



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2020/SOM1/ACT/SYM/004**

## **Exploring the Gender Dimensions of Corruption**

Submitted by: UNODC



**Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming and  
Women Empowerment to Fight Corruption  
Putrajaya, Malaysia  
11-12 February 2020**



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The cover of the report features a red background with a pattern of interlocking puzzle pieces. The title is written in large, bold, white and black letters.

**EXPLORING THE  
GENDER  
DIMENSIONS  
OF CORRUPTION**

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## Are women really the “fairer” sex? Corruption and women in government

David Dollar<sup>a</sup>, Raymond Fisman, Roberta Gatti

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### Abstract

Numerous behavioral studies have found women to be more trust-worthy and public-spirited than men. These results suggest that women should be particularly effective in promoting honest government. Consistent with this hypothesis, we find that the greater the representation of women in parliament, the lower the level of corruption. We find this association in a large cross-section of countries; the result is robust to a wide range of specifications. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

## Gender and corruption

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### Abstract

Using several independent data sets, we investigate the relationship between gender and corruption. We show using macro-data that women are less involved in bribery, and are less likely to condone bribe-taking. Cross-country data show that corruption is less severe where women hold a larger share of parliamentary seats and senior positions in the government bureaucracy, and comprise a larger share of the labor force. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

*JEL classification:* K42; J18

*Keywords:* Corruption; Gender; Public policy

## FIRST GENERATION RESEARCH

Are women less corrupt by nature?





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Lima traffic police







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## RECENT RESEARCH

- Breaking the status quo
- Gender equality is important
- The single-gender networks
- Opportunity matters



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Traditionally  
caretakers of  
the family

Not part of  
the networks



More frequently  
use their bodies  
as currency

More harshly  
punished



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# Gender and Corruption Expert Group Meeting



Bangkok - September 2018



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## SECTORAL APPROACH: *Private sector*

- Private sector corruption disproportionately affects women entrepreneurs
- Reduced access to markets or credit reinforces economic and social marginalisation
- Better organisational and financial performance in companies with women decision makers



### *Key recommendations*

- Develop a gender-analysis on how business regulations, compliance and integrity requirements impact women's rights and participation.
- Raise awareness on corruption issues faced by women in the private sector.
- Improve women's representation within middle-management.





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## SECTORAL APPROACH: *Civil society*

- CSOs are key drivers for change at grassroots levels
- Need for training programmes and awareness-raising in society on links between corruption and gender
- The subject can be addressed via indirect entry points



### *Key recommendations*

- Find entry points by integrating anti-corruption and gender to issues of general importance such as gender-based violence, climate change, health, strategies, integrity platforms, education platforms.
- Understand in a systematic manner the different roles and approaches taken by male and female anti-corruption activists.
- Raise awareness among civil society organizations.
- Use social media to reach youth and the general public.



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## SECTORAL APPROACH: *Publicservices*

- ❑ Women particularly affected in using public services and utilities
- ❑ The human body as a form of currency also violating human rights
- ❑ Might not realise they are victims of corruption

### *Key recommendations*

- Support initiatives to increase women's participation in public service.
- Encourage the collection of sex-disaggregated data.
- Make anti-corruption efforts gender responsive.





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## PREVIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING UNODC PUBLICATION



- Section 1 - Linkages between gender and corruption
- Section 2 - The legal sphere and its relationship to gender and corruption
- Section 3 - Case studies on the national interactions between Gender and Corruption:

*Ghana - Indonesia - Brazil*

- Annex – the report of the EGM

## GLOBAL JUDICIAL INTEGRITY NETWORK

- Paper on Gender-related judicial integrity issues:
  - Defines gender-related judicial integrity issues
  - Emphasizes the need for clear and comprehensive guidance
  - Discusses the various aspects of judicial accountability
  - Explains the need for effective judicial education and training





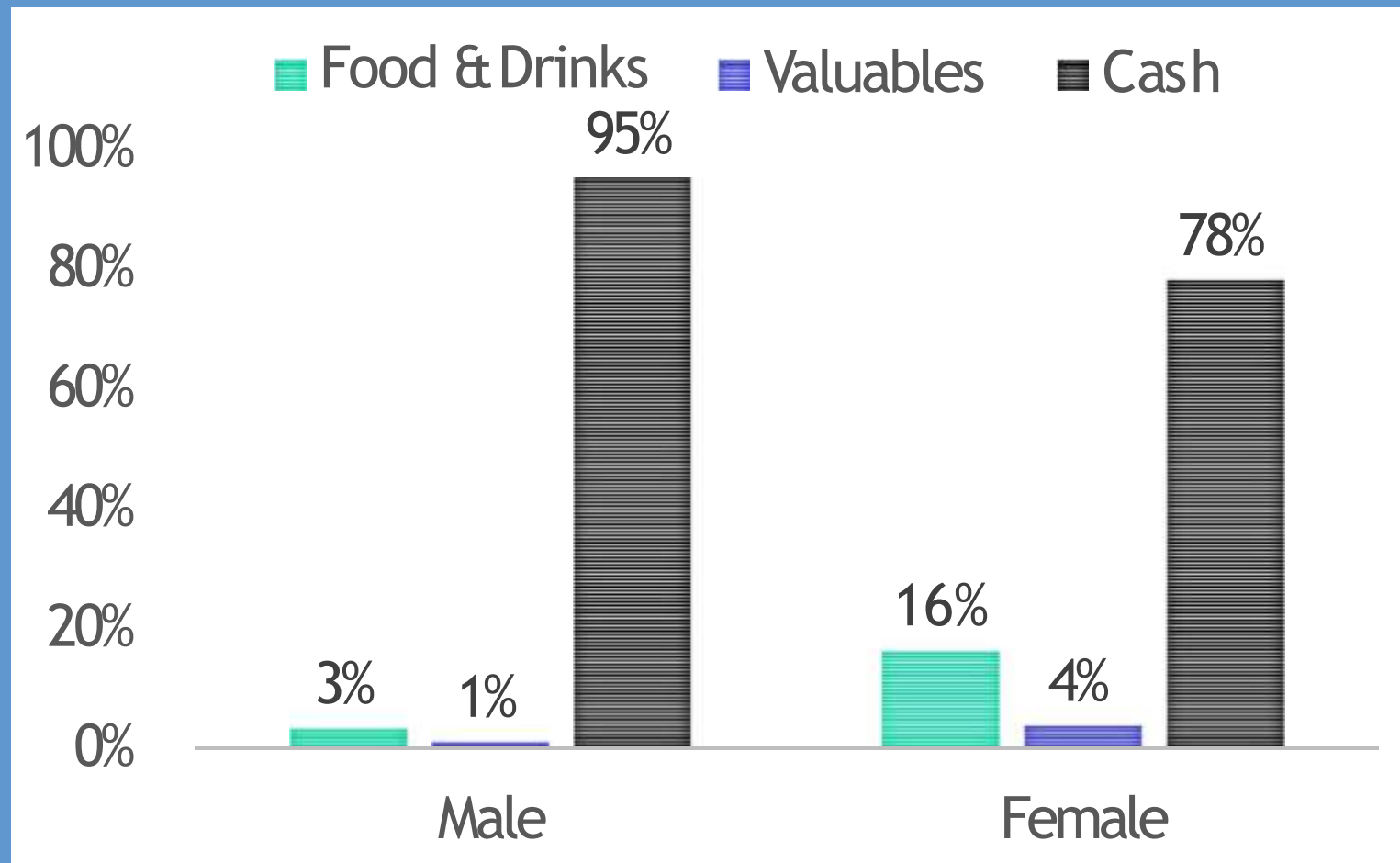
University Module Series  
 Anti-Corruption

University Module Series  
 Integrity and Ethics

**Module 9**  
Gender Dimensions of Ethics

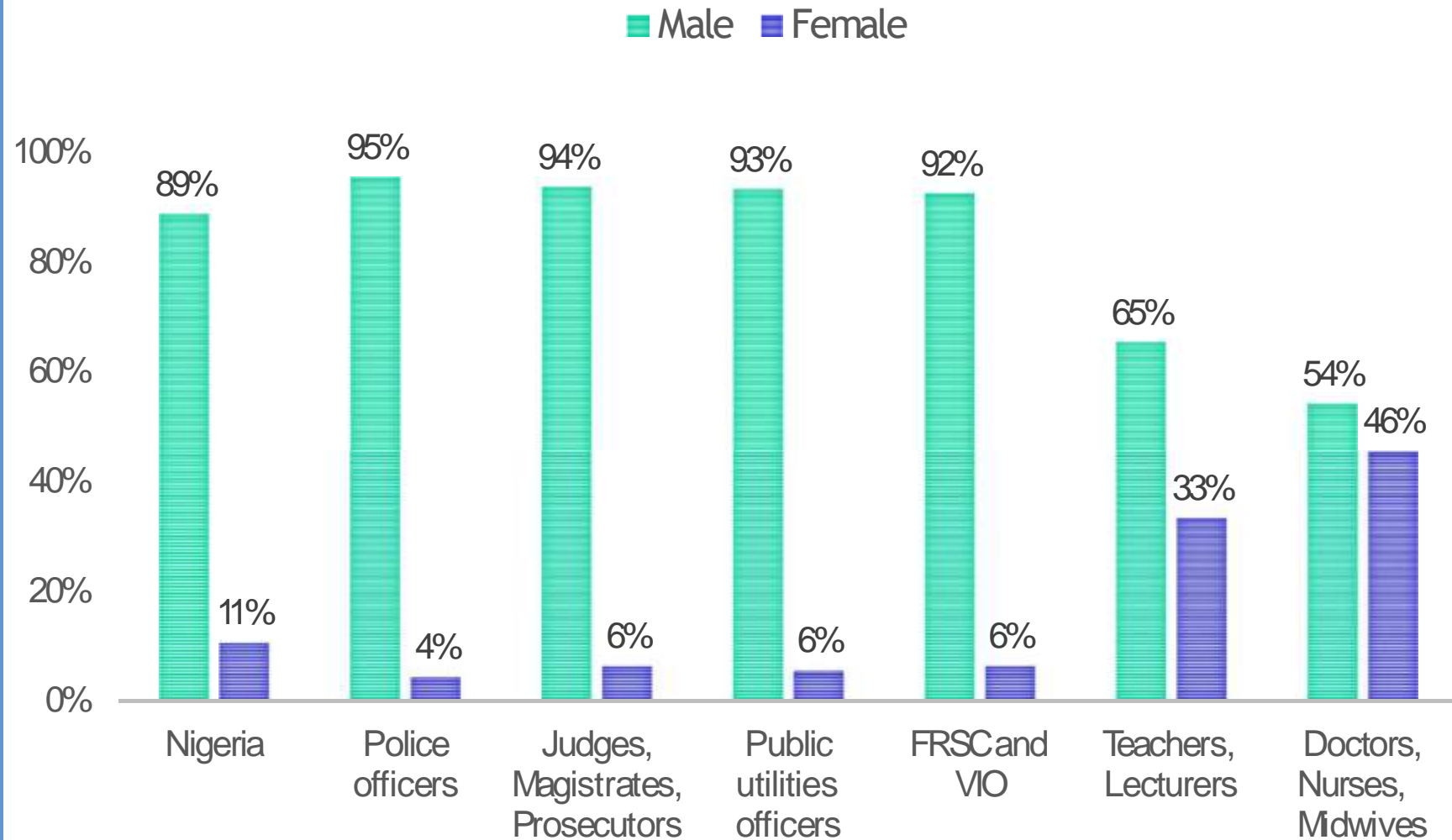
<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/tertiary/index.html>

## Form of bribe payments by sex of bribe-receivers, 2019

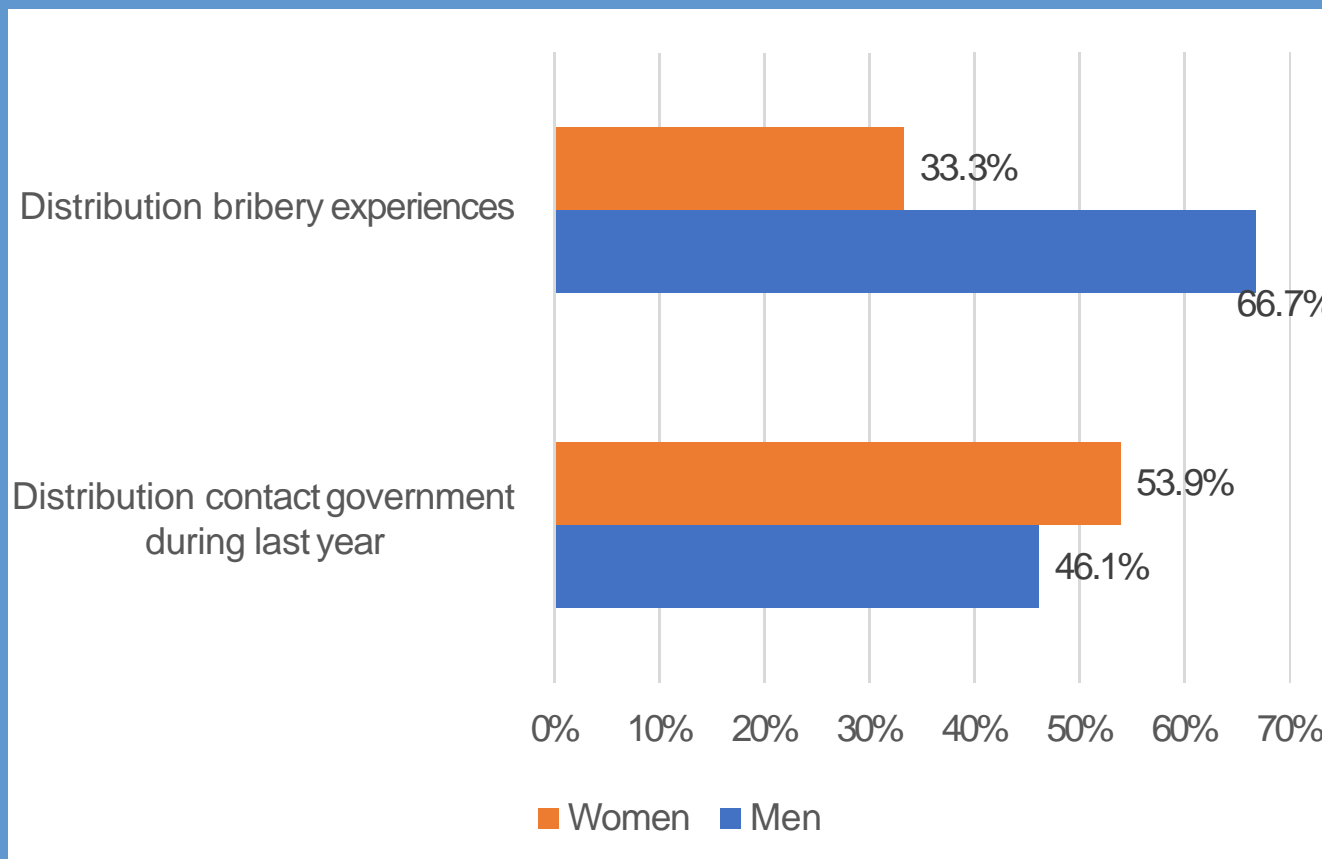


*Extract from Nigeria anti-corruption survey (UNODC)*

# Share of male and female bribe-receivers, 2019



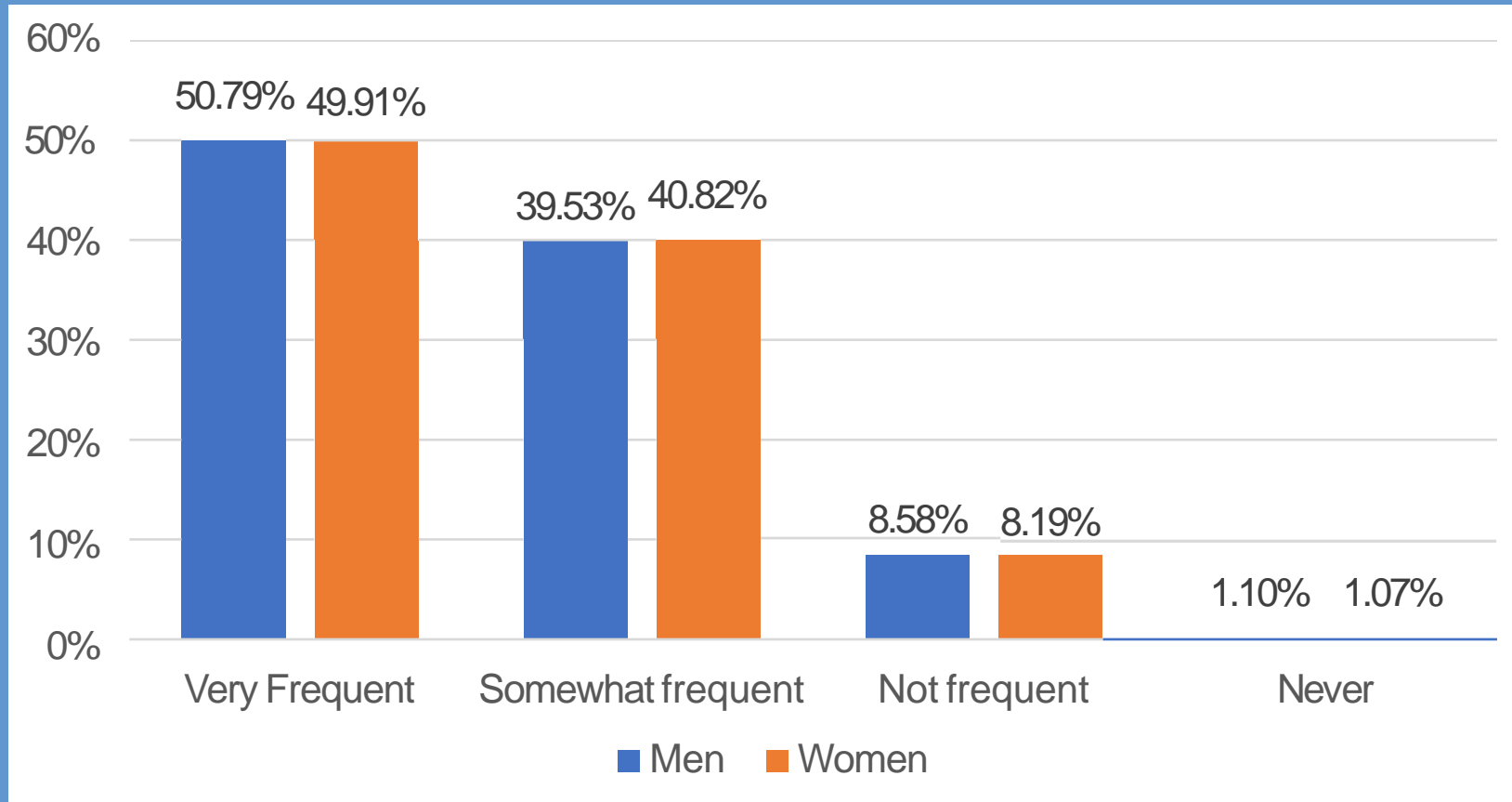
*Extract from Nigeria anti-corruption survey (UNODC)*



*Source: UNODC elaboration based on ENCIG, 2017, question 8.3 (1,2,3)*



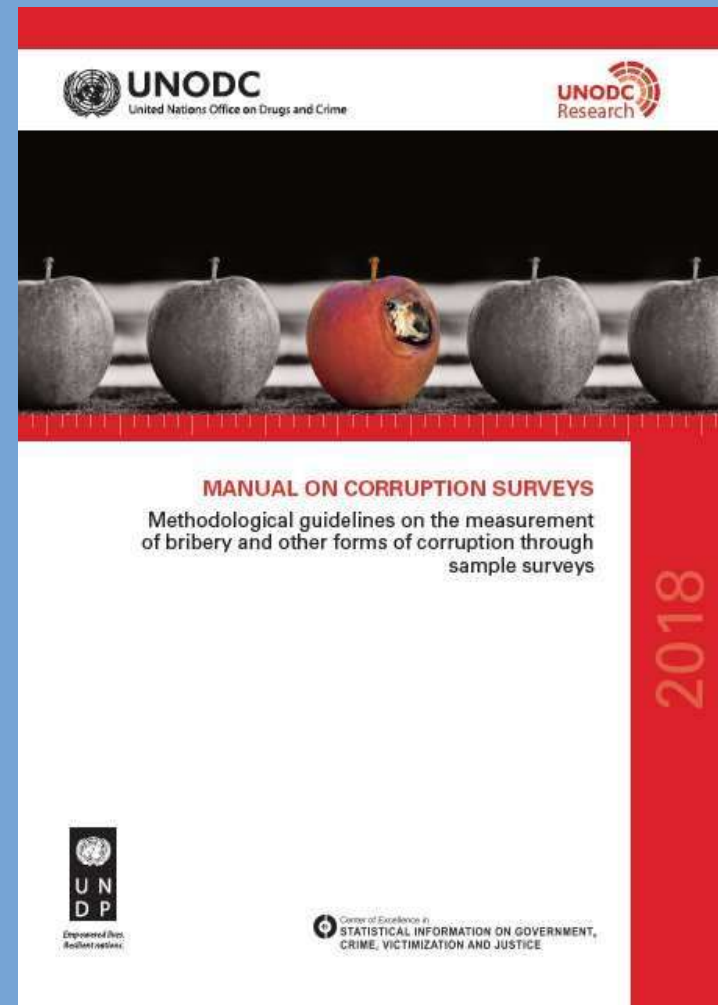
## Perception of corruption at state level by sex



*Source: Own elaboration with data from ENCIG, question 3\_2*

## YET, MORE RESEARCH IS NEEDED...

- Gender disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking
- Develop gender-specific approaches to prevent and fight corruption
- Need to complement this with qualitative investigation/ analysis



Gender as an agent for change and inclusion

Rebooting the fight against Corruption



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**Corruption and Economic Crime Branch**

*"Countering corruption by promoting transparency, integrity and accountability and by advancing equality, justice and development."*

**UNITED  
AGAINST  
CORRUPTION**



*Thank you for  
your attention!*