Examining the link between women's empowerment and demand for family planning satisfied among Christians and Muslims in multi-religious African countries

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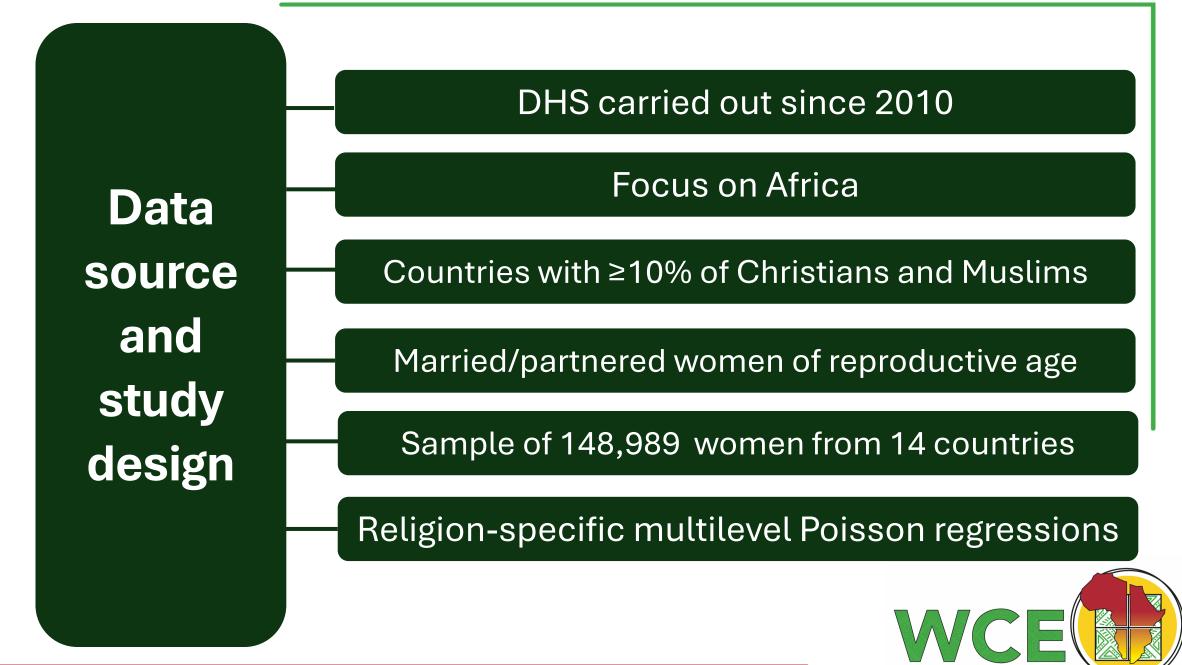
Religion, gender and family planning in Africa

- Complex relationship between religion and family planning in African countries
- Gender inequality negatively affects family planning
 - Especially in terms of decision-making capabilities and freedom of movement
- Do religion and gender dynamics interact to influence family planning?

Our aim

To investigate the impact of the intersection between women's empowerment and religion on *demand for family planning satisfied*





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Outcome



Demand for family planning satisfied

Proportion of women in need of contraception who were using (or whose partners were using) a contraceptive method.

Two separated analyses based on the type of method:

- **Modern:** medical procedures or technological products
- **Traditional**: lactational amenorrhea, withdrawal, calendar and fertility-awareness methods



Predictors



Women's religious affiliation

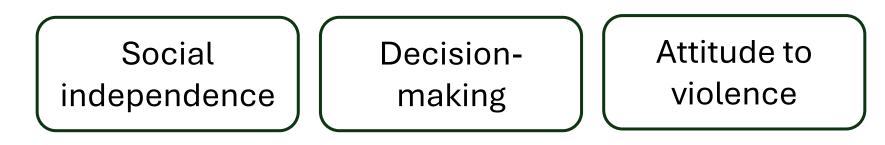
Classified according to their report:

- Christian
- Muslim
- Other religion or unaffiliated

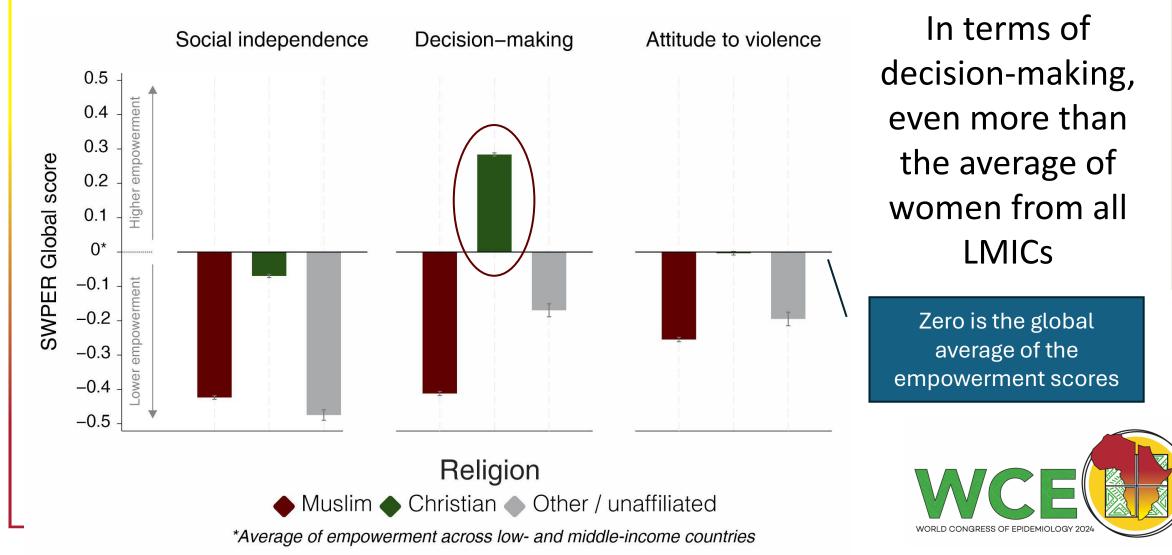


Women's empowerment

Measured using the three domains of the SWPER Global:

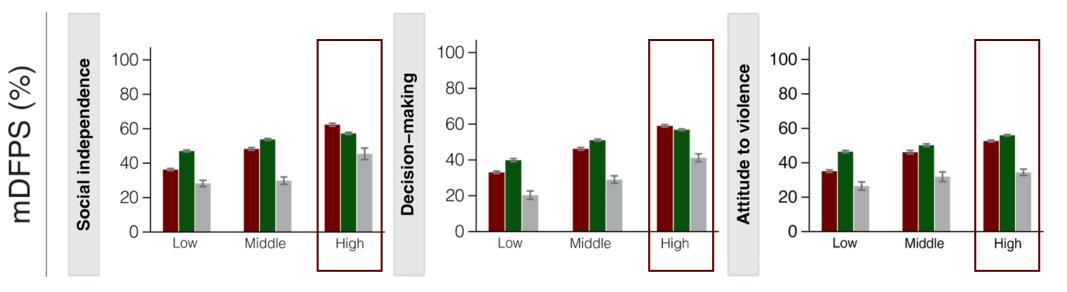


African Christians are much more empowered than Muslims!



Christians also have higher levels of demand for family planning satisfied

But the gap closes among the high empowered!



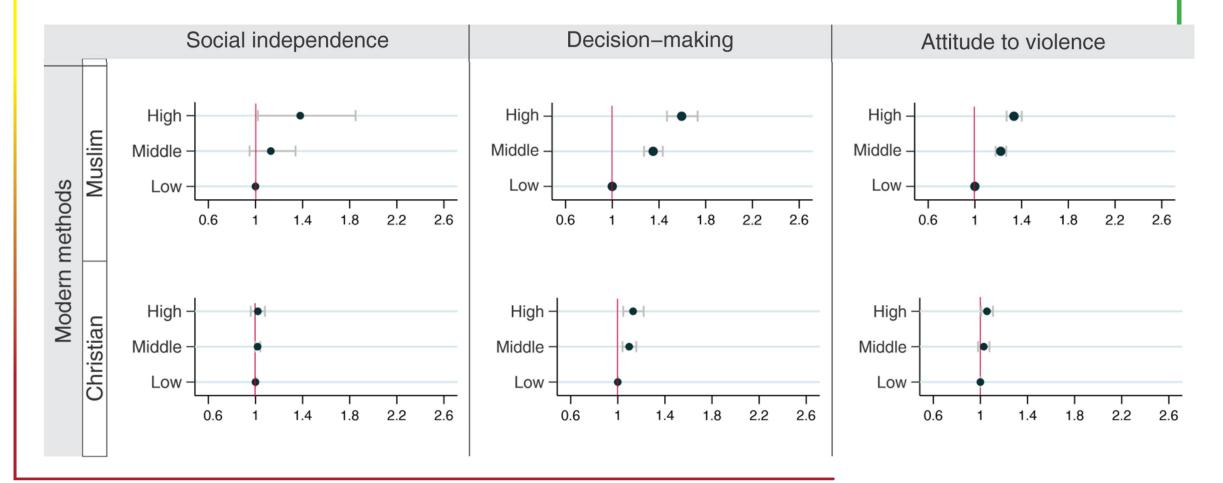
Level of empowerment

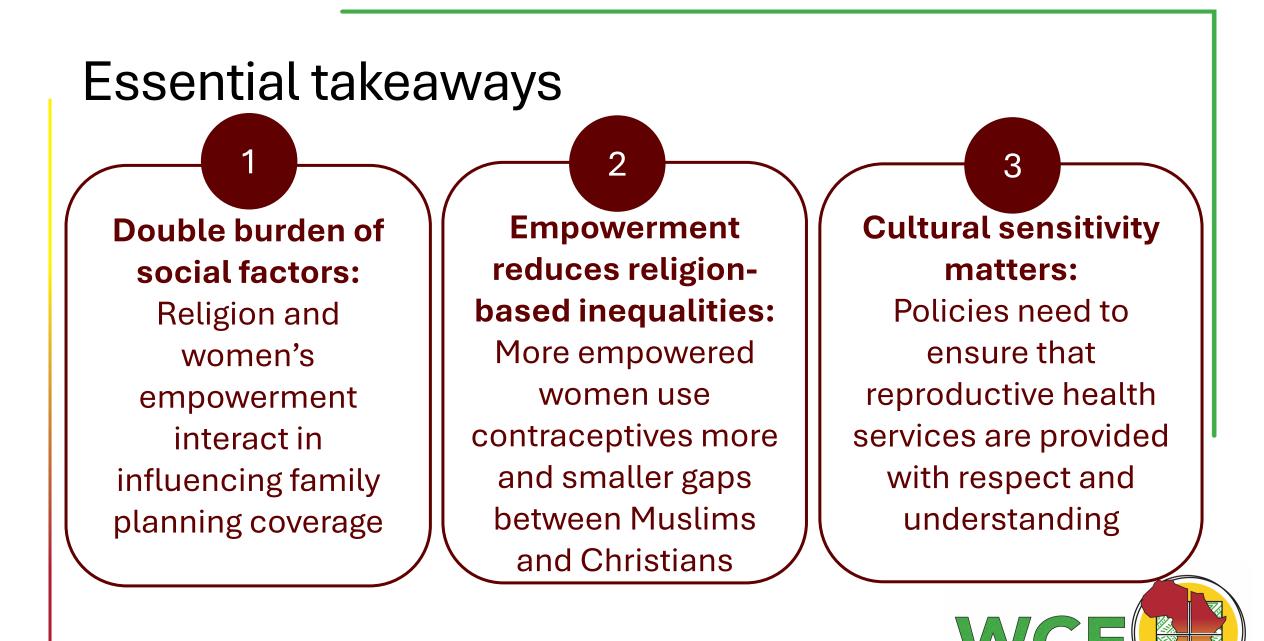
Religion
Muslim
Christian
Other / unaffiliated



Pooled prevalence ratios of mDFPS

Stronger effects among Muslim women, especially for the decision-making domain





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Original research

Association between women's empowerment and demand for family planning satisfied among Christians and Muslims in multireligious African countries

Franciele Hellwig 0, 12 Yohannes Wado, Aluisio J D Barros 012

To cite: Hellwig F, Wado Y, Barros AJD, Association	ABSTRACT Background Although the levels of demand for family	WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC
between women's empowerment and demand for family planning satisfied among Christians and Muslime in multireligious African countries. <i>BMJ Glob Health</i> 2024 9 : e013651. doi:10.1136/ brigh-2023-013651 Handling editor Seema Biswas	planning attriffed (DPS) have increased in many countries, cultural norms remain a significant barrier in low- and middle-income countries, in the context of multiresigous Arian countries, or objective was to investigate intersectional inequalities in DPS's prodem or traditional contractives, or objective was to weather is expowerment. Health Savergo cardied at between SDI and 2021 in Arian countries. Countries with at least 10% of Maulines and Christians we residend to analyse inequalities in grant planning. The religious groups were characterized by weath, area or eladison, somer has and women's	 Prior studies have demonstrated that there is a complex studies relationship between religion and family planning beliefs in sub-Saharan Africa. Higher fertility and lower use of constantive among Musims than among Christians were docu- mented in several African countries. The Hinzhau on the relationship between women's empowerment and contraceptive use is mixed, with some studies identifying null associations and other some studies identifying null associations and other
 Additional supplemental material is published online only. To view, please visit the journal online (https://doi.org/10.1136/ 		ers finding positive associations. → A qualitative study conducted in Tanzania has iden- tified that both religion and gender dynamics influ- ence family planning practices.
brigh-2023-013651). Received 7 August 2023 Accepted 21 February 2024	empowement. The mean level of empowement was estimated for each religious group, and multievel Poisson on the level of owners empowement among Muslims and Christians. Results Our study sample of 14 countries comprised 35% of Muslim and 51% of Christian women. Christians had higher level of empowement acrossal three domains compared with Muslims and women with no/ther religion. DPS vas also higher among Christians (5%) than among Muslims (5%). Pooled analysis indicated a consistent association between DPS and women's empowement.	certain groups of women, such as the poorest, youngest age groups, Muslims and those with lower levels of education. ³ Increasing family planning use is especially challenging in sub- Saharan Africa, where a significant portion of the population lives in extreme poverty, and health services fail to reach many women. ³⁴ Nevertheless, the influence of cultural factors such as gender inequality, early marriage.
Check for updates. C Author(s) (or their employee)(s) (or their employee)(s) (or C Brit Published by BMJ. Thermational Center for Equily in Heath, Federal University of Publish, Federal University of Publish, Federal Brandl Publish, Reidata, B	with higher prevalence ratios among Muslims than Orientane, respectively in the decision-whinking domain. Conclusions: The pap between Muslims and Orbitations in DPPS significantly related as the level of empowerment increased. It highlights the importance of understanding and addressing cultura factors sensibly, and respectibly be satisfy the domand for family gluoning services. INTRODUCTION Although considerable strides have been family planning satisfied (DPPS) with modern methods in jow- and middle-income countries	fertility expectations and negative attitudes towards family planning practices is progres- sively assuming a central role. ^{2,5,2} Gender inequality is crucial in shaping women's access to and utilisation of reproduc- tive health services. This influenced by various factors, including women's limited participa- tion in household decisions, restricted decision- making capabilities related to their fertility. lack of mobility, financial constraints and the occurrence of domestic violence. ² ¹⁰ While evidence on the impact of women's empow- erment on family planning utilisation remains inconclusive due to methodological limitations.
Franciele Hellwig; fheilwig@equidade.org	(LMICs),12 there are still persistently low levels of coverage in certain countries and among	studies generally suggest that higher levels of empowerment, particularly decision-making

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WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC -> Prior studies have demonstrated that there is a con plex and variable relationship between religion and family planning beliefs in sub-Saharan Africa. --- Higher fertility and lower use of contraceptive among Muslims than among Christians were documented in several African countries. --- The literature on the relationship between women's empowerment and contraceptive use is mixed, with some studies identifying null associations and others finding positive associations. A qualitative study conducted in Tanzania has identified that both religion and gender dynamics influence family planning practices. certain groups of women, such as the poores youngest age groups, Muslims and those with

Thank you!

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