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CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS

Adapting Care Systems to Climate and Migration Pressures in North and West Africa

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WORKSHOP REPORT

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ABOUT THE CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS PROJECT WORKSHOP

The Climate-Care Nexus Policy Workshop, organized within the framework of the IDRC-funded project “Climate-Care Nexus: Adapting Care Systems to Climate and Migration Pressures in North and West Africa”, is a policy and research dialogue bringing together public decision-makers, international organizations, and leading experts to examine the evolving relationship between climate change, migration, and care systems.

The workshop positioned the climate-care nexus as a critical policy issue by exploring how climate and migration pressures are reshaping care systems and redistributing unpaid care work across households and communities. Drawing on international evidence and comparative experiences, the discussions identified emerging policy priorities and explored pathways for integrating care considerations into climate, social, and gender policy frameworks.

A central focus of the workshop was the role of national institutions in responding to these interconnected challenges, with particular attention to policy coherence, institutional coordination, and the alignment of social, climate, and gender policies. The workshop provided a platform for sharing concrete experiences, exchanging perspectives, and identifying practical entry points for policy action.

The workshop also marked the operational launch of the project, bringing together its four institutional partners: the **Policy Center for the New South** (PCNS, Morocco), the **National School of Statistics and Economic Analysis** (ENSAE, Senegal), the **Egyptian Center for Economic Studies** (ECES, Egypt), and **Chinguitt Modern University** (Mauritania). Discussions focused on establishing a common analytical and methodological approach, covering unpaid care measurement, survey design, data harmonization, and cross-country comparability, while accounting for differences in national statistical systems and climate exposure.



SESSIONS

- **Introductory Remarks**
- **Project Overview:** Framing the Climate-Care Nexus
- **Session 1:** Framing the Climate-Care Nexus: Evidence and Emerging Policy Priorities from International Experience
- **Session 2:** Governing the Climate-Care Nexus: Aligning Social and Climate Policies through Institutional Coordination
- **Session 3:** Understanding and Measuring the Climate-Care Nexus: Data, Evidence, and Research Gaps
- **Session 4:** From Measurement to Implementation: Survey Design, Fieldwork, and Cross-Country Strategy
- **Closing Remarks**

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Speakers

Nouzha Chekrouni
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Minh Tien Nguyen
Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Canada in the Kingdom of Morocco



The introductory remarks set the stage for the Climate-Care Nexus Policy Workshop by highlighting the growing interconnections between climate change, migration, care systems, and gender equality. Speakers emphasized the importance of bringing together policy dialogue, research, and international cooperation to better understand and respond to these interconnected challenges.

Nouzha Chekrouni underscored the Climate-Care Nexus project as a reflection of the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Morocco and Canada, including the strong links created by the Moroccan diaspora in Canada. She highlighted the opportunity to further strengthen collaboration between the two countries in addressing climate change, sustainable development, and gender inclusivity through a combination of policy dialogue and technical expertise.

Minh Tien Nguyen stressed that “adapting to climate change is also about supporting the people who care for our economy”. He emphasized that climate change and social disruption are closely interconnected, particularly in North and West Africa, where rising temperatures, environmental degradation, and climate-related pressures disproportionately

affect vulnerable communities. A key focus of the remarks was the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work borne by women. Activities such as collecting water over long distances, caring for family members, and managing climate-related risks often increase as environmental pressures intensify. Despite being essential to household and community resilience, this work remains largely unpaid, invisible, and insufficiently reflected in conventional economic and policy frameworks. Nguyen highlighted Canada's rights-based and gender-responsive approach to climate and care, emphasizing the importance of integrating gender equality into climate adaptation and development policies. Canada's engagement in this area is supported through initiatives such as Generation Equality and other programs focused on strengthening care systems in Africa and the Americas.

The introductory session concluded by emphasizing that effective climate adaptation requires sustained political commitment, robust evidence, and continuous dialogue between citizens, institutions, researchers, and decision-makers. Addressing the growing pressures on care systems therefore requires not only climate action, but also stronger data, ongoing research, and responsive national policies capable of addressing both environmental and social inequalities.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Climate change is intensifying pressure on care systems, disproportionately affecting women.
- A gender-responsive approach is essential to climate adaptation.
- Morocco-Canada cooperation can support evidence-based and coordinated policy responses.
- Effective adaptation requires political commitment, data, and sustained policy dialogue.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

FRAMING THE CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS

Speaker

Hamza Saoudi
Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South





The session presented the project's objectives, regional scope, analytical framework, methodology, and expected outputs, establishing a common understanding of the climate-care nexus across Morocco, Egypt, Senegal, and Mauritania.

Hamza Saoudi presented care as economic and social infrastructure and stressed its limited visibility in conventional economic statistics. Estimates cited during the presentation suggest that the imputed value of unpaid care work is equivalent to around 9% of global GDP and that women perform approximately 76% of unpaid care hours worldwide. In Morocco, an HCP valuation exercise based on 2012 time-use data estimated the value of unpaid domestic production at approximately 34.5–62% of GDP, depending on the valuation method; women accounted for about 92% of domestic-work hours. These estimates illustrate the scale of activities that sustain households without being fully reflected in national accounts. The conceptual framework identified three transmission mechanisms: climate stress can increase care needs; disruptions to water, health, education, and transport services can transfer responsibilities to households; and adaptation or mitigation policies can create additional unpaid burdens if care considerations are overlooked. Climate impacts also vary significantly across countries, territories, and households, making disaggregated data essential. The intended research will combine household-level data, time-use surveys, care economy indicators, and climate-specific impacts to better measure how

climate pressures affect care work, household organization, and access to essential services. Data collected across the four countries will contribute to a shared and accessible evidence base.

The session concluded by positioning the climate-care nexus as a strategic priority for inclusive development in North and West Africa, requiring stronger links between climate adaptation, gender, social protection, labor, and care policies.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Care is an essential form of economic and social infrastructure.
- Climate stress can increase care needs and deepen existing gender inequalities.
- The project will generate comparative data across four countries.
- Public policies and services can help mitigate and redistribute climate-related care burdens.
- Understanding the climate-care nexus is key to more inclusive development.



SESSION 1

FRAMING THE CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS: EVIDENCE AND EMERGING POLICY PRIORITIES FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Moderator

Larabi Jaïdi
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Speakers

Mouna Bannour
Head of Migration, Development and Governance Unit, IOM – UN Migration Morocco

Khalid Ghozlani
Senior Program Officer, International Development Research Centre

Jonna Lundwall
Senior Social Scientist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank

Lamia Rhoufrani
Care Specialist, UN Women Morocco



The session explored the emerging climate-care nexus and the challenge of connecting two policy areas that have traditionally been addressed separately. Speakers emphasized that climate change is not only an environmental and economic issue, but also a social one that affects how households organize care, distribute responsibilities, access services, and adapt to changing conditions. The discussion highlighted the need to make invisible care work more visible through better data and to strengthen the convergence between climate, social, gender, employment, and migration policies.

Mouna Bannour highlighted the link between climate change, migration, and care responsibilities. Climate pressures can disrupt livelihoods and access to essential services, including education and social protection, while migration can provide households with opportunities to access better resources but may also redistribute or increase care burdens. Women are particularly affected by these changes. Bannour also stressed the importance of recognizing care needs within migration and climate policies and ensuring that migrants can access their rights and essential services. In Morocco, where climate-related pressures may influence future migration and mobility patterns, she emphasized the need for stronger data, including time-use and internal mobility data, as well as improved access to basic services such as sanitation.

Khalid Ghozlani presented the role of the IDRC in supporting research capacity and knowledge production across the Global South. He noted that climate and care have generally been studied as separate fields, despite the growing evidence that climate change is directly affecting the distribution and intensity of care responsibilities. The project offers an opportunity to strengthen research at this intersection while generating comparative evidence across different regions through the IDRC-supported research hubs. He emphasized the importance of producing reliable data, translating evidence into policy action, and increasing national resources dedicated to both climate and care challenges.

Jonna Lundwall highlighted the need to better integrate care into analyses of climate change, employment, and the green transition. Climate-related employment losses could reach 43 million jobs by 2050 across the 49 countries covered by World Bank Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs), or 260 million when extrapolated to all low- and middle-income countries. Women face compounded risks due to their concentration in climate-sensitive and informal activities, while unpaid care responsibilities constrain mobility, training, and access to alternative employment. In Morocco, where female labor-force participation remains around 19%, renewable-energy and energy-efficiency investments could generate approximately 28,000 jobs per year. Ensuring women's access to these opportunities requires combining training and reskilling with childcare, transport, and social protection.

Lamia Rhoufrani stressed that unpaid care work is still largely treated as a private household responsibility rather than as part of economic and social infrastructure. Although approximately 80% of countries include a gender dimension in their Nationally Determined Contributions, only around 45% have operational mechanisms explicitly incorporating unpaid care work into climate-adaptation strategies. She also highlighted an institutional problem: care debates remain concentrated in gender and social-policy institutions, with limited engagement from ministries responsible for climate, finance,

economic development, and investment. Time-use statistics and household satellite accounts can make care visible, but effective policy integration also requires bringing these institutions into the same decision-making processes.

The exchange also referred to the Five Rs of care—**Recognize, Reduce, Redistribute, Reward, and Represent**—and to the relevance of resilience in the climate context. Moving from recognition to implementation requires public investment in water, childcare, health and transport services, as well as policy coordination that accounts for the household effects of climate and economic transitions.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Climate change is increasing and redistributing unpaid care burdens, particularly for women.
- Care, climate, migration, and employment policies need greater coordination.
- Better time-use and household data are essential to make care work visible.
- Climate and green-transition policies should also create opportunities for women.
- Investment in care infrastructure can strengthen both resilience and gender equality.



SESSION 2

GOVERNING THE CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS: ALIGNING SOCIAL AND CLIMATE POLICIES THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Moderator

Mounia Boucetta
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

Speakers

Mohamed Ait Aazizi
Director of Family, Childhood and Elderly Protection, Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration, and Family

Mohamed Behnassi
Senior Environmentalist Expert, Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE)

Adil Hidane
Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts, Ministry of Economy and Finance

Larabi Jaïdi
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South



The session examined how Morocco can better align its social and climate policies through stronger institutional coordination. Speakers stressed that the climate-care nexus cuts across multiple policy areas and that Morocco already has extensive climate and social policies in place. The key challenge is therefore not the absence of policies, but their coordination, implementation, and ability to address care as a central component of resilience.

Mohamed Ait Aazizi highlighted the growing importance of care in the context of Morocco's aging population, changing family structures, more frequent climate shocks, and the need to strengthen women's economic participation.

He emphasized the need to expand research and knowledge on care, mobilize society around the issue, and strengthen institutional coordination to give care greater visibility in policymaking. He also stressed the need for political dialogue, international benchmarking, common standards, and greater recognition of shared responsibility for providing care. Beyond the climate-care nexus, he noted the importance of considering the links between care, financing, and social protection.

Adil Hidane focused on the economic implications of investing in care infrastructure. He presented modelling undertaken by the Directorate of Financial Studies and Forecasts (DEPF) in

two areas. First, the scenario of generalized preschool provision suggested the potential creation of more than 50,000 jobs, with women accounting for over 90% of additional employment in the simulated structure. Beyond employment, improved preschool access could reduce childcare constraints and contribute to early human-capital formation, particularly in rural areas. Second, Morocco's demographic transition is driving the emergence of the silver economy, with a growing elderly population and increasing demand for care services. Investment in care, he argued, can mitigate the effects of future crises, strengthen resilience, and support more effective public policies, while better data remain essential for assessing these effects.

Mohamed Behnassi argued that Morocco does not lack either climate or social policies; rather, it lacks sufficient coordination between them. Despite major reforms in both areas, the relationship between climate stress and care responsibilities remains largely understudied and insufficiently integrated into policy frameworks. Climate shocks can increase dependency and vulnerability, while Morocco simultaneously faces high climate exposure, a care deficit, and significant social and demographic transformation. Behnassi also identified institutional fragmentation as a major obstacle, occurring both horizontally across ministries and vertically across levels of government. He highlighted the need for a national mechanism for care, stronger inter-ministerial coordination, and more effective territorial governance. Care should be recognized as resilience infrastructure and systematically incorporated into climate-sensitive and social policies. The climate-care nexus already exists in practice; the challenge is to ensure that policy frameworks reflect this reality.

Larabi Jaïdi broadened the discussion to Morocco's extensive landscape of climate, social, territorial, and labor-market policies. He noted that Morocco has developed around 20 climate strategies and more than 80 social programs and projects, raising questions about prioritization, implementation, and coordination. A just transition must place people at the center of these strategies, with greater attention to gender and territorial specificities. He also highlighted the transformation of household structures and the implications of population aging

for care and social policy. Labor-market policies need to account for these demographic and territorial differences, while existing institutional mechanisms should be made more effective rather than simply creating new committees.

The discussion pointed to a need to move beyond aligning existing programs towards the joint design of policies across climate, finance, social protection, health, labor, and territorial institutions. Rather than establishing parallel structures, speakers emphasized clearer responsibilities, more effective use of existing mechanisms, and local implementation adapted to differences in exposure and service access. Care was consequently framed as both an economic concern and a component of household and territorial resilience.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Morocco has extensive climate and social policies, but coordination remains a key gap.
- Care should be recognized as essential resilience and economic infrastructure.
- Stronger inter-ministerial and territorial coordination is needed.
- Investing in childcare and eldercare can generate social, economic, and employment benefits.
- Better data and more effective use of existing institutions are critical to advancing the nexus.



SESSION 3

UNDERSTANDING AND MEASURING THE CLIMATE-CARE NEXUS: DATA, EVIDENCE, AND RESEARCH GAPS

Moderator

Dorothée Boccanfuso
Full Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Speakers

Colleen Duggan
Team Leader, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, International Development Research Centre

Siham Zarrari
Head of the Household Surveys Division, High Commission for Planning (HCP)

Touhami Abdelkhalek
Full Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University



The session shifted the discussion from the conceptual and policy dimensions of the climate-care nexus to the practical challenges of data, measurement, and evidence. Speakers emphasized that while interest in the intersection between climate change and care is growing, rigorous empirical research remains limited. The main challenge is therefore to develop the statistical and methodological infrastructure needed to produce comparable, disaggregated, and policy-relevant evidence.

Colleen Duggan underlined the importance of treating care as economic infrastructure and integrating it into climate policy and finance. The evidence base remains fragmented: climate exposure, time use, household composition, and access to services are often observed through separate statistical systems, even though their joint analysis is necessary to understand how climate pressures are absorbed within households. She identified research gaps concerning the effects of climate policies on care burdens, the role of care inequalities in shaping vulnerability, and the limited incorporation of care into adaptation finance and national climate frameworks. Intersectional analysis and qualitative inquiry are needed to explain why apparently similar climate exposures produce different household responses.

Siham Zarrari presented the High Commission for Planning's third national Time-Use Survey,

launched in 2025. Its sample has expanded from approximately 9,000 households in the 2011–2012 round to around 14,000 households, with 24-hour reporting of individual activities. Fieldwork over a full year is intended to capture seasonal differences in care, paid work, and domestic activities. The new survey also covers work–family balance, household decision-making, the allocation of domestic tasks, well-being, time management, and access to paid and unpaid care services. Its activity classification is adapted from ICATUS, providing both a reference for the project's questionnaire and a basis for comparing the distribution of unpaid work across population groups and territories.

Touhami Abdelkhalek emphasized that the project's analytical objectives and identification strategy should guide the survey design from the outset. The research will examine how climate shocks affect the allocation of household time across paid employment, informal production, direct and indirect unpaid care, and leisure, while accounting for gender, socioeconomic, regional, and seasonal differences. The proposed approach combines existing HCP data with new household surveys to support comparisons across different levels of climate exposure. An initial sample of approximately 8,000 households across Morocco, Egypt, Senegal, and Mauritania was discussed, with a common methodological framework to ensure cross-country comparability while accounting for national and regional specificities.

These analytical ambitions must also be balanced against budget constraints, questionnaire length, and operational feasibility. Attention should be given to distinguishing sudden climate shocks from gradual environmental pressures, as their effects on household activities may differ. Harmonizing activity classifications, climate-exposure measures, and reference periods will support comparability across countries, while qualitative research will help explain the household adjustments underlying observed patterns. The survey should therefore prioritize the information required to address the research questions while maintaining data quality and allowing for national specificities.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Major data and research gaps remain at the climate-care intersection.
- Time-use data are essential to make unpaid care work visible.
- Survey design, exposure measurement, and the validity of comparison groups determine whether estimated relationships can support causal interpretation.
- Quantitative evidence should be complemented by qualitative research.
- Better evidence can strengthen climate, care, and social protection policies.



SESSION 4

FROM MEASUREMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION: SURVEY DESIGN, FIELDWORK, AND CROSS-COUNTRY STRATEGY

Moderator

Hamza Saoudi
Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South

Speakers

Aziz Ajbilou
Full Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University

Mamadou Baldé
Director of Studies, ENSAE Senegal

Abla Abdel-Latif
Executive Director and Director of Research, Egyptian Center for Economic Studies

Abdallahi El Kerim
Vice President, Chinguitt Modern University



The final session focused on translating the project's conceptual and methodological framework into a workable cross-country survey strategy. Discussions centered on survey design, sampling, country-specific climate and social contexts, ethical considerations, and the need to balance methodological harmonization with national flexibility.

Aziz Ajbilou emphasized the need for a common international methodological framework while allowing for country-specific adaptations. The project will combine quantitative and qualitative approaches to examine the links between climate shocks, care, and adaptation measures. Key methodological questions remain regarding the target population, sample size, geographical stratification, identification of affected and non-affected areas, and the measurement of perceptions and intra-household dynamics. Ethical approvals and informed consent will also be essential before fieldwork begins.

Mamadou Baldé presented Senegal's proposed approach, with approximately 2,000 households for the quantitative component and 120 participants for qualitative research. He stressed the importance of clearly defining the geographical and temporal dimensions of climate exposure, identifying appropriate indicators, and incorporating gender and migration into the analysis. Developing a vulnerability index was

also discussed as a potential tool for measuring differences in climate exposure across households and regions.

Abla Abdel-Latif highlighted Egypt's specific exposure to climate and water-related risks, including heat, flooding, coastal erosion, and pressure on water resources. The proposed survey design considers geographical distribution, climate severity, and poverty levels. The household questionnaire will cover demographics, income and employment, care responsibilities, climate exposure, migration experiences, and the relationship between care burdens and household adaptation decisions. She also stressed the importance of complementing household data with institutional analysis and focusing on highly affected areas to generate concrete and implementable policy recommendations.

Abdallahi El Kerim highlighted how climate change exacerbates existing structural vulnerabilities in Mauritania, particularly through its interaction with urbanization, health infrastructure, and care needs. He stressed the importance of accounting for rural–urban differences and national specificities in the survey design. Existing national statistical data and qualitative research could help document household arrangements and locally specific responses to climate pressures. He also emphasized the need for a common methodological framework that ensures cross-country comparability while allowing sufficient flexibility to reflect Mauritania's territorial and institutional context.

A central methodological issue was how to distinguish climate-related relationships from the effects of income, infrastructure, demographic structure, and other factors shaping care work. Participants discussed comparisons between areas with different exposure levels, the construction of appropriate comparison groups, and, where feasible, the use of temporal information. Because drought, heat, and other pressures differ in duration and intensity, both acute shocks and slow-onset processes require explicit measurement. Survey comparisons can strengthen inference, but causal claims remain conditional on the identification assumptions and the quality of available data.

Participants recommended a focused and manageable questionnaire, prioritizing measures

that directly address the research questions. The survey should combine a harmonized core to ensure cross-country comparability with sufficient flexibility to reflect national specificities. Country teams will review the modules and activity nomenclature, clarify national adaptations, and agree on common data-quality and ethical standards before fieldwork.

The session concluded with an emphasis on the need to connect measurement to implementation. The ultimate objective of the research is not only to document the climate-care nexus, but to generate evidence that can inform scalable, context-specific, and practical public policies across Morocco, Senegal, Egypt, and Mauritania.

KEY INSIGHTS

- Survey design must balance cross-country comparability with national specificities.
- Causal identification requires strong sampling, counterfactuals, and appropriate controls.
- Quantitative and qualitative approaches should complement each other.
- The survey should remain focused on producing actionable policy evidence.
- Harmonized data across four countries will support comparative and scalable recommendations.



CLOSING REMARKS

Speakers

Colleen Duggan
Team Leader, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, International Development Research Centre

Nouzha Chekrouni
Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South

The closing remarks brought together the main messages of the workshop and highlighted the importance of continuing the dialogue between research, policy, and international cooperation.

Colleen Duggan expressed her appreciation to the researchers and partners who contributed to the workshop, particularly those who traveled from Senegal and Egypt, as well as to the Policy Center for the New South for organizing the meeting. She expressed enthusiasm for the next stages of the project and its potential to generate meaningful and innovative evidence on the climate-care nexus. She also thanked the interpreters for their important contribution throughout the workshop.

Nouzha Chekrouni closed the day by thanking participants, moderators, interpreters, the

organizing team, and institutional partners in Morocco and internationally. She emphasized that climate change cannot be understood only through environmental indicators such as drought, water stress, or infrastructure pressures. Its effects are ultimately felt by households and communities, shaping livelihoods, daily life, and the organization of care.

The closing remarks emphasized that climate change cannot be understood solely through environmental and economic indicators, as its consequences also affect household livelihoods, daily activities, and the organization of care. Attention was drawn to the disproportionate responsibilities borne by women and the limited recognition of unpaid care in economic statistics and public policy. The speakers highlighted the importance of strengthening the evidence base and maintaining dialogue between researchers, policymakers, and institutions. The workshop concluded by reaffirming the commitment to advance research on the climate–care nexus across Morocco, Egypt, Senegal, and Mauritania, with a view to informing more inclusive and context-sensitive policy responses.



STRATEGIC TAKEAWAYS

1. **Climate pressures can intensify the unequal and largely unmeasured costs of unpaid care.** Unpaid domestic and care work supports households and economic activity but remains insufficiently captured in conventional statistics and disproportionately falls on women. Climate shocks, resource scarcity, and disruptions to essential services can increase these responsibilities, while adaptation measures may leave additional burdens unresolved or create new ones. These adjustments carry economic and social costs that should be considered when assessing household resilience.

2. **Investment in care must extend beyond infrastructure to ensure last-mile access.** Childcare, healthcare, water, energy, and transport services can support economic participation, employment, human capital, and climate resilience. However, their benefits depend on households' ability to access and use them. Investment decisions should therefore account for affordability, service delivery, maintenance, and last-mile costs, rather than infrastructure provision alone.

3. **Integrating care into climate action requires moving beyond siloed policymaking.** Relevant ministries and public institutions should jointly define priorities, design interventions, and allocate resources, rather than coordinate policies developed separately. Incorporating care into National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, and public investment frameworks requires explicit consideration of care-related needs, costs, and benefits. Clear institutional responsibilities, appropriate financing mechanisms, and implementation adapted to territorial needs are essential to translate these commitments into accessible and reliable services.

4. **Better evidence is essential to turn policy recognition into action.** Care work, climate pressures, and adaptation measures need to be examined jointly to understand how environmental changes affect household responsibilities and how different responses may reduce or redistribute unpaid work. This requires research designs that align analytical objectives with time-use and climate-exposure measurement, appropriate sampling, and credible comparison strategies. A harmonized framework, allowing for national specificities and complemented by qualitative research, can strengthen the validity of cross-country findings and their relevance for practical, context-specific policy recommendations.







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