

**THE LAST MILE IN ANALYZING GROWTH,
WELLBEING AND POVERTY:
INDICES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
& APPLICATION TO AFRICA**

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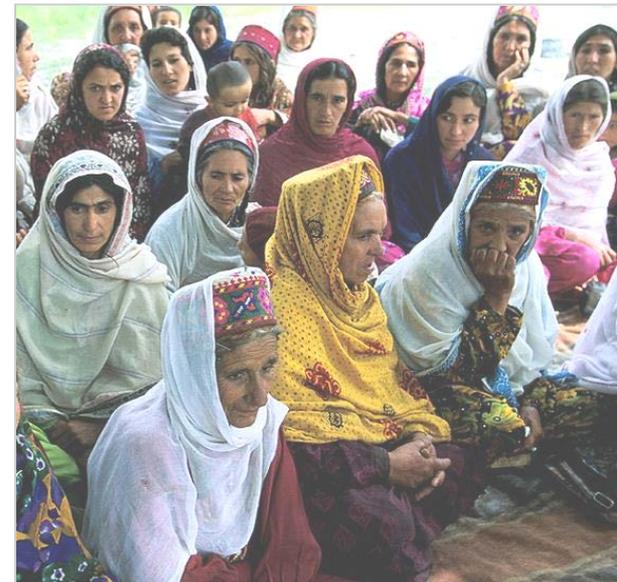
Roberto Foa, Harvard University

WIDER conference Inclusive Growth in Africa

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Contents

- Why social development matters
- Relevance for Africa
- What IndSocDev (www.indsocdev.org) measures
- 6 indices: illustrations Africa
- Research and data priorities



Why does social development matter?

- Social development is *about* putting people at the center of development (1995 Copenhagen Summit)
- Social development much more than health, education child welfare -> glue that keeps society together
- “behaviours, norms, conventions that pattern human interaction”
(thus also: structures markets and governance, both cause *and* consequence)

Why should we measure it ?

- Social development usually terrain of more qualitative methods and disciplines
- Measurements of development broadening: steel, GDP, poverty/inequality, HDI, governance, happiness
- IndSocDev = last mile in this sequence
- The promise:
 - systematise and compare different aspects social development
 - relate those to other development outcomes
 - trends over time

How does this matter for Africa?

- Importance of conflict (often, ‘ethnic’)
- Kinship and impact quality institutions
- Ibid: informal institutions
- On-going structural transformation - changes in informal institutions
- = > ‘soft’ dimensions as important for low-income countries ?

What does it measure

Design on basis of iterative process of expert discussions + comparison with available data

IndSocDev focus on **six** aspects (indices) of social development, based on:

- 200 indicators
- from 25 reputable and independent data sources, aggregated into Indices
- using ‘matching percentiles’

Matching percentiles & how covers 200 countries

- Combining sources more reliable than single source (minimum 3 sources)
- Many indicators limited coverage between 15 and 200
- Aggregating and comparing allows to enhance coverage – details explained later
- Progressively more reliable

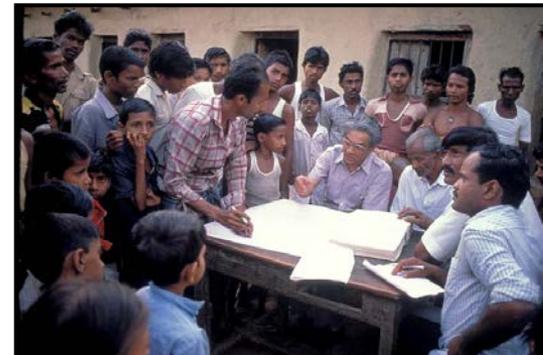
1) **Civic activism**: social norms, organisations, practices which facilitate citizen involvement in public policies and decisions

Examples of questions

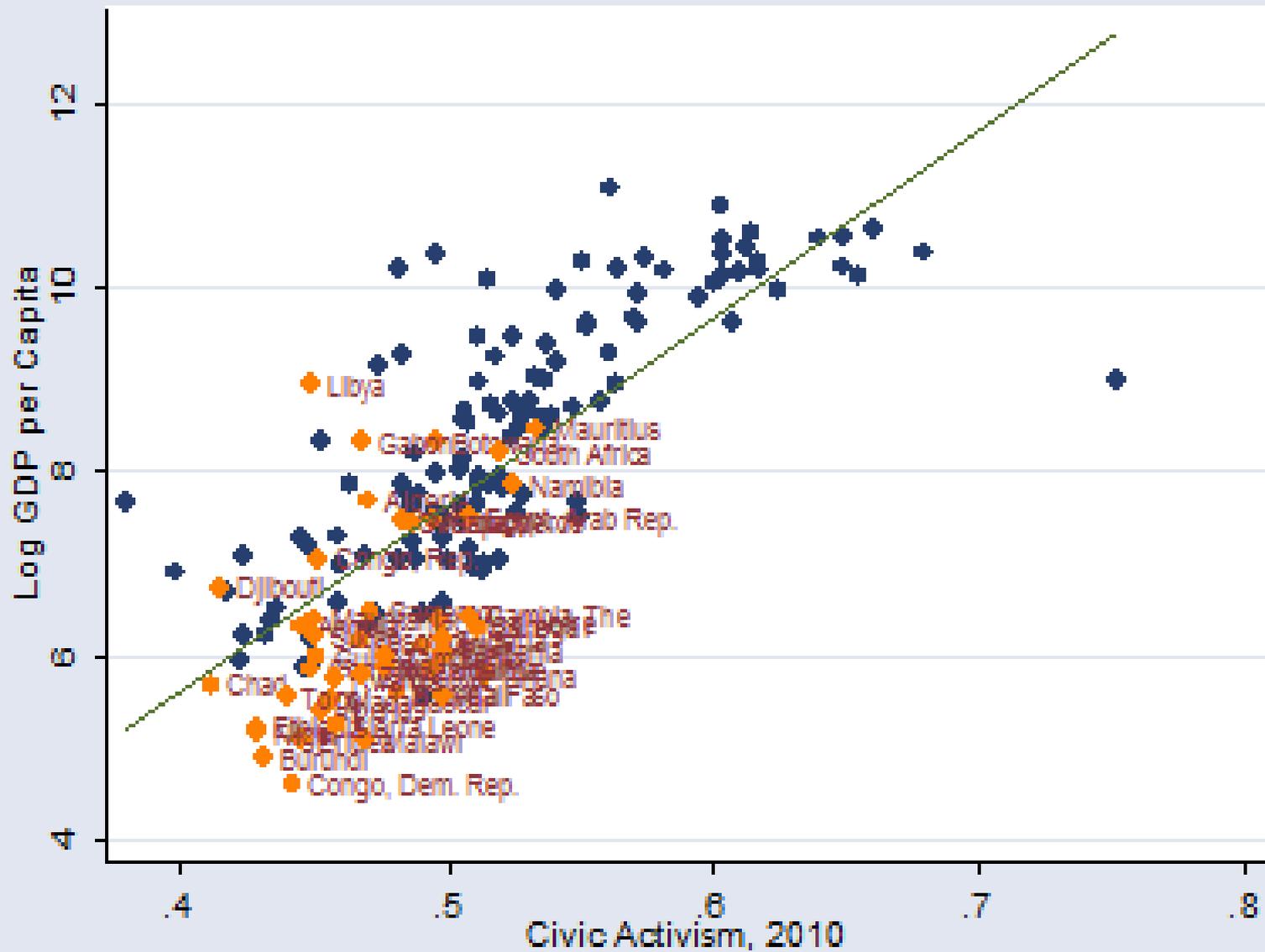
- % people participated in demonstration, petition, boycott
- % people with access to radio, TV, newspaper
- Density international organisations
- Civicus civil society rating

..... related sources

- World Values Survey, regional barometers
- barometers / ITU
- Global Civil Society
- Civicus



Civic activism and GDP



2) Clubs and associations: strength of ties to neighbourhood and associational life (voluntary groups, time with clubs, community meets, development associations)

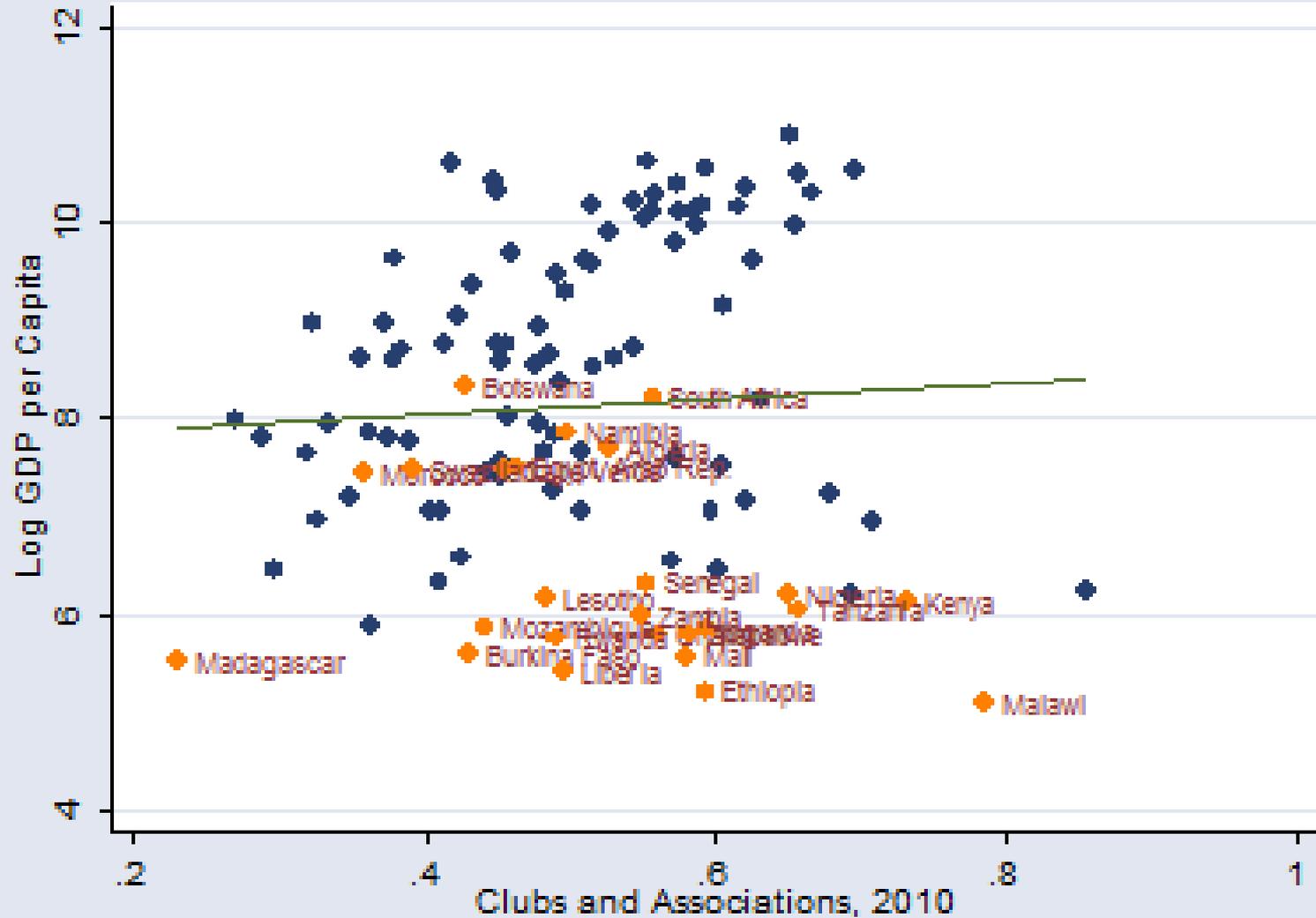
Examples of questions

- % people using free time for groups and associations
- % people members of clubs
- Spent time socialising
- % people state people 'generally help one another'

..... related sources

- barometers, WVS,
- World Values Survey
- ICVS

Clubs & associations and GDP



3) Interpersonal safety and trust: extent that individuals feel they can rely on people they have not met before

Examples of questions

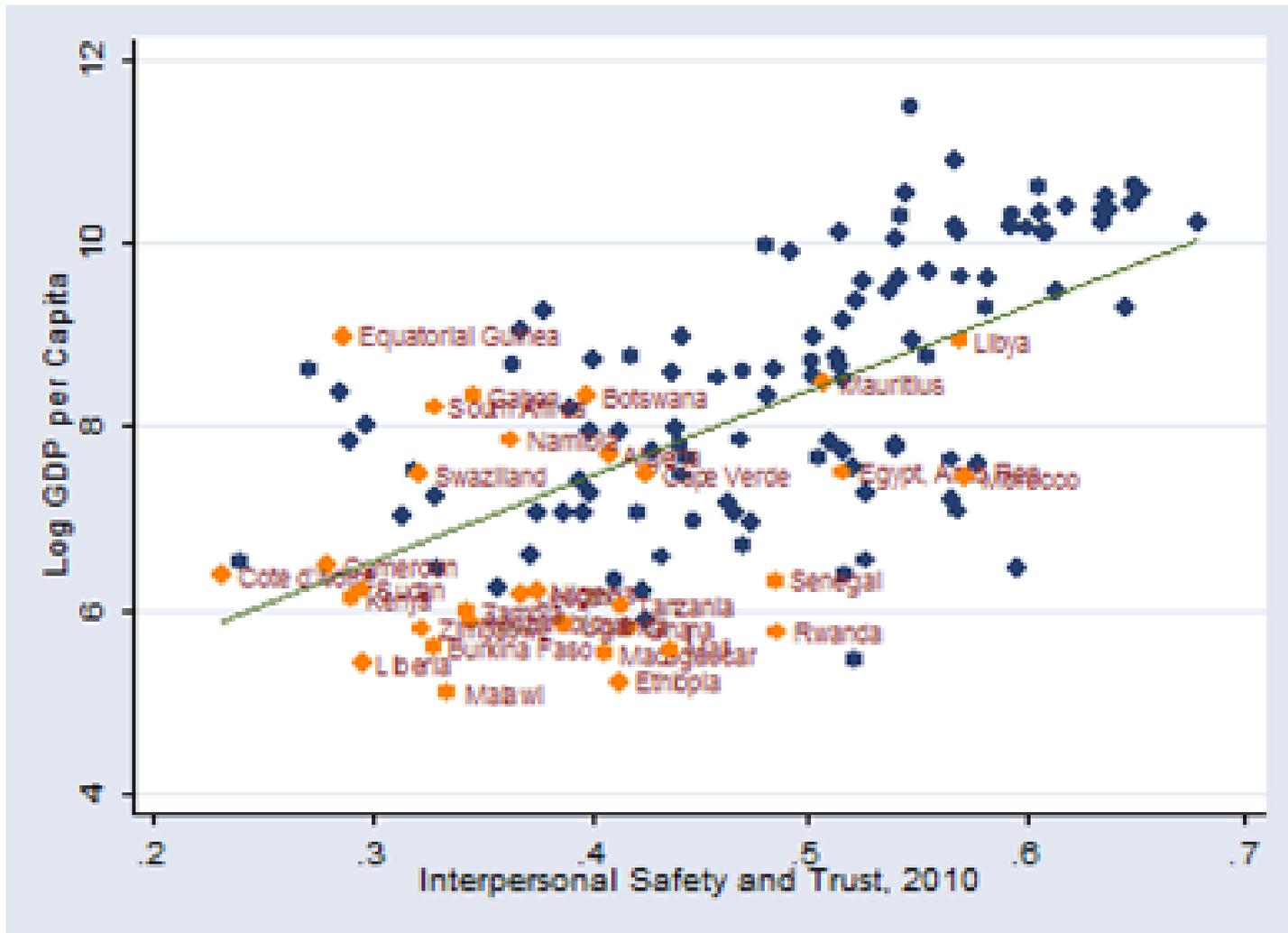
- % people experienced theft, robbery etc.
- % people that feel safe
- Perception people can be trusted, are fair
- Crime as business constraint

..... related sources

- Afrobarometer
- World Value Survey
- World Development Indicators
- ICVS
- Interpol



Interpersonal safety & trust



4) **Inter-group cohesion:** relations of cooperation and respect between predominant identity groups in a society

Examples of questions

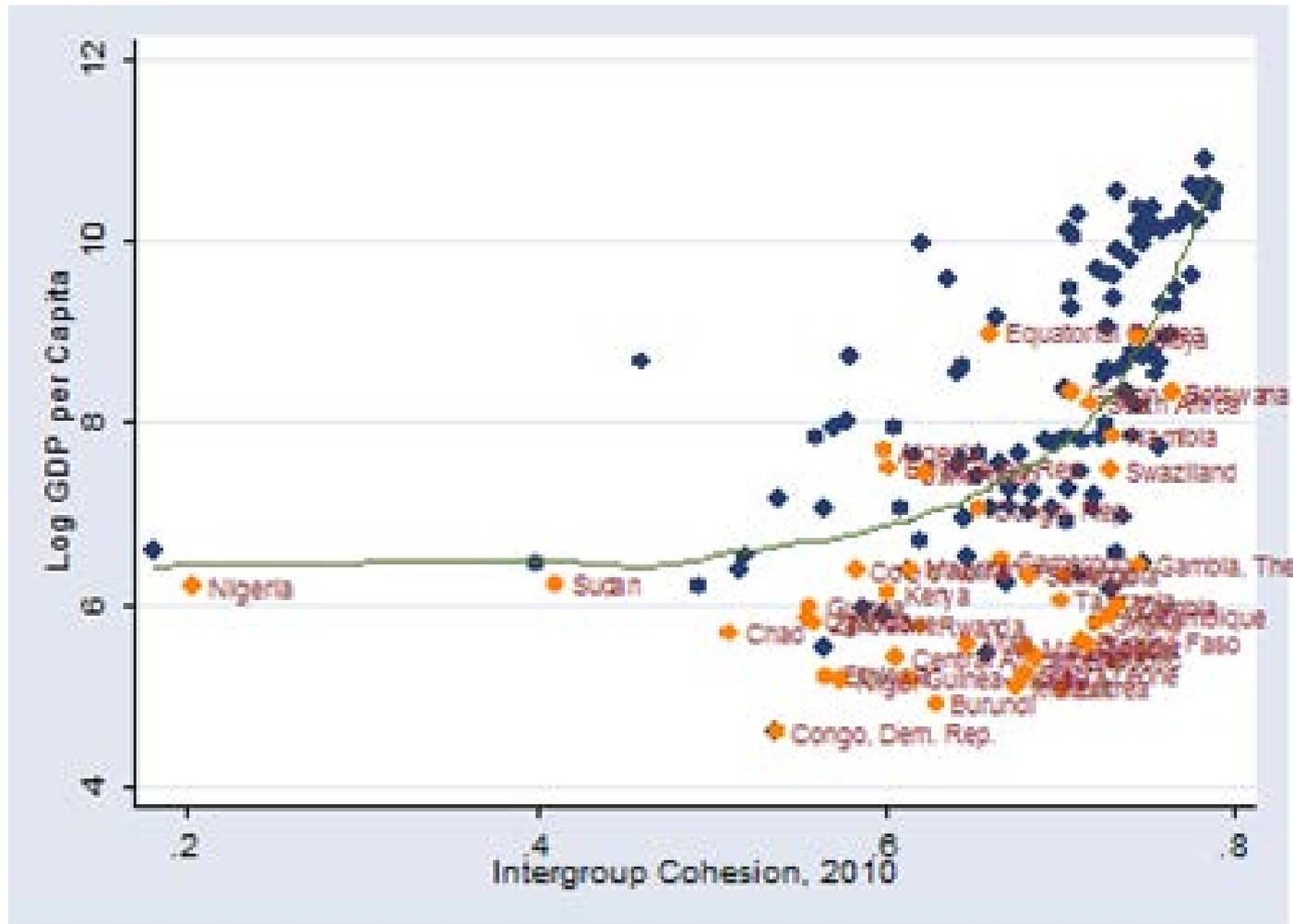
- Incidences of riots, terrorist acts
- Levels ethnic/religious tension
- Proportion people who reject others as neighbours

..... related sources

- Databanks, EIU
- ICRG
- Minorities at Risk, Fund for Peace
- World Values Survey



Inter-group cohesion



5) Inclusion of minorities:

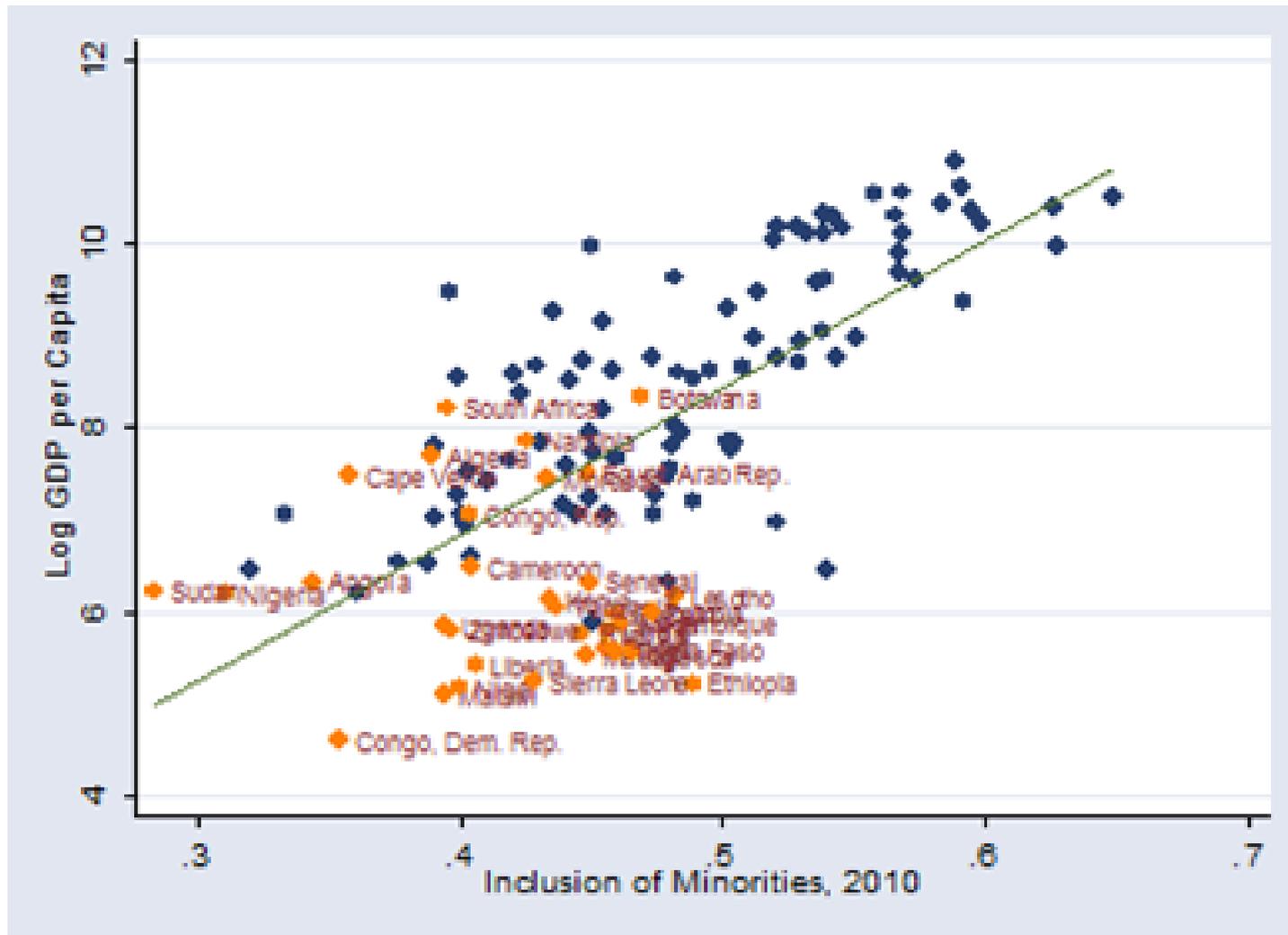
Examples of questions

- Perceived and reported discrimination
- Rating of uneven economic development
- Levels ethnic tension

..... related sources

- barometers, WVS
- Fund for peace
- ICRG

Inclusion of minorities



6) Gender equality: extent to which women face the same opportunities and constraints with family, work, society

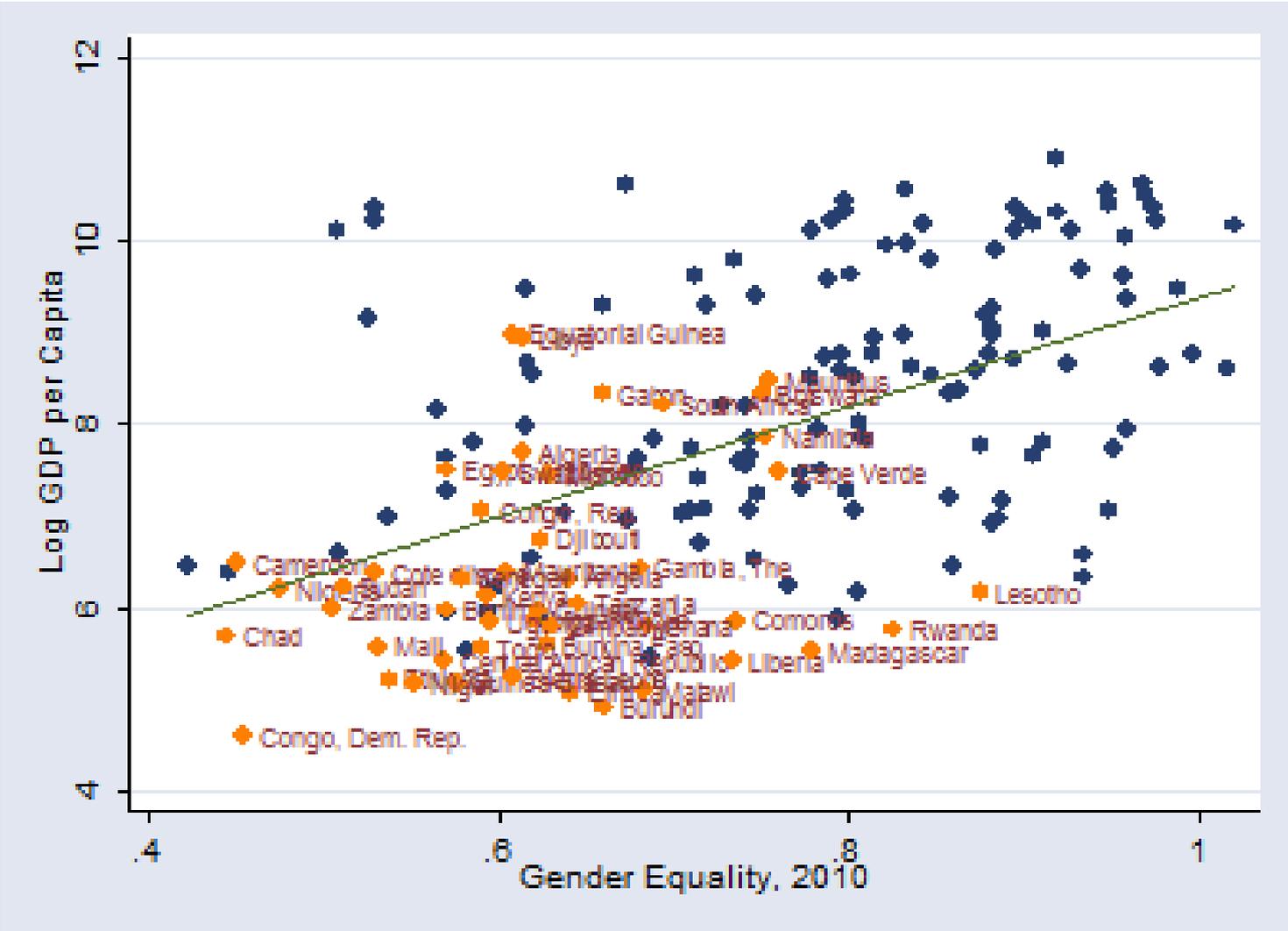
Examples of questions

- Perceptions equality of rights and opportunities
- Rating economic rights
- Ratio of women in education, labour force
- Wage rates

..... related sources

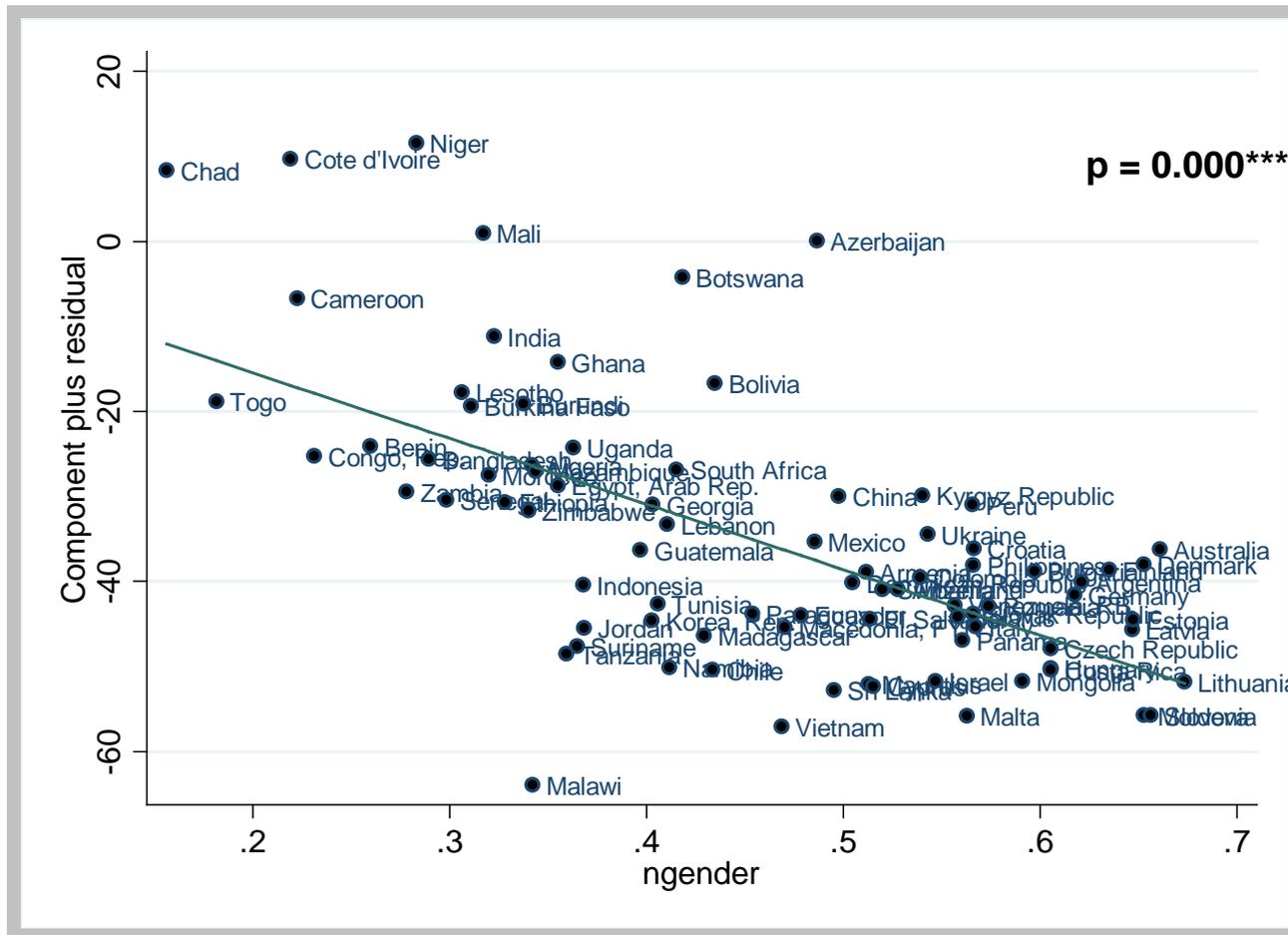
- barometers, WVS
- CIRI
- WDI
- ILO



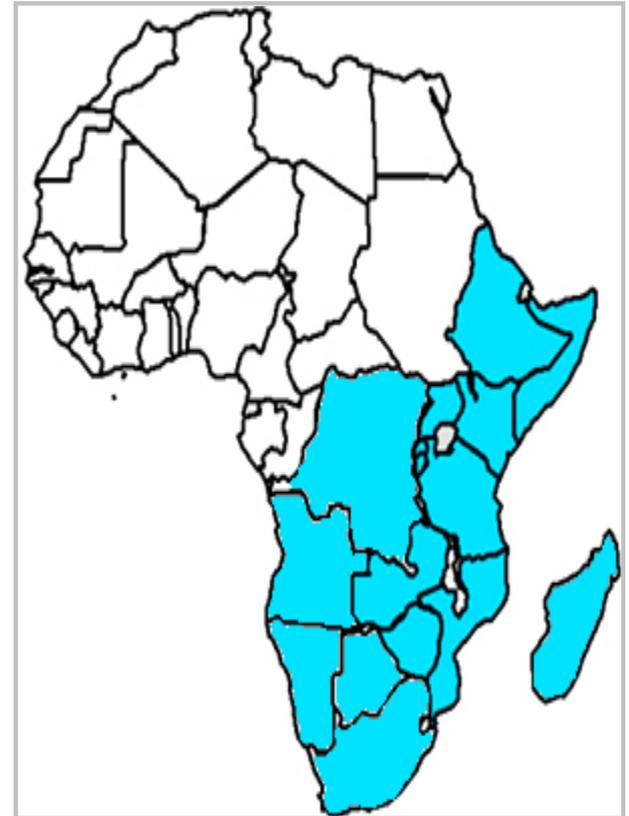


Gender Equality and Infant Mortality

Residual Scatter Plot between gender equity and infant mortality, after controlling for: log GDP/capita, log GDP/capita², female progression to secondary school (%), civic engagement, governance (Voice and Accountability), HIV-AIDS infection rate



Levels of gender equality in **Southern** and **Eastern** Africa are higher than their GDP would lead us to expect.



Conclusion

- points suggestive, further work multivariate analysis, teasing out causation & Africa data still limited
- correlations with GDP per capita:
 - positive civic activism, inter-group cohesion, inclusion of minorities, gender
 - negative with clubs & associations
 - no association with safety and trust
- no trade-offs growth-inclusion ?