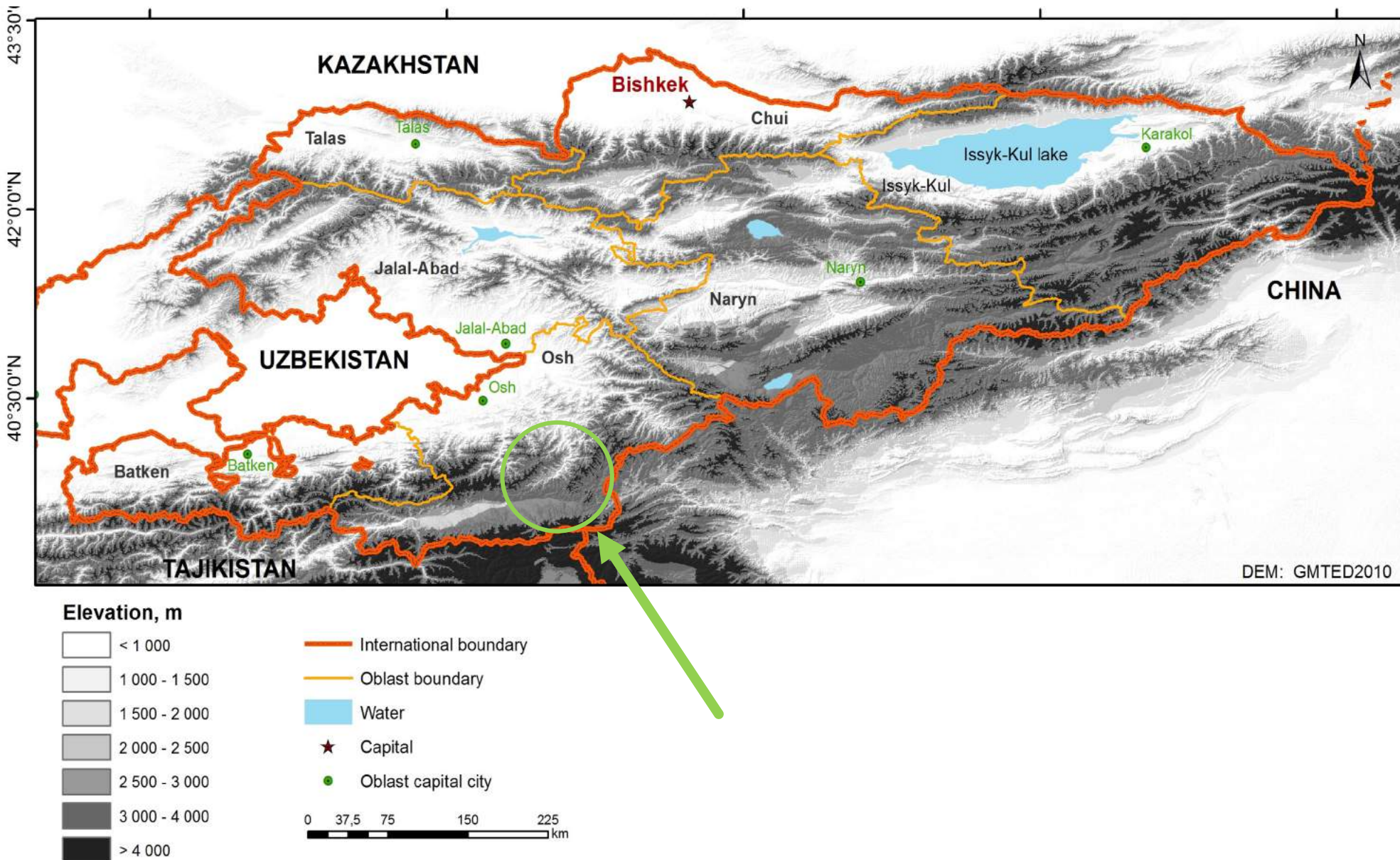
- ▶ Globally, less women entrepreneurs (Kim, 2007; Minniti, 2009)
- ▶ Disparity in entrepreneurship and macroeconomic representation (Liedholm, 2002; Minniti, 2009)
- ▶ Market opportunities exist for women entrepreneurs (Horrell & Krishnan, 2007)
- ▶ Knock-on effects of increased involvement are abundant (Goetz & Gupta, 1996; Luke & Munshi, 2011)

Kyrgyz Women and Entrepreneurship

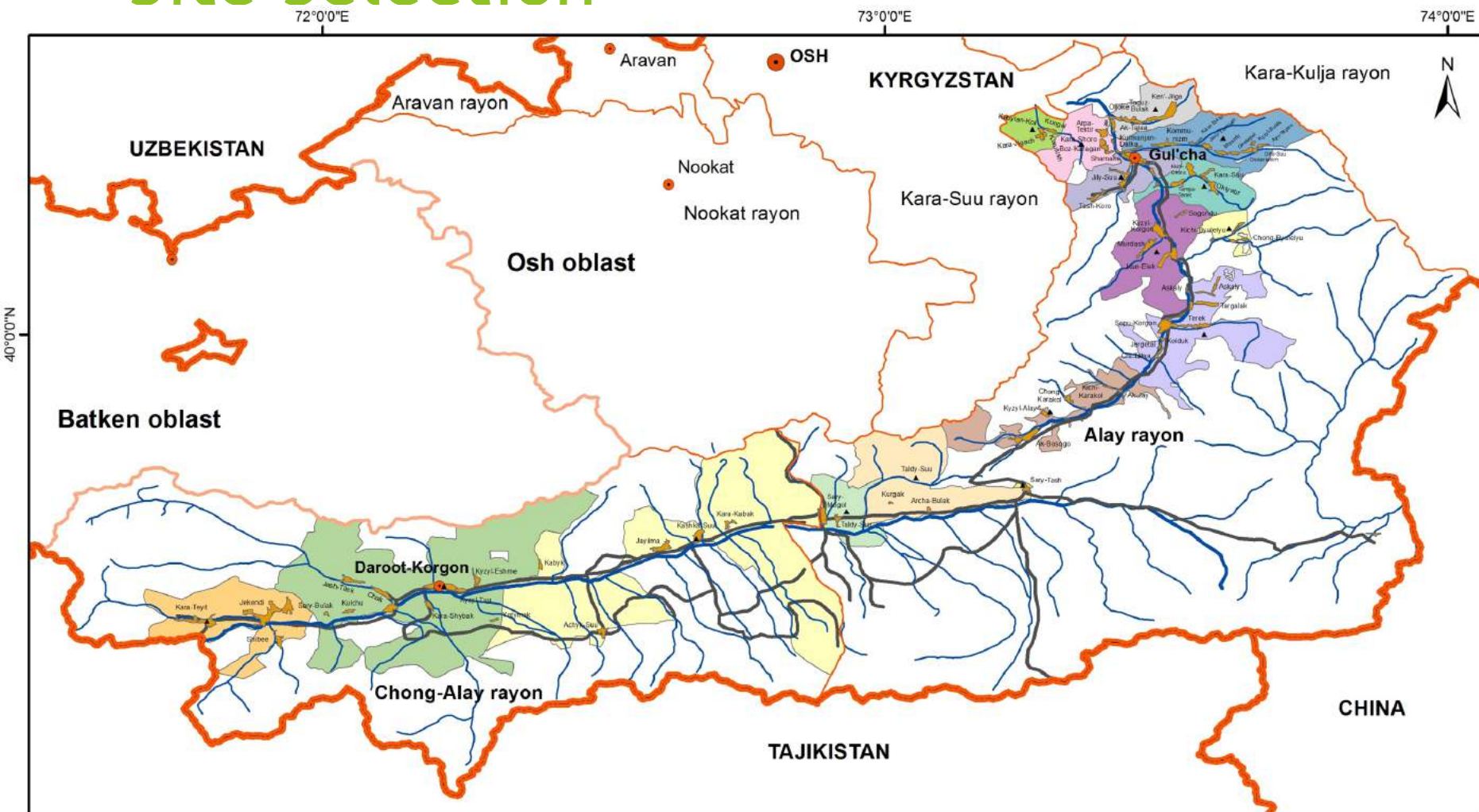


- ▶ Common media portrayal: bride kidnapping (Kleinback & Salimjanova, 2007)
- ▶ The role of the mother in-law (Ismailbekova, 2014; 2015)
- ▶ Gender asset gap with limited women owned businesses (Giovarelli, 2004)
- ▶ Numerous barriers to entrepreneurial success (Giovarelli, 2004; Simpson, 2006)

Site Selection - Alay Rayon



Site Selection



Municipalities of Alay Rayon

Budalyk	Konur-Deben
Byulelyu	Korul
Gulcha	Lenin
Jany-Alay	Sary-Mogol
Jasholun	Sary-Tash
K.Belekbaev	Taldy-Suu
Kablan-Kol	Uch-Deben

Municipalities of Chong-Alay Rayon

Chong-Alay
Jekendi
Kashka-Suu

- Oblast capital city
- ▲ Municipality Center
- Rayon capital city
- Village polygon
- International border
- Oblast boundary
- Rayon boundary
- River
- Small river
- Roads

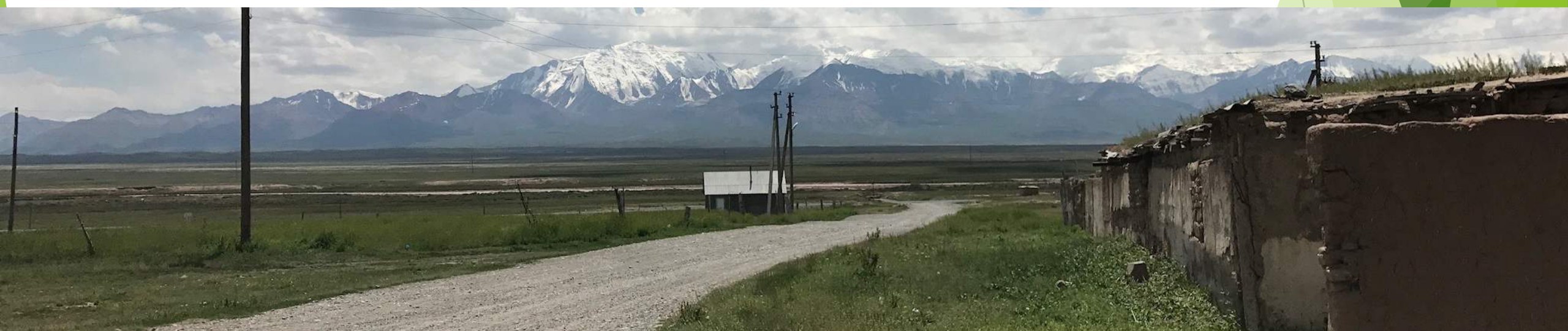
0 10 20 40 km

Data Collection

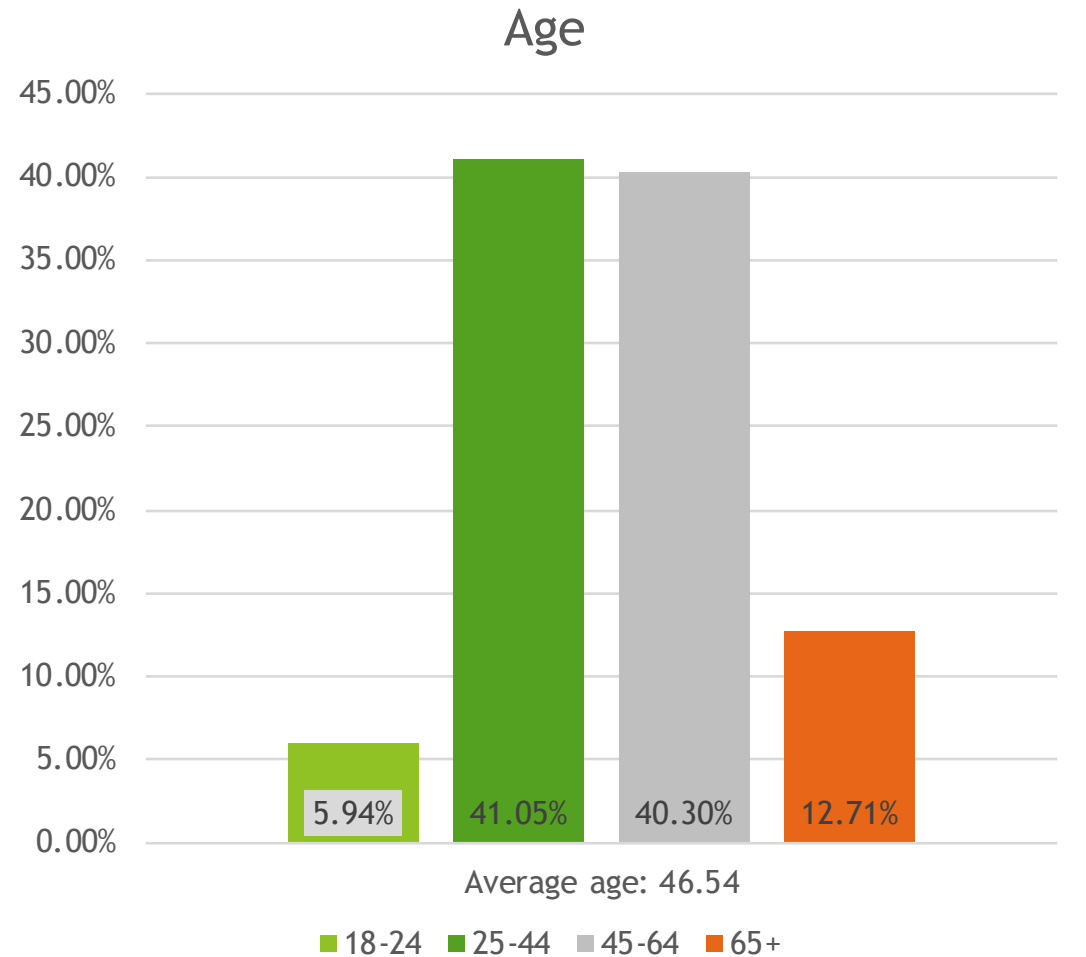
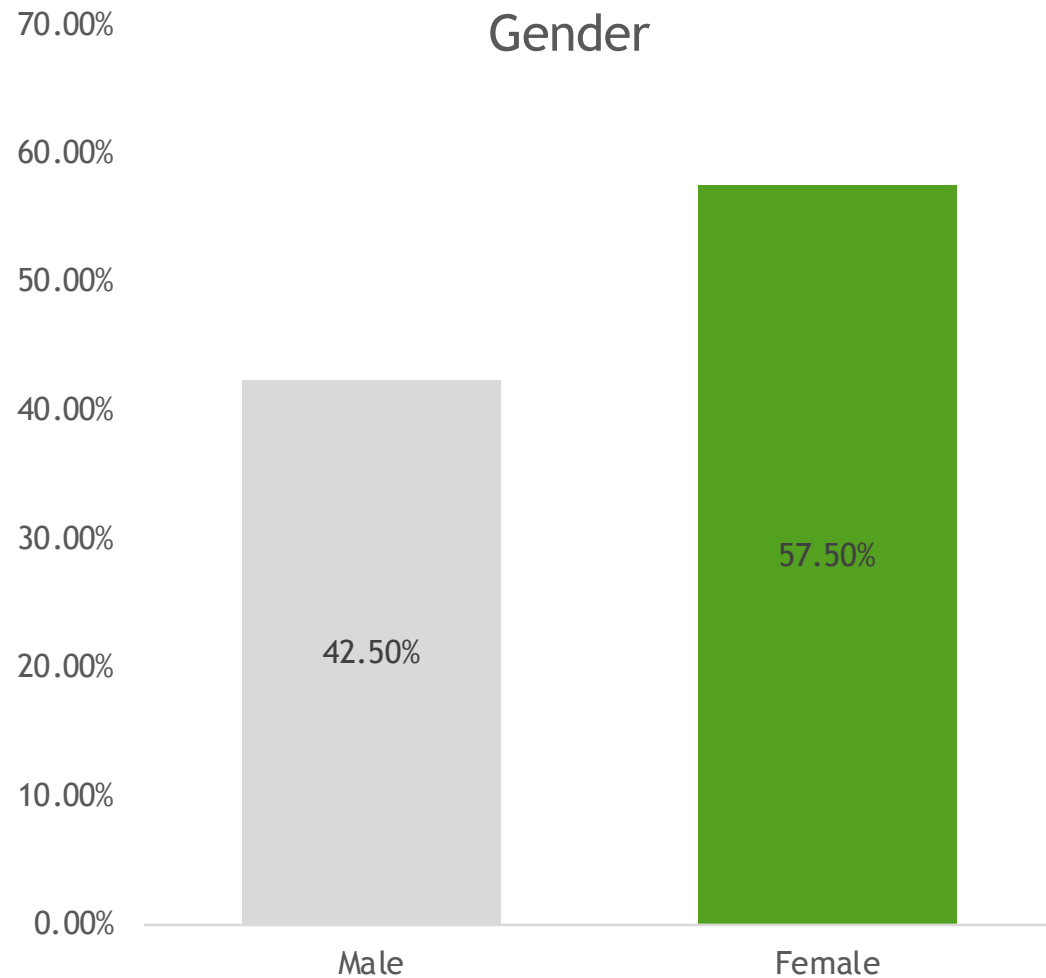
- ▶ 23 villages
- ▶ 1,234 household surveys
- ▶ 6,581 individuals
- ▶ 2,063 children
- ▶ 275 migrants
- ▶ 52 in-depth interviews
 - ▶ 27 semi-structured
 - ▶ 13 women business owners
- ▶ Detailed field notation
- ▶ Key informant interview

Research Questions

- ▶ What are the gendered perceptions of women's entrepreneurship in Alay?
- ▶ What role does women's entrepreneurship play in empowerment and gender relations?
- ▶ What are the experiences of women entrepreneurs and what role does the women's business association play in both their nascent stages and long-term success?



2017 Survey Respondents n=1,234



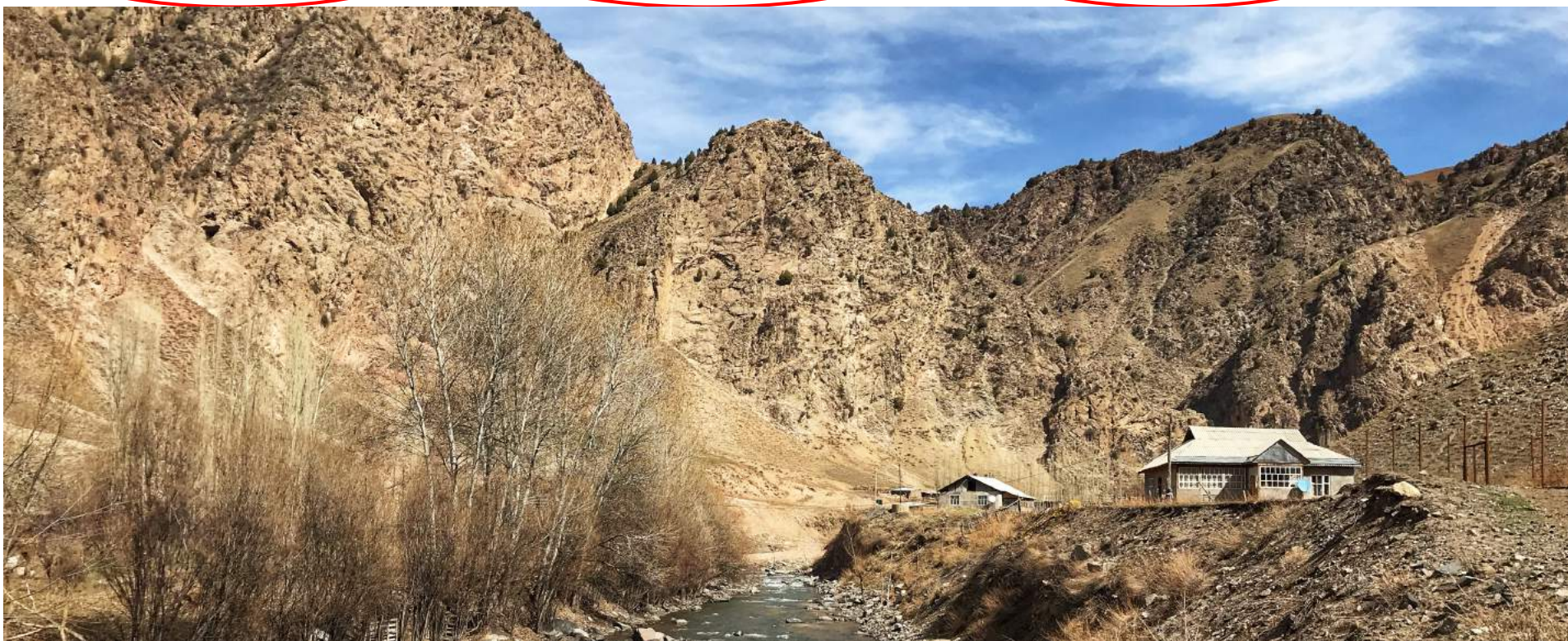
Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (IFPRI, 2012)

Domain	Indicators	Weight	Question
Production	Input in productive decisions	1/10	How much input did you have in making decisions about agriculture, livestock, and migration? To what extent do you feel you can make your own decisions regarding aspects of agriculture and livestock production?
	Autonomy in production	1/10	My actions in agriculture and livestock management are partly because I will get in trouble with someone if I act differently. Regarding agriculture and livestock management I do what I do so others don't think poorly of me. Regarding agriculture and livestock management I do what I do because I personally think it is the right thing to do.
Resources	Ownership of assets	1/15	See asset index and land tenure question.
	Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets	1/15	How much input do you have regarding decisions about purchasing and selling assets or land?
	Access to and decisions on credit	1/15	Do you have access to a loaning entity? In this <season> have you taken out a loan How much input do you have in the decision about whether or not to take out a loan?
Income	Control over use of income	1/5	How much input do you have in decisions about household expenditures? How much input do you have in decisions about remittance expenditures? To what extent do you feel you can make your own decisions regarding employment, migration, and household expenditures?
Leadership	Group member	1/10	Are you a member of a group that meets regularly?
	Speaking in public	1/10	Are you comfortable speaking in public? How comfortable are you speaking up in public to help decide infrastructural projects? How comfortable are you speaking up in public to ensure proper payment of wages for public work or other similar programs? How comfortable speaking up in public to protest the misbehavior of authorities or elected officials?

T-test difference of mean test for WEAI scale between genders			
Two-sample t-test with equal variances			
Gender	Observations	Mean	Standard Dev.
Male	524	0.632	0.191
Female	709	0.612	0.206
Total	1,233	0.620	0.006
t-statistic=1.747		df=1,231	
Male < Female; p=0.960		Male ≠ Female; p=0.081	Male > Female; p=0.040



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Early Findings

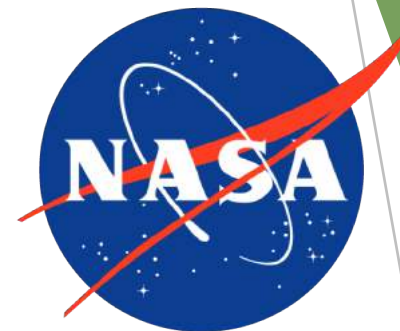


- ▶ Polarization of women's economic integration
- ▶ Importance of vocational training and human capital development for women's economic empowerment
- ▶ Antecedents leading to and perpetuating women's disproportionate vulnerability

Next steps...

- ▶ Potential policy recommendations:
 - ▶ Childcare support
 - ▶ Increased access to structured business associations
 - ▶ Expanded vocational training
 - ▶ Increase potable water access
- ▶ Human capital development
- ▶ Societal advancement of gender equality (socially, politically, and economically)





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