

# Where should feminist foreign policy invest?

Solveig's Project



# Introduction

An increasing number of (western) countries claim to take a feminist foreign policy approach. Sweden and Germany are particularly vocal regarding their agenda on the intersection of development and foreign policy and seek to strengthen opportunities for girls and women in partner countries.

The project applies basic unsupervised learning techniques to identify clusters of partner countries.  
It seeks to explore underlying patterns to inform allocation decisions.



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black blazer over a light-colored top, is pointing at a whiteboard. The whiteboard displays several charts, including a pie chart and a bar chart. She is standing in a room with a textured white wall. In the foreground, there is a white table with a laptop and some papers. Another person is partially visible on the right side of the frame, also looking at the whiteboard.

# Data review and access

## What are countries couching under feminist foreign policy?

- Equal opportunities for girls and women (education, labour market, digitalization)
- Representation in parliament & management
- (Access to reproductive health)

## What data is availabe

- Gender-responsive and disaggregated data is patchy
- Choose World Bank data due to its wealth of indicators and to have unified country codes
- Accessed via API and SDG data portal (CSV download)

# Indicators

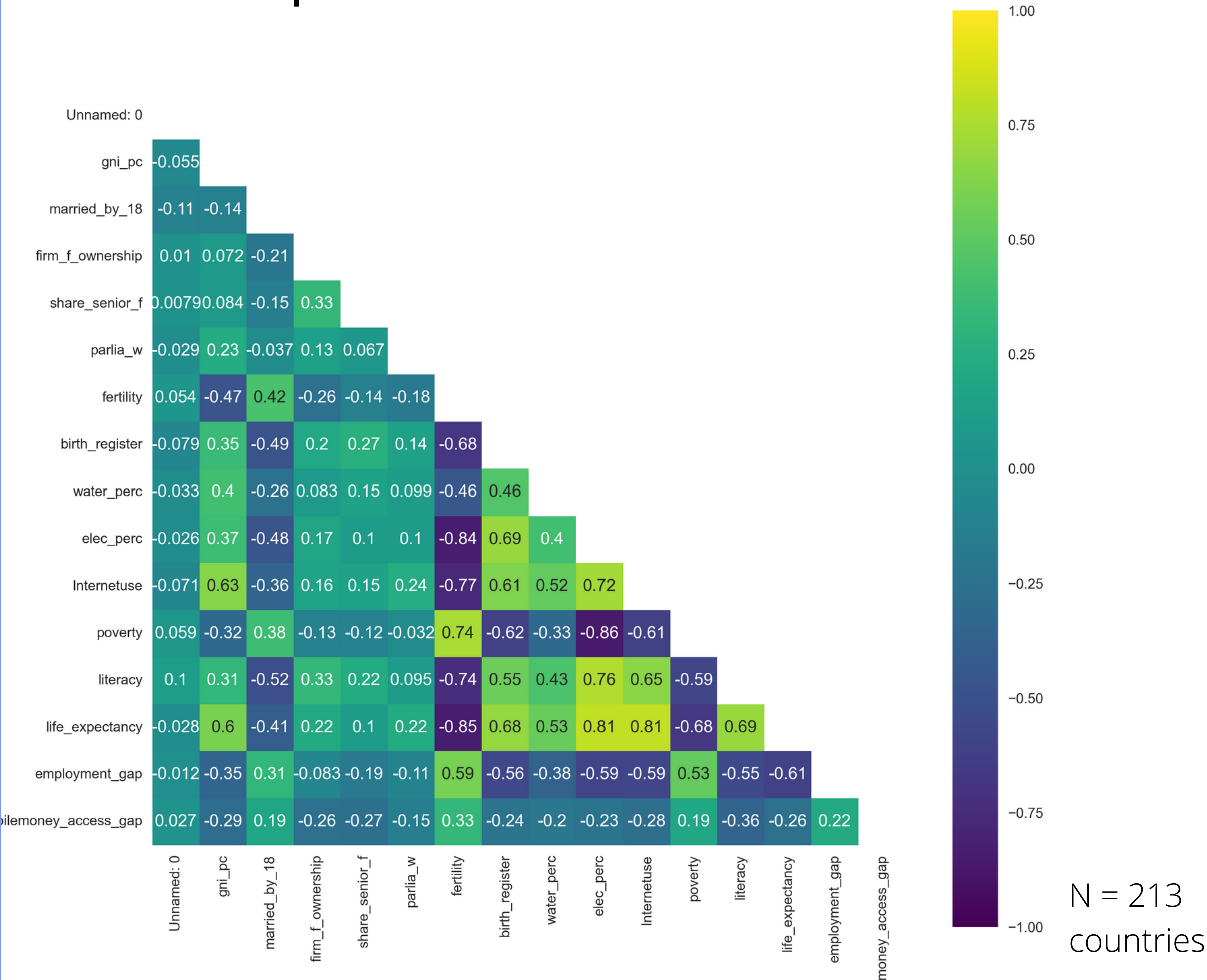
- **fertility** - Number of registered live birth per women (mean past 10 years)
- **gni\_pc** - Gross national income per capita (last available year)
- **life\_expectancy** - Life expectancy at birth (mean of past 10 years)
- **married\_by\_18** - Women married by the age of 18 (as percentage between 18 and 24, 2013-2020)
- **mobile\_money\_access\_gap** - difference between mobile money account under male and female name (per)
- **employment\_gap** - difference between male and female employment rate (per)
- **firm\_f\_ownership** - Firms with female participation in ownership (percent of firms 2011-2018)
- **poverty** - percentage of population under global (severe) poverty line (mean last 10 years)
- **share\_senior\_f** - female share of employees in senior and middle management (percent of middle and senior positions 2011-2017)
- **parlia\_w** - percent of parliamentarian seats held by women (2020)
- **married\_by\_18** - Women married by the age of 18 (as percentage between 18 and 24, 2013-2020)
- **mobile\_money\_access\_gap** - difference between mobile money account under male and female name
- **employment\_gap** - difference between male and female employment rate (per)
- **firm\_f\_ownership** - Firms with female participation in ownership (percent of firms 2011-2018)
- **fertility** - Number of registered live birth per women (mean past 10 years)
- **birth\_registry** - percent of children registered (mean last 10 years)



# Observations

- Serval variables are highly correlated
- Fertilty stands out as strongly negative correlation with 'traditional development' indicators
- Poverty and fertility go hand in hand

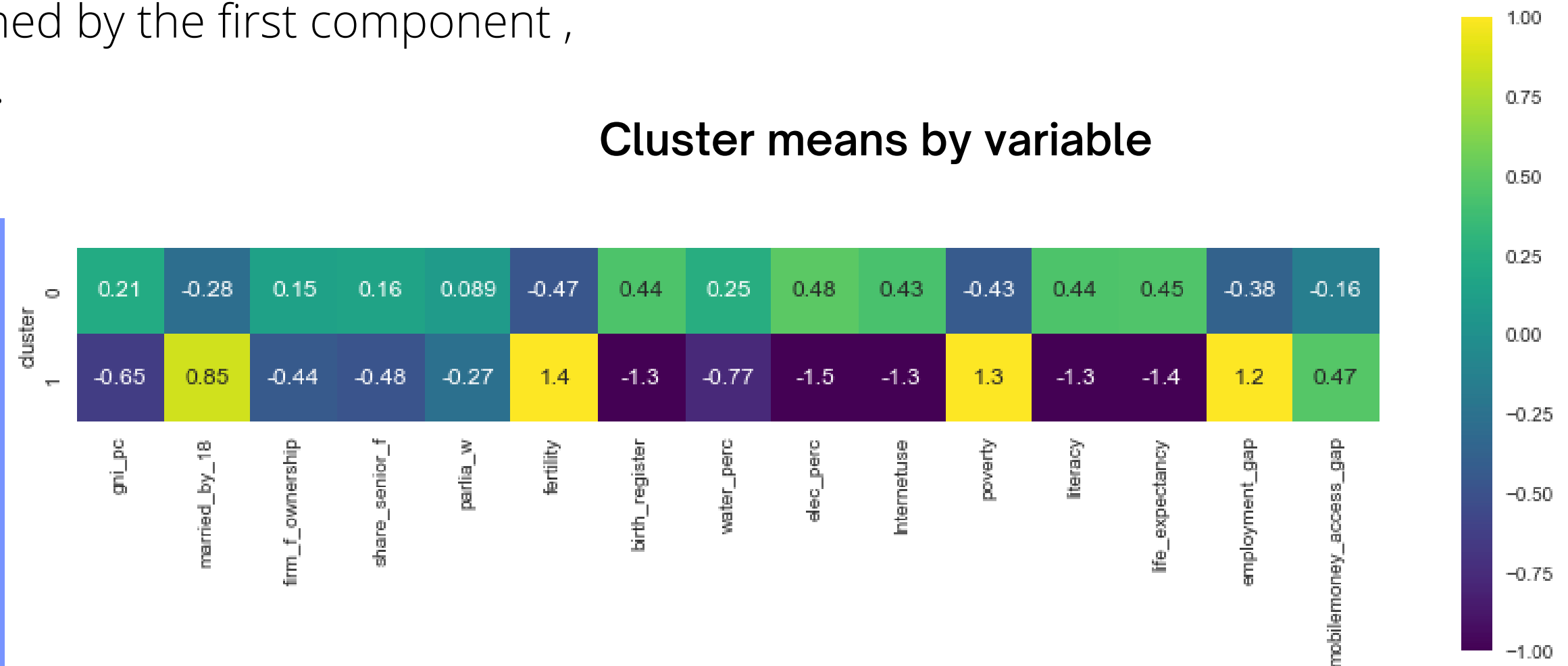
## Correlation plot of cluster variables



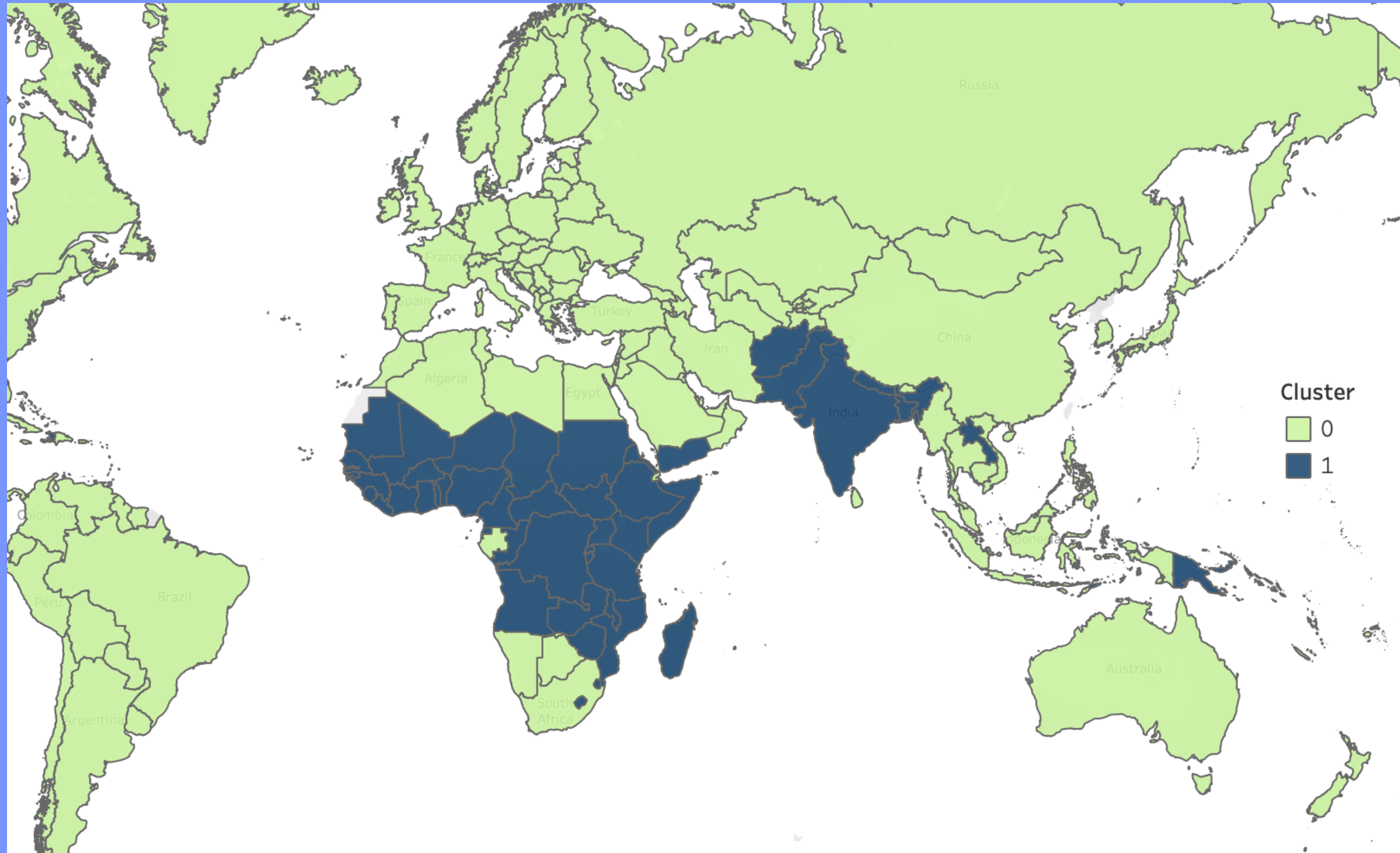
# Applying kmeans clustering to identify similar countries

- Only two clusters
- List of countries basically a list of 'poor countries'
- Applied same procedure without poverty variable and on gender-related variables only, with the same results (except of Gabon)
- PCA indicated that over 40% are explained by the first component , second component can only explain 9%.

Cluster means by variable



# Clusters Mapped



# Conclusion

- Data is limiting (see below)
- Weak analysis and subsequently inconclusive

# Suggestions

- Live up to international commitments to fight poverty and incorporate a gender-lens
- Invest in (access to) reproductive health for marginalized women
- Invest in (access to) education
- Invest in data standardisation

# Limitations

- Multicollinearity
- Micro-numerosity
- Most data is patchy and highly aggregated (the poorer the country the less reliable)



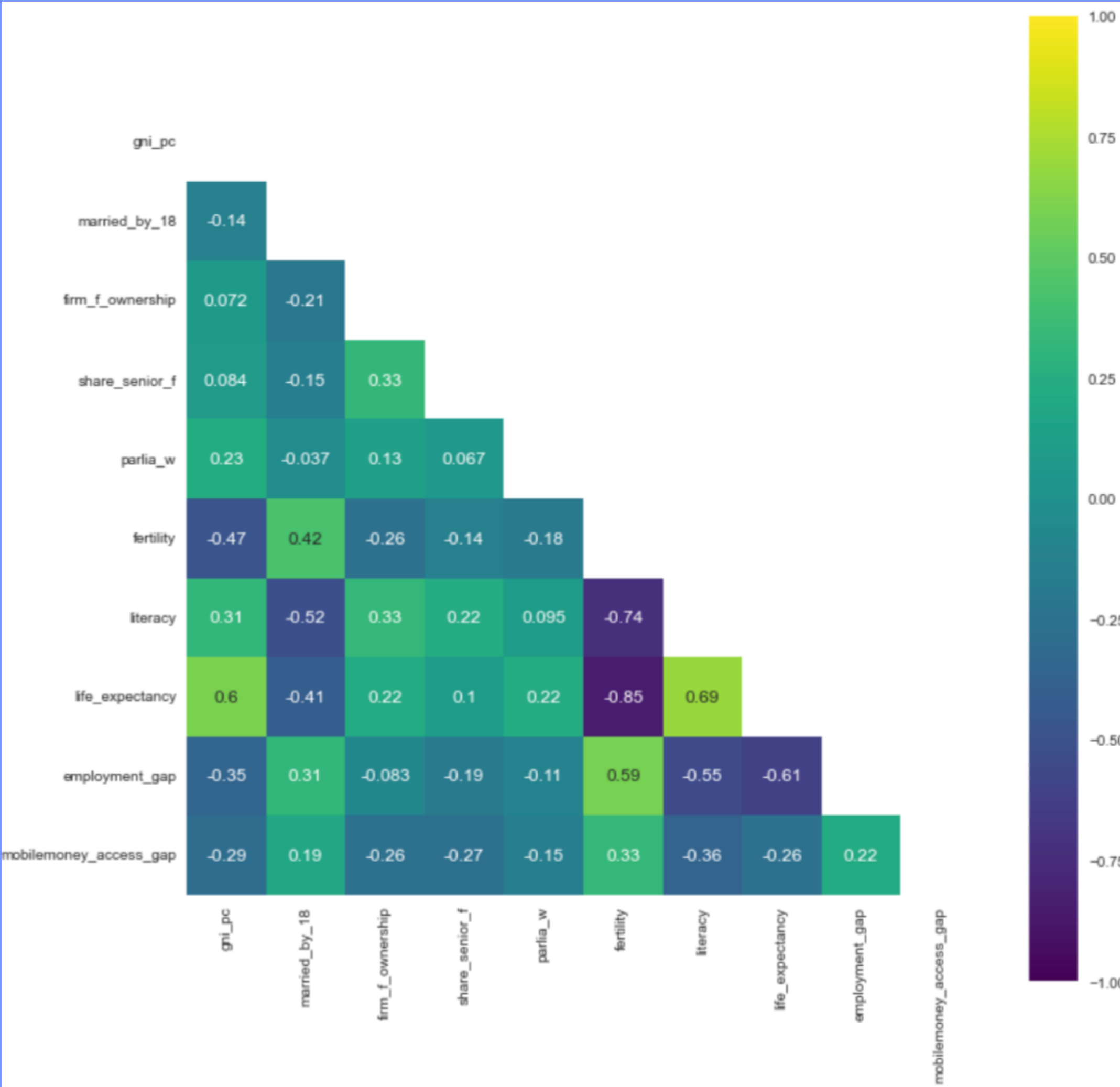
# Thanks for your attention

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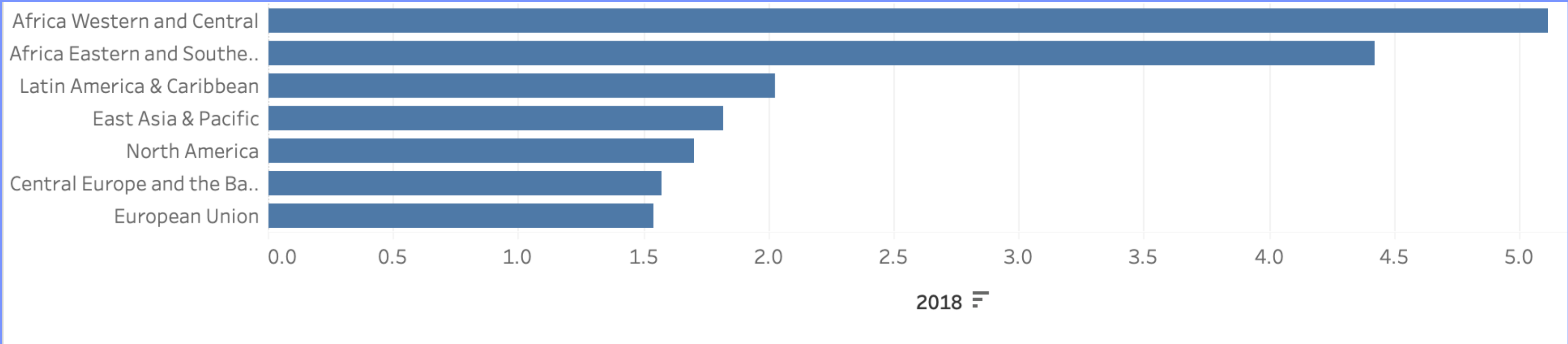


# Correlation plot of cluster variables - Gender-related only

- female representation is only moderately related to income



# Fertility by region (2018)





# Fertility map (2018 -CHEEEEEEEETING!)

