



المؤتمر العربي  
الثاني للأراضي

Second Arab Land  
Conference

22-24 FEBRUARY 2021  
CAIRO, EGYPT

Land, women and vulnerable people

Enhancing Land Management, Land Development and Construction

Perceived tenure security of women in  
the Arab region

Dr Joseph Feyertag, Shahd Mustafa and Elizabeth Tan

## **Barriers to women's ownership and control of land**

- Low levels of female land ownership in the Arab region: as low as 5% (FAO, 1999).
- Why? Unequal inheritance law (e.g. Ababsa, 2017, Najjar *et al.*, 2020)

## **How do women feel about the security of their land rights?**

- SDG 1.4.2 and 5.a.1: legal and perceived tenure security
- Women may not be able to exercise legal rights

## Prindex: Property Rights Index

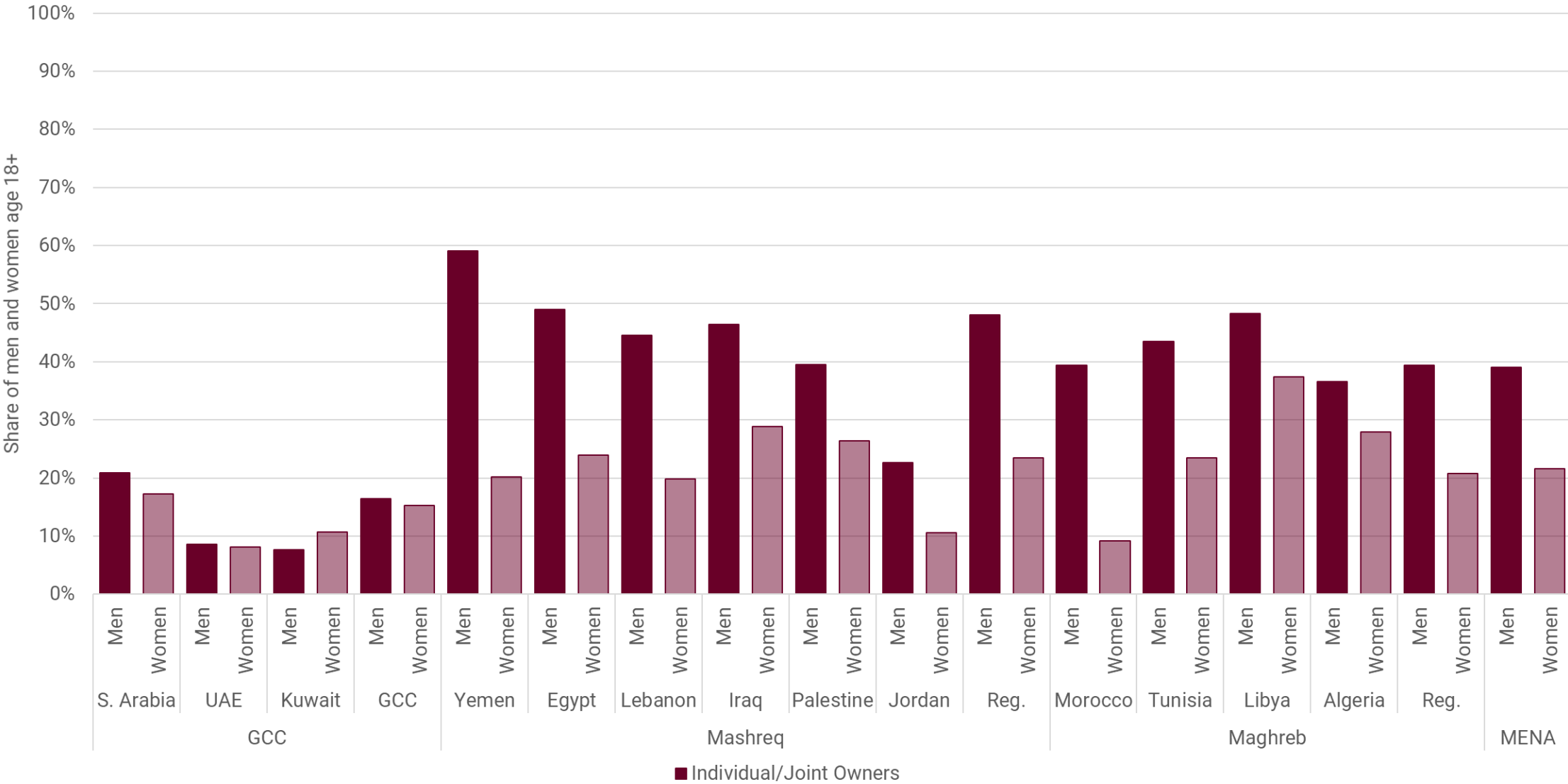
Global nationally-representative survey of 5.2 billion adults in 140 countries reveals **one in four** adults feel insecure in the **Arab region (52 million people)**

- 6,300 women and 7,250 men in 13 countries of the GCC, Maghreb and Mashreq  
*“In the next five years, how likely or unlikely is it that you could lose the right to use this property, or part of this property, against your will?”*
- Third stage of randomization ensures **equal representation** of men and women

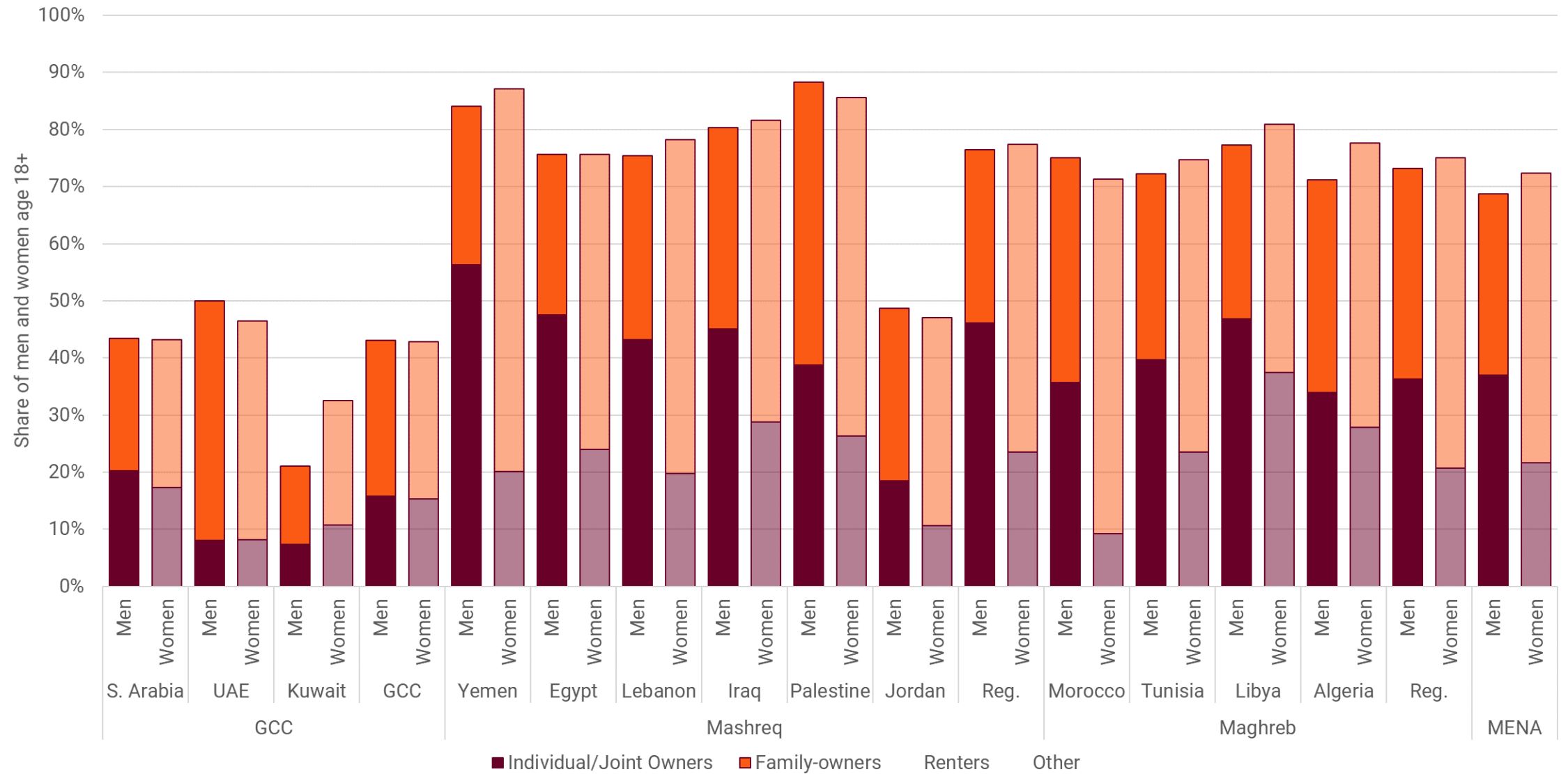
## **THREE FINDINGS**

1. Experiences of ownership vary between men and women
2. Demographic and socioeconomic context matters
3. Women face threats to tenure security from within the household

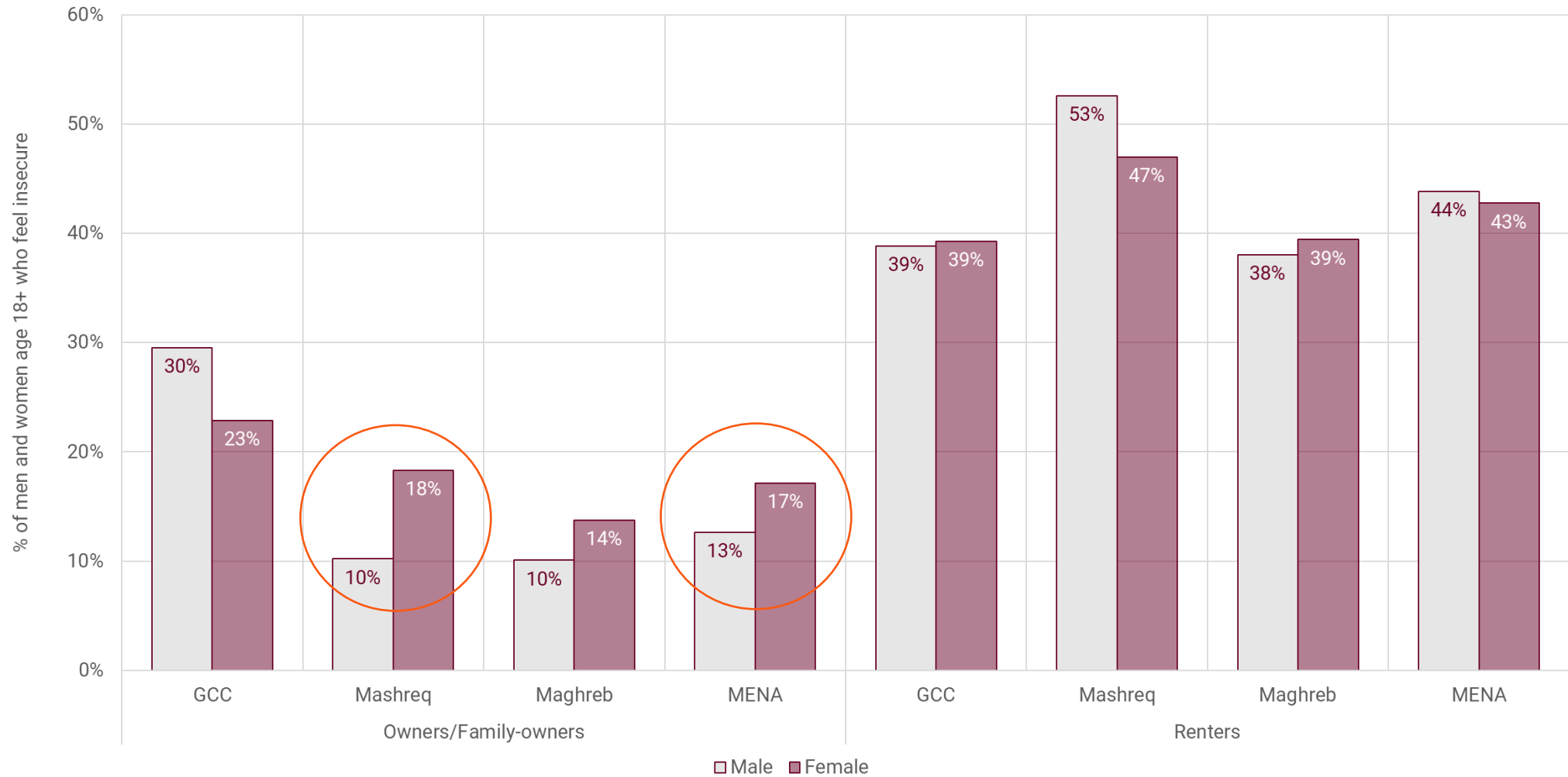
# FINDING 1a: SHARE OF OWNERSHIP



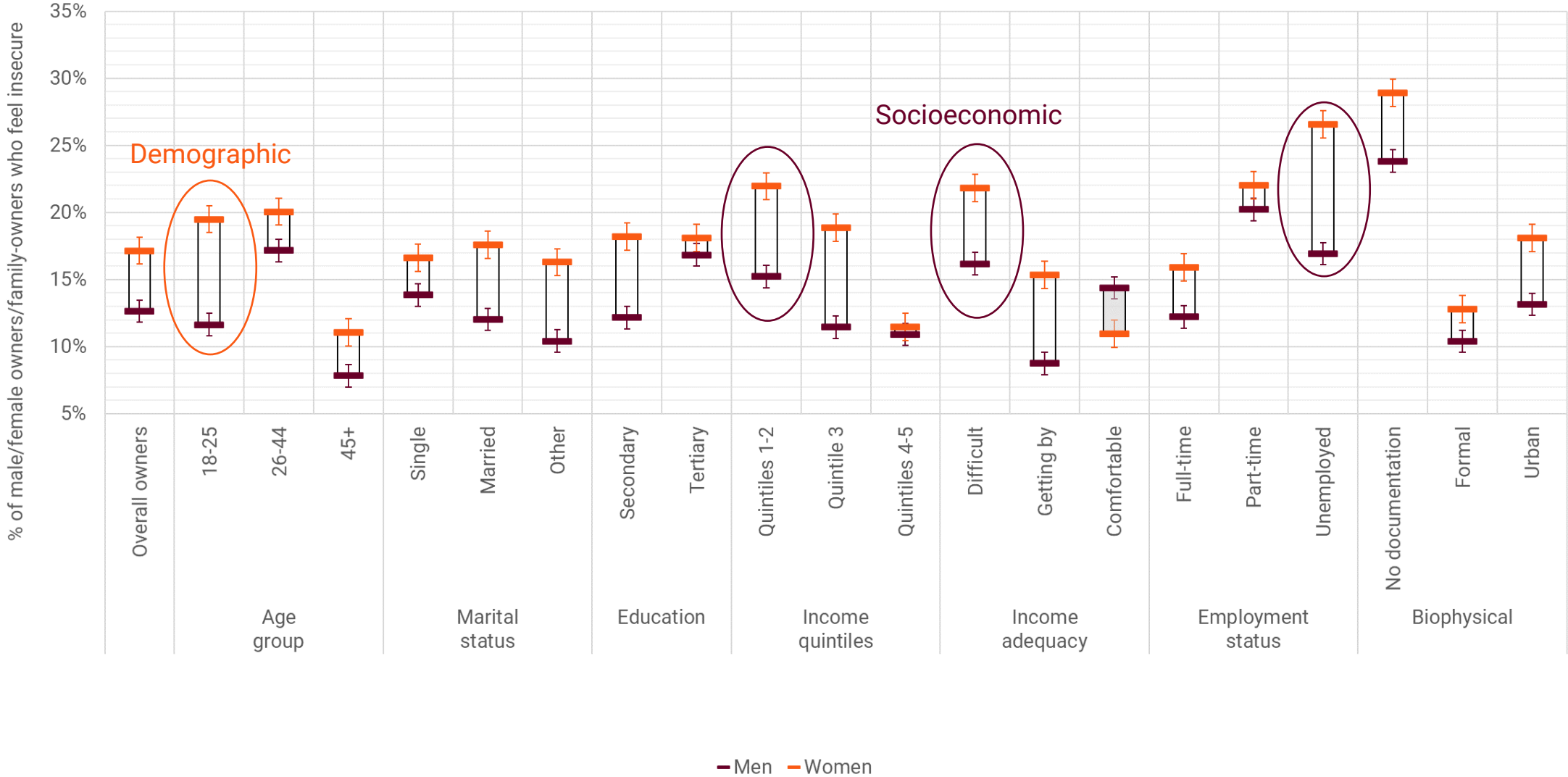
## FINDING 1a: SHARE OF OWNERSHIP



## FINDING 1b: EXPERIENCES OF OWNERSHIP

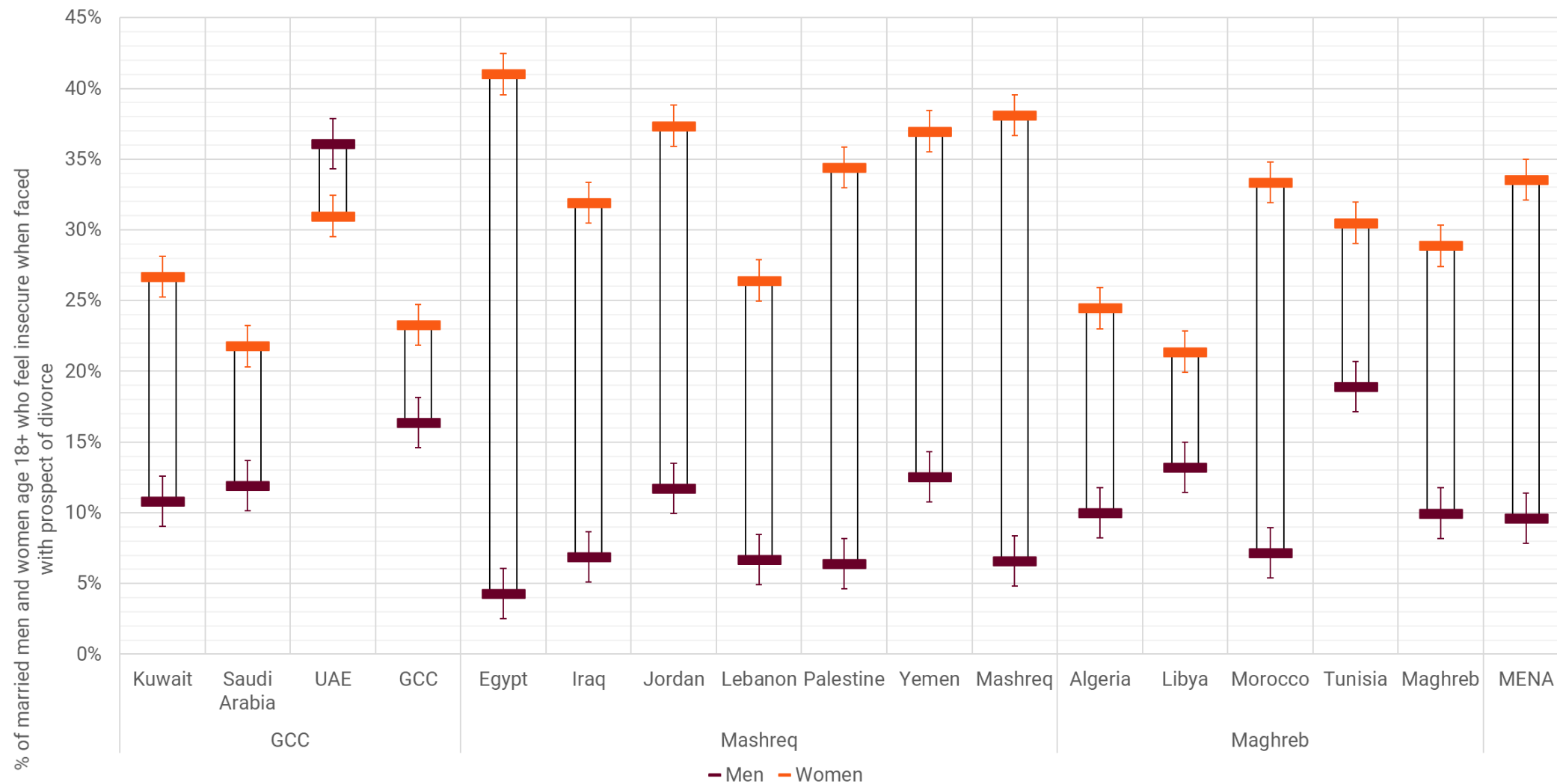


# FINDING 2: CONTEXT MATTERS





## FINDING 3: WOMEN FACE INTERNAL THREATS



### **1. Men and women's experience of "ownership" varies in the Arab region, influencing their tenure security**

Focus on individual ownership is misleading. Need to take family-ownership into account and explore potential of developing affordable rental markets.

### **2. Demographic and socioeconomic context matters**

Need to understand the interplay between individual context, biophysical characteristics, community relationships and institutional structures.

### **3. Women's tenure security is vulnerable to changes in family structure or social status.**

Tackling gender-unequal inheritance law and practice therefore remains a policy priority in the Arab region

[www.prindex.net](http://www.prindex.net)

[j.feyertag@odi.org.uk](mailto:j.feyertag@odi.org.uk)

**Thank you for your attention**

شكرا لك

