



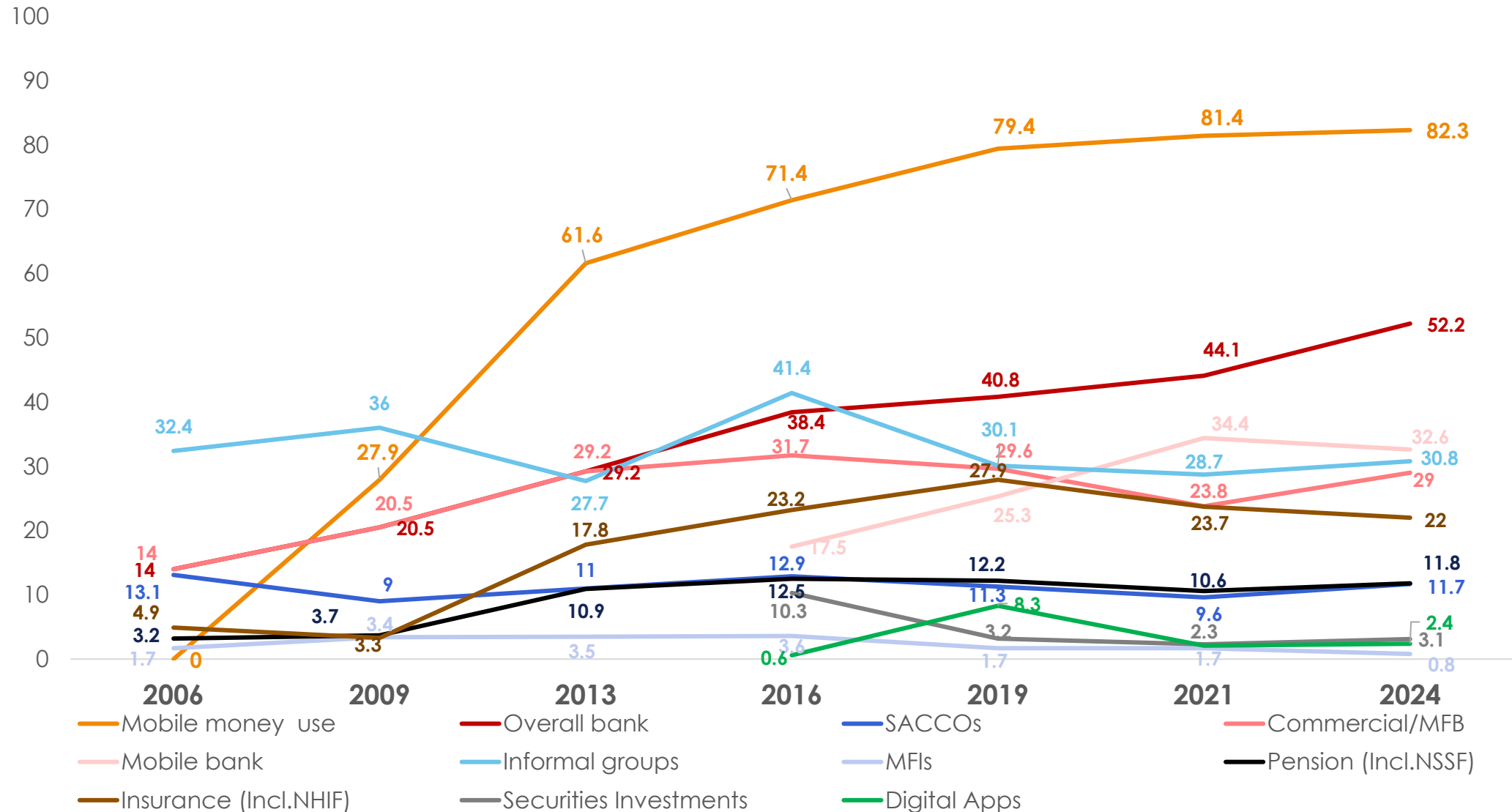
Designing for resilience:

Integrating financial health
in digital credit products

Presented by Tamara Cook at the 2nd
National Credit Market Convention,
Naivasha, September 2025



The mix of financial providers have evolved....

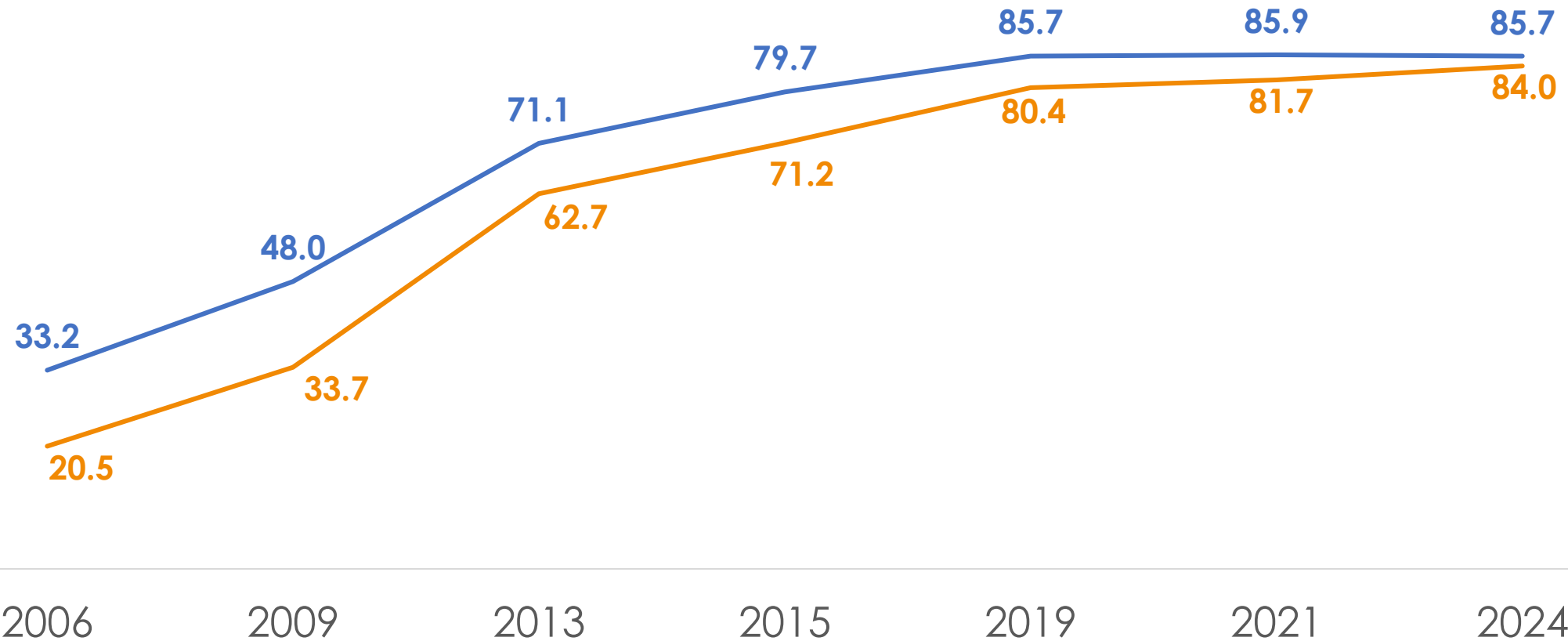


Base: Total adult population in 2024 = 28,142,069

Formal Access gender gap is closing, driven by mobile money

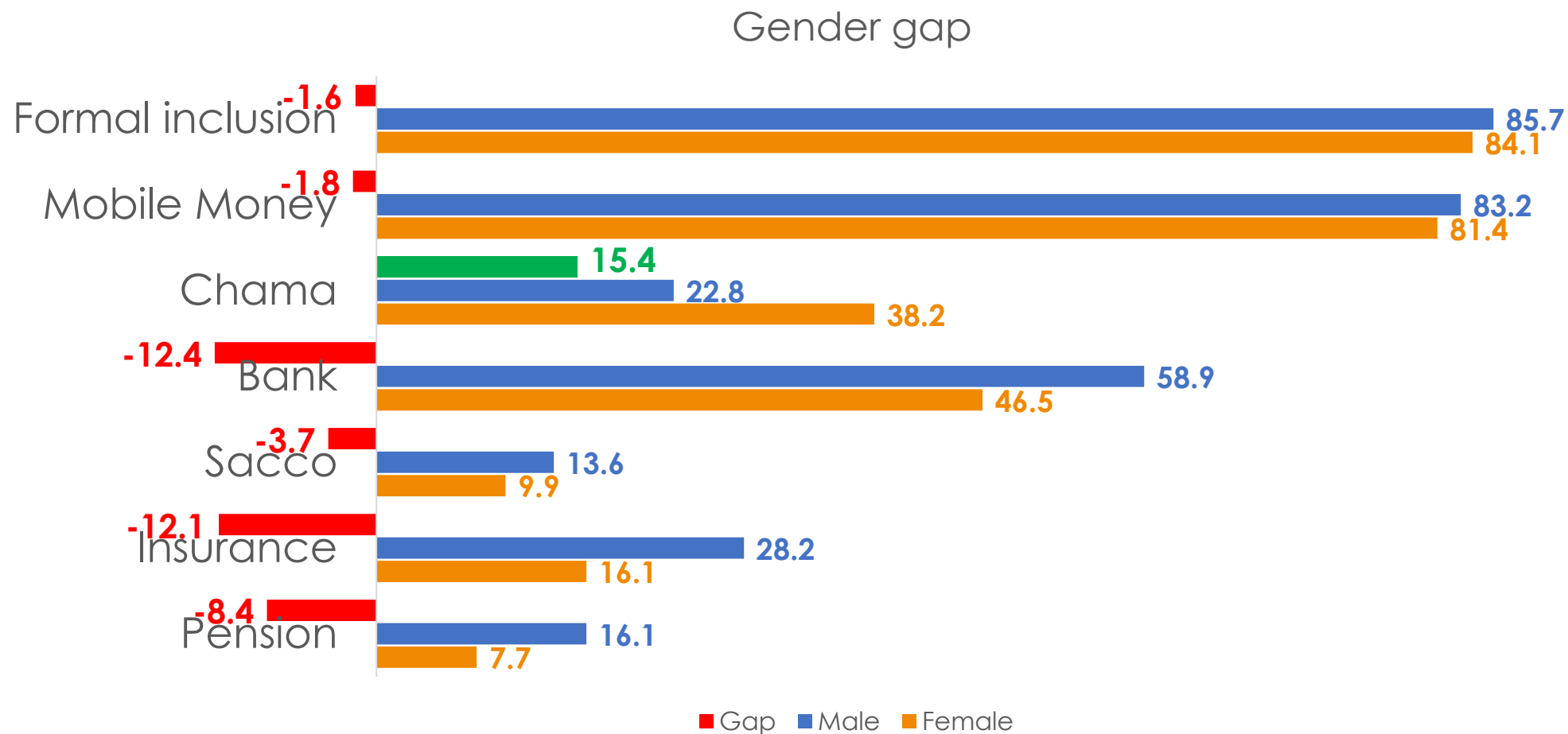
Formal account ownership by gender
% of adults 18+ (2006-2024)

— Male — Female



FinAccess 2024 base: Male population= 13,648,460; Female population = 14,493,609

Although the gender gap across differs significantly across financial services



Source: [FinAccess 2024](#)

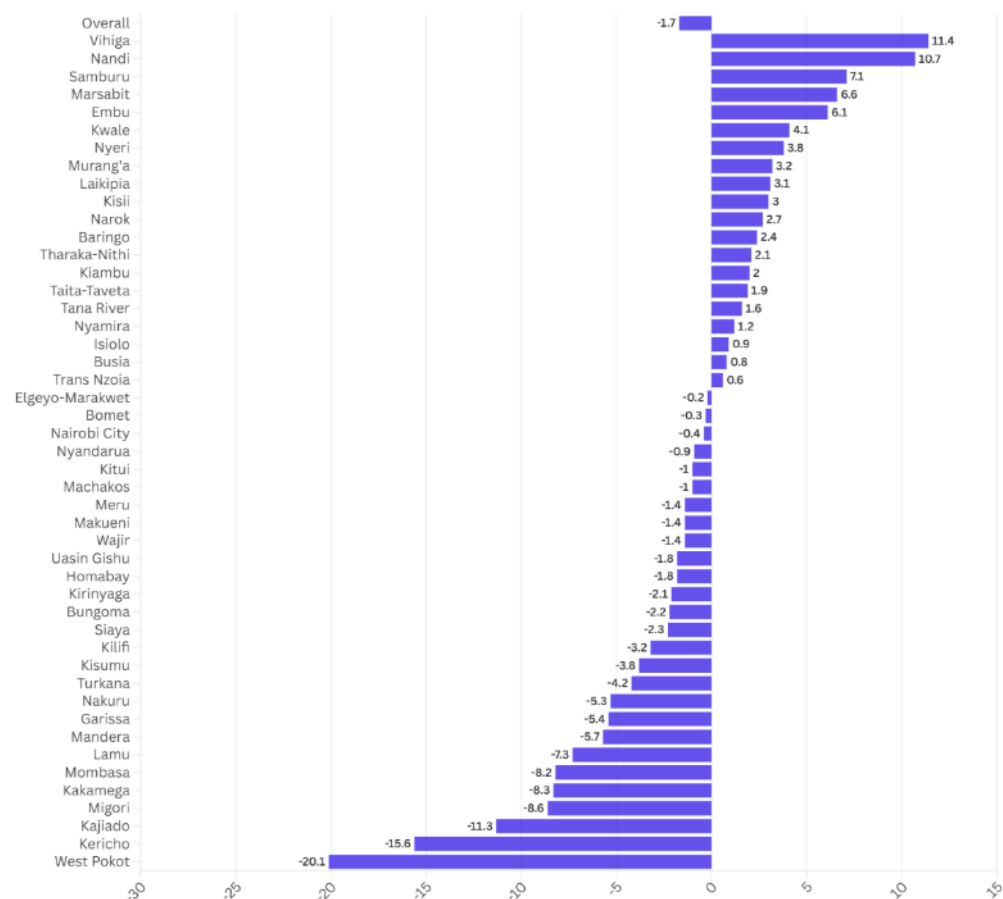
Base: Men 18+ = 13,648,460; Women 18+ = 14,493,609



The Shape of the 2024 Gender Gap

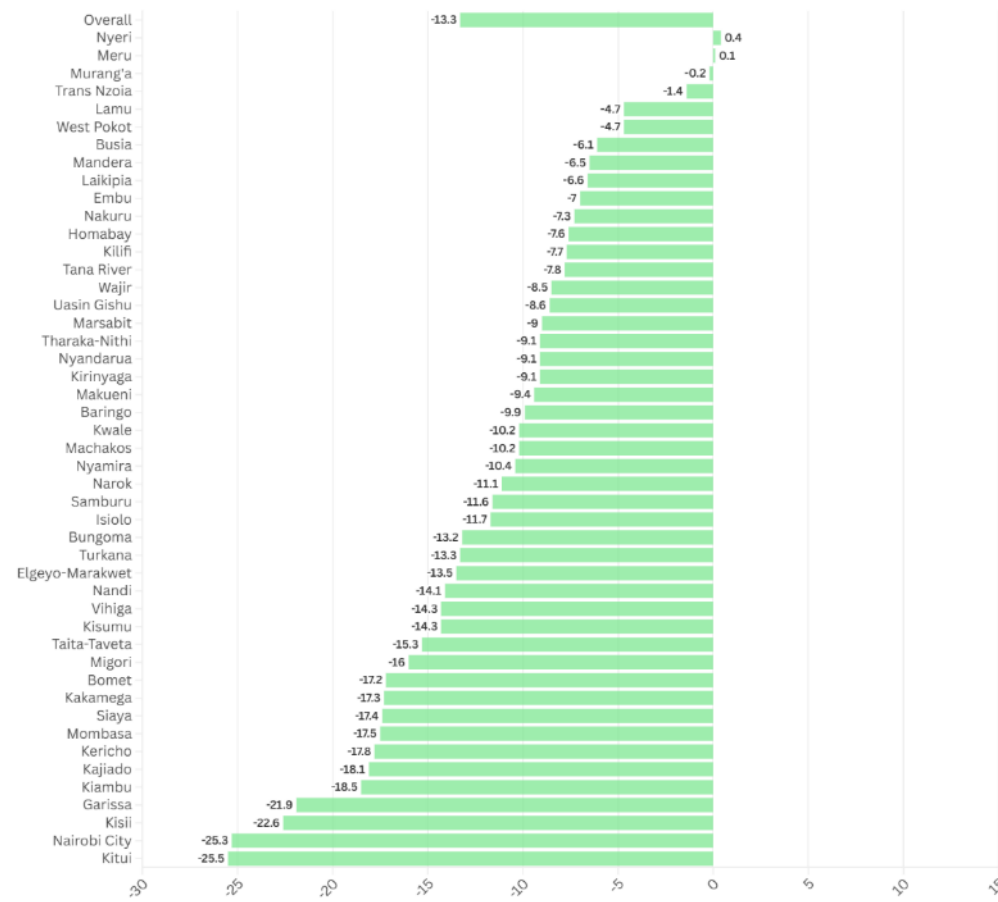
Formal financial inclusion gender gap

Formal inclusion



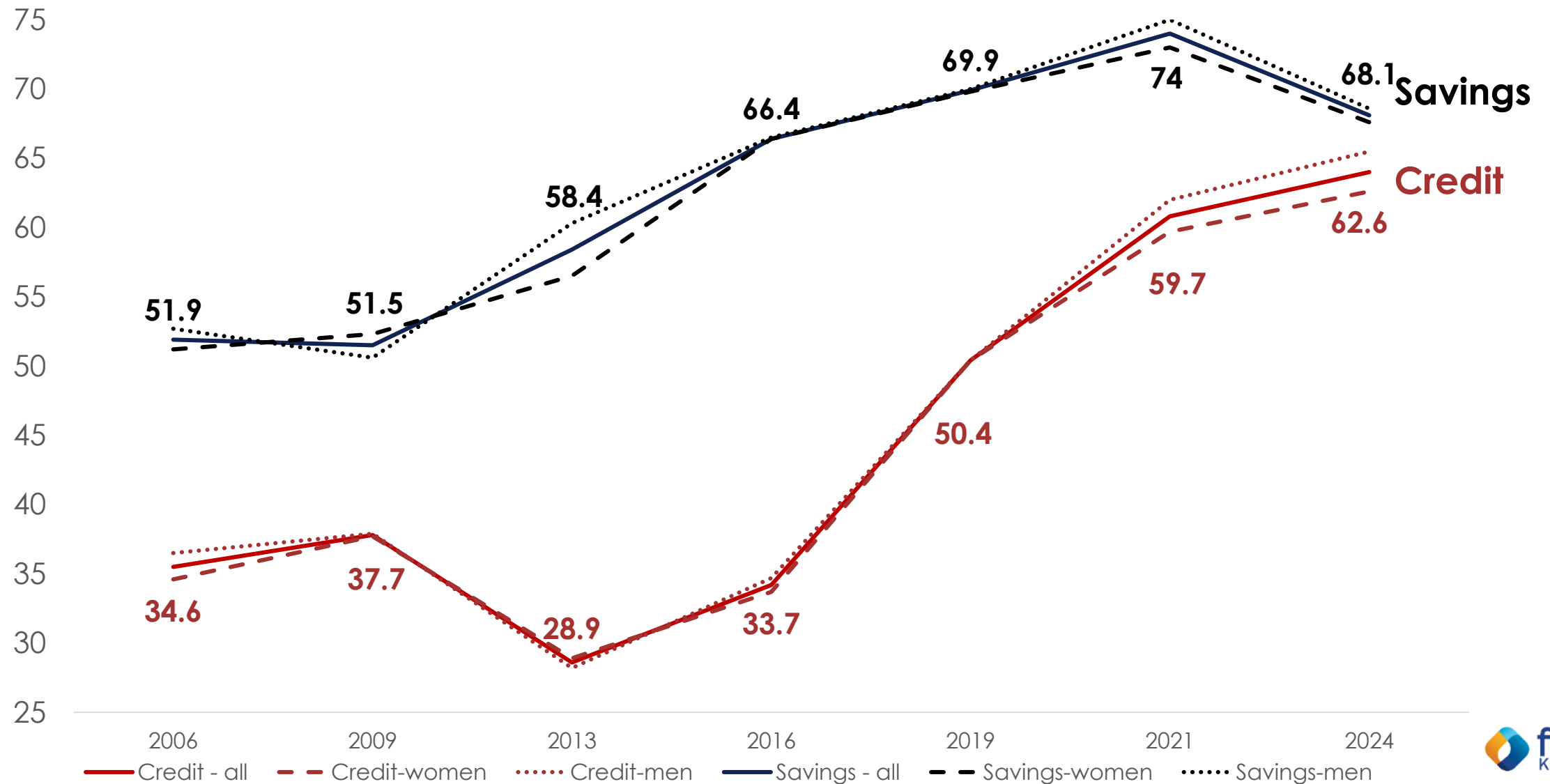
Traditional bank gender gap

Traditional bank



Rising credit but reduced savings

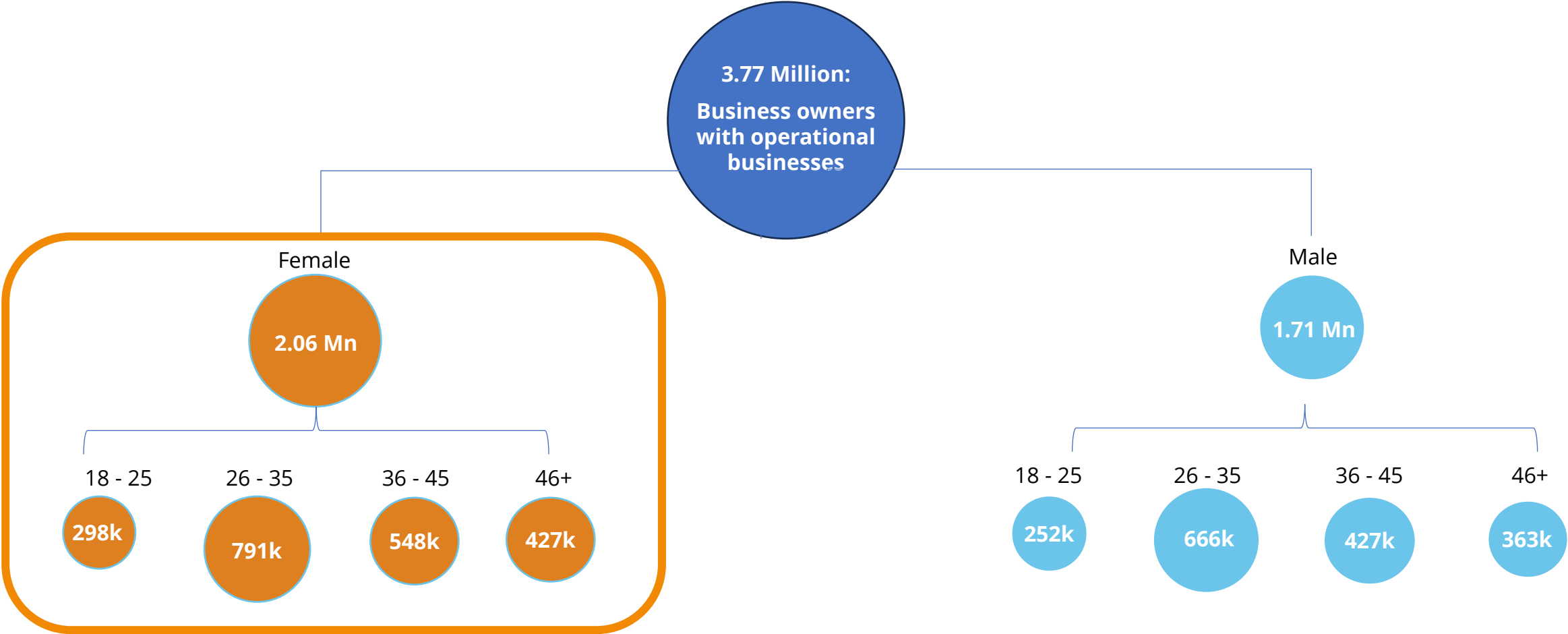
Men & women save & borrow at similar rates!



There are more female than male business owners & the largest segments of business owners are between 26 – 35 years old

BUSINESS OWNER SEGMENTS – GENDER AND AGE: 2024

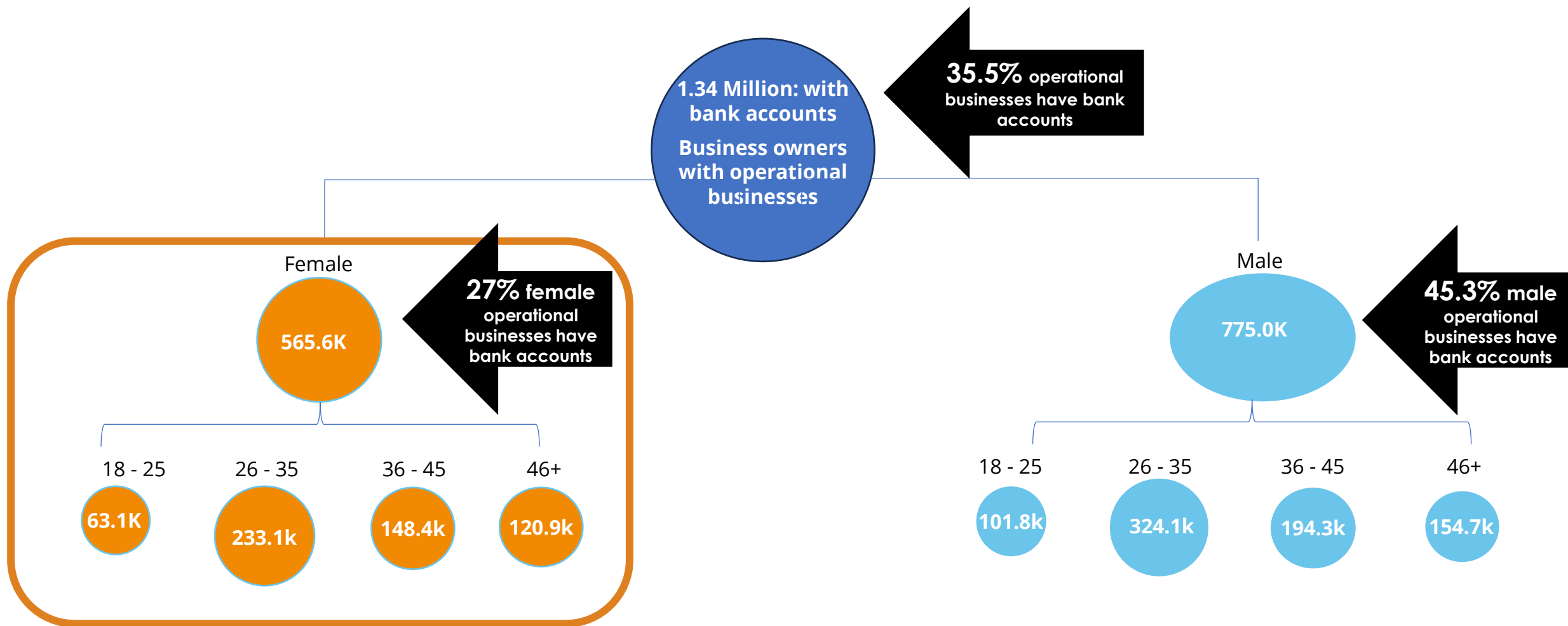
(18+; main source of income is own business / self-employed, operational businesses)



Bank account: 27% of women with operational businesses have bank accounts compared 45.3% of men business owners

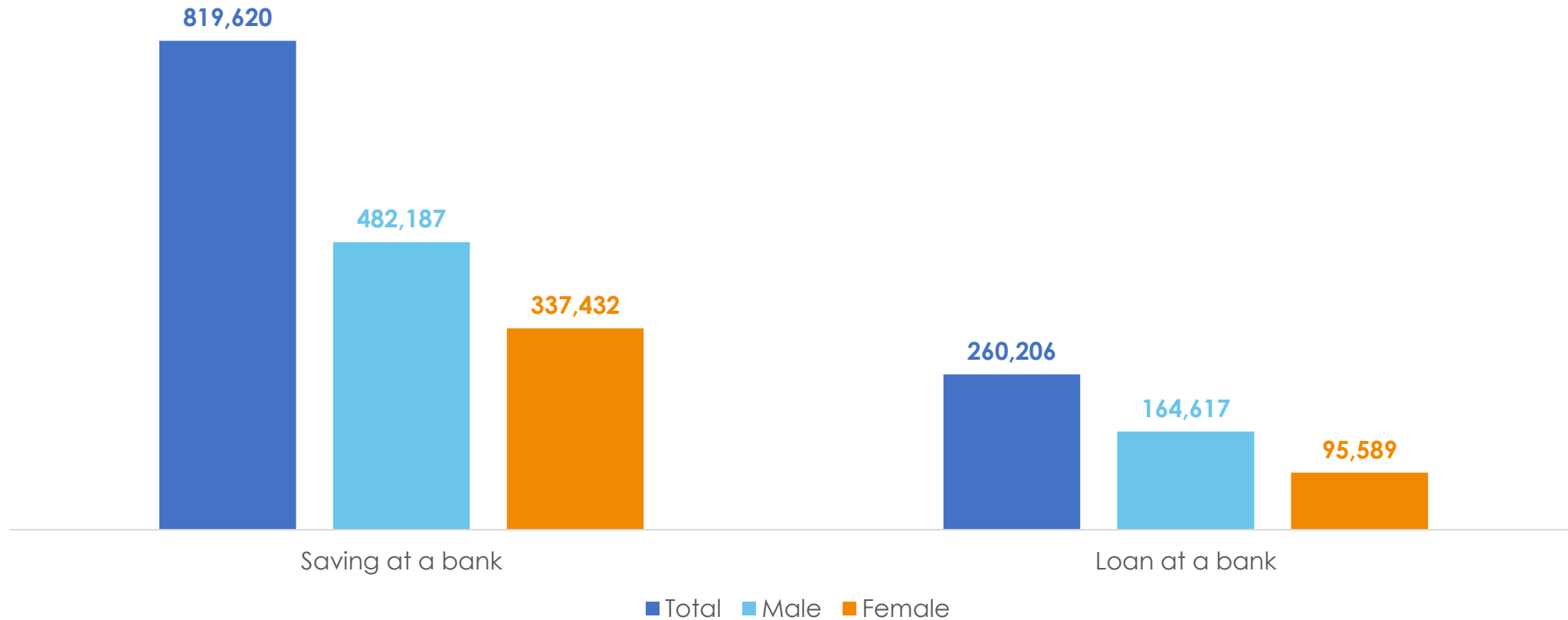
BUSINESS OWNER SEGMENTS – Bank account GENDER AND AGE: 2024

(18+; main source of income is own business / self-employed, operational businesses)



Use of bank credit and savings; low uptake of loans

MSMEs with bank accounts

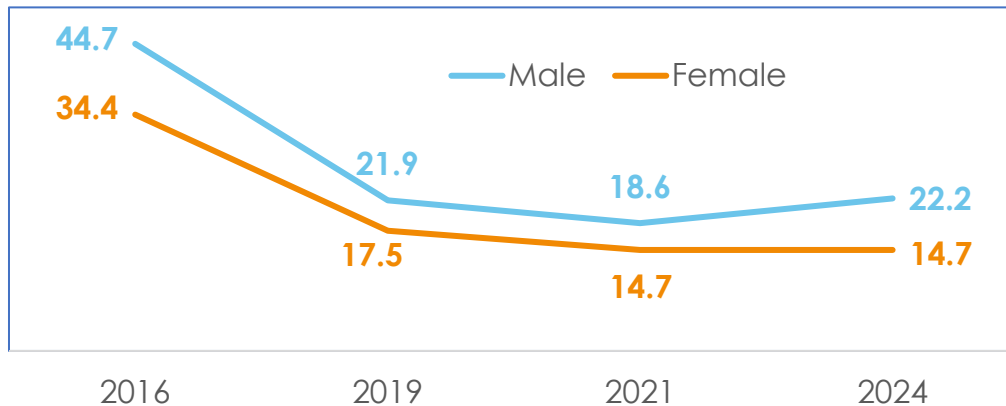
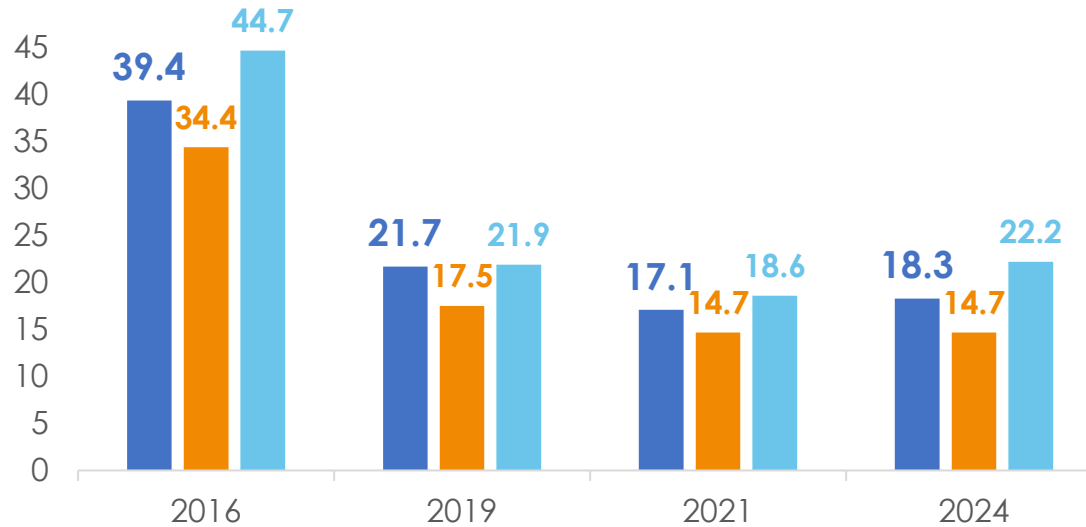


Total MSMEs with bank accounts = 1,342,992
Male MSMEs with bank accounts = 775,045
Women MSMEs with bank accounts = 567,947

Financial health remains low with gender gap

Financial health

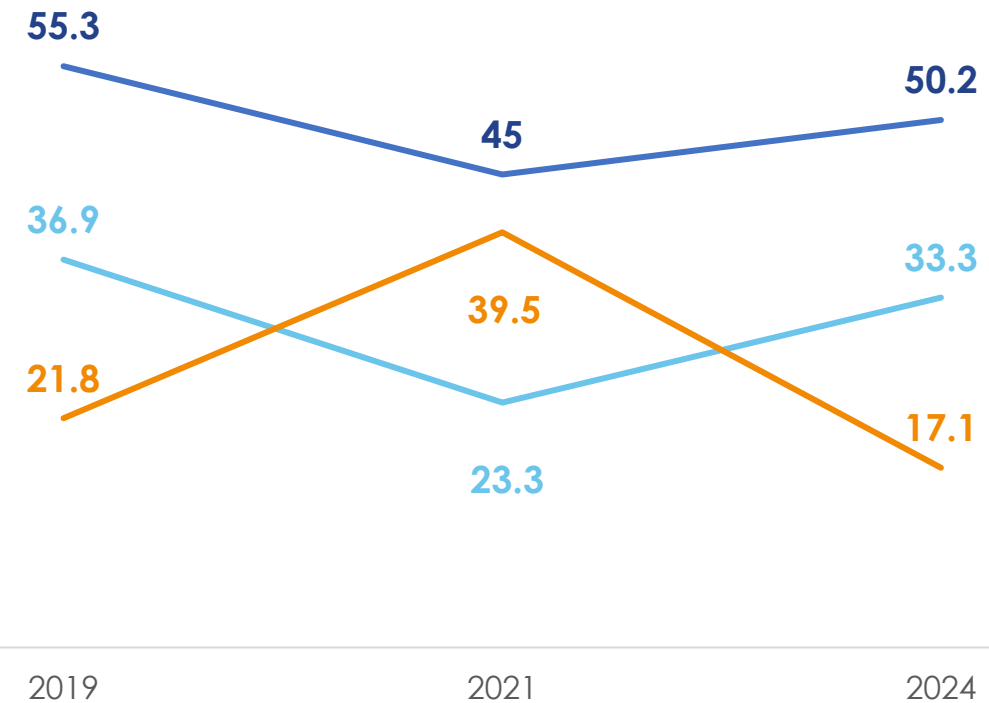
Population women Men



Creating value through **inclusive finance**

Population

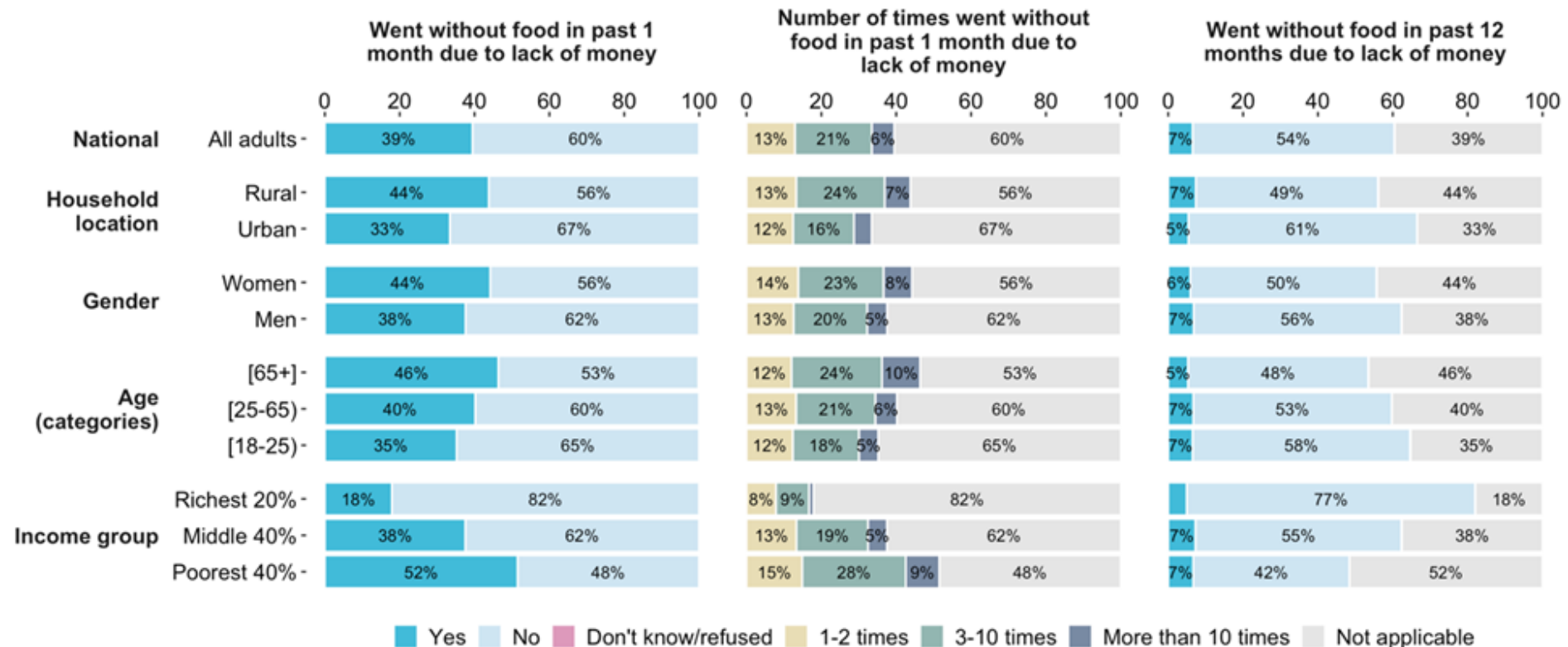
Adults with ability to manage day to day
Adults with ability to cope with risk
Adults with ability to invest in livelihoods



Too many Kenyans are “sleeping hungry”

Food security

Adults (% 18+)

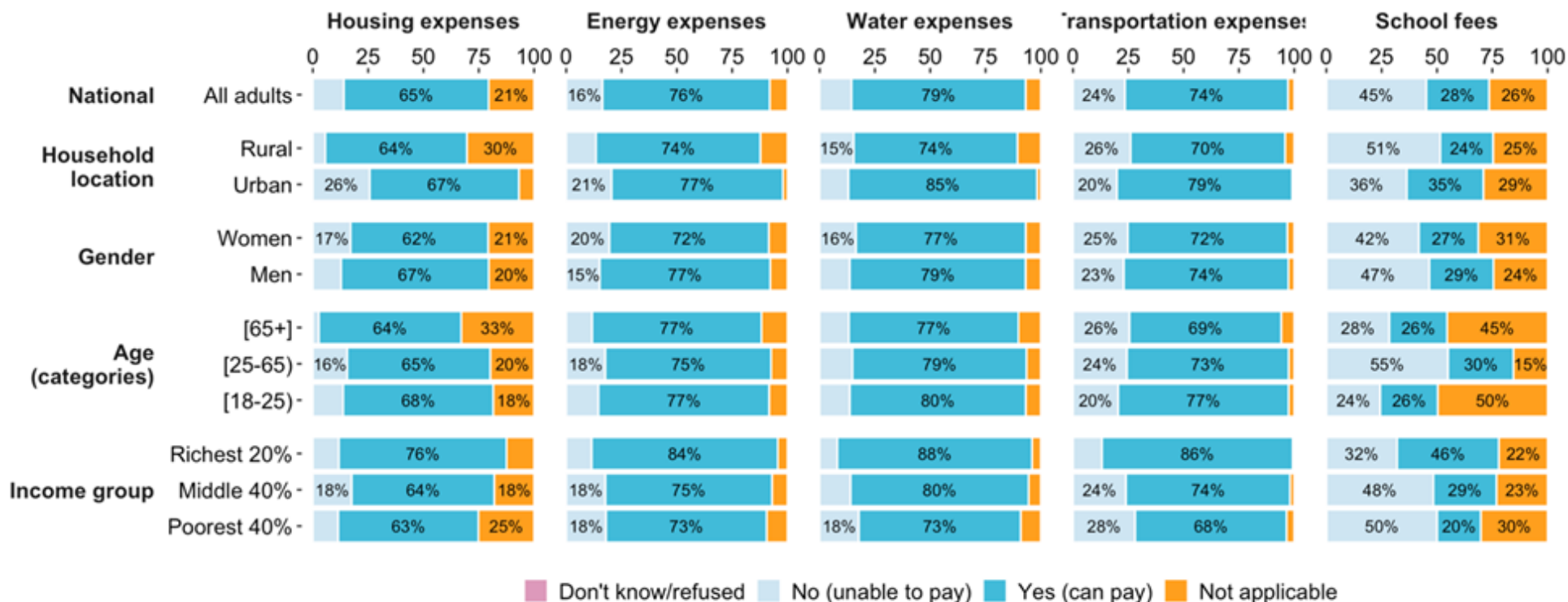


Source: Author's own calculations using the 2024 FinAccess survey. Notes: The results in this figure are based on the following three questions: (1) In the past 1 month, did you or any household member have to eat fewer meals in a day or go without food due to a lack of money? (2) If yes, how often did this happen? (3) (If no) In the last 12 months, did you or any household member have to eat fewer meals in a day or go without food due to a lack of money?

It is hard to make ends meet

Ability to pay core non-food expenses

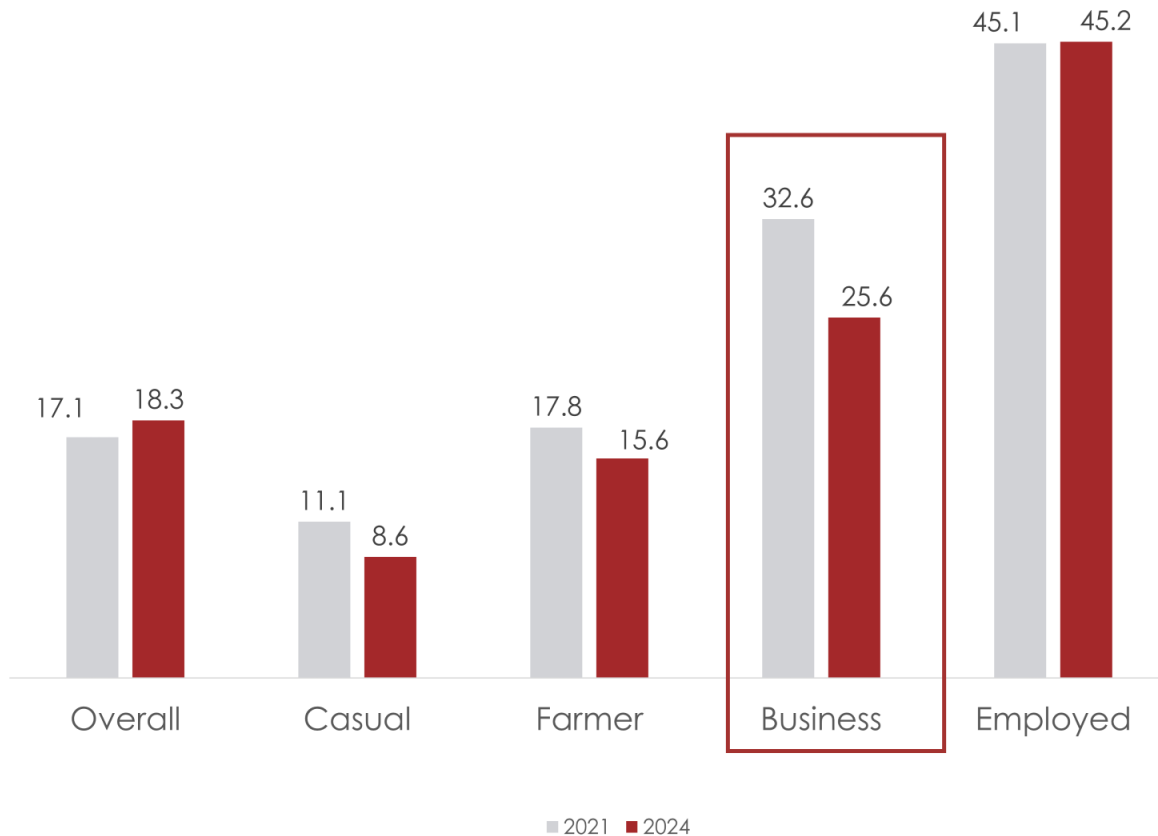
Adults (% 18+)



Source: Author's own calculations using the 2024 FinAccess survey. Notes: The results in this figure are based on two questions, (1) Over the past 1 month, were you or any household member unable to pay for any expenses related to the following? (a) Housing, (b) Energy for heating or cooking, (c) Water for drinking or cleaning, (d) Transportation costs [(a)-(d) are all Yes/No questions]; and (2) In the past 12 months, how often have you had a child sent home for lack of school fees? For the purposes of this figure, the 'Often' or 'Sometimes' responses relating to the frequency of child being sent home from school due to arrears on school fee payments are recoded to 'No' as in 'Unable to pay' to align it with the other expenditure categories.

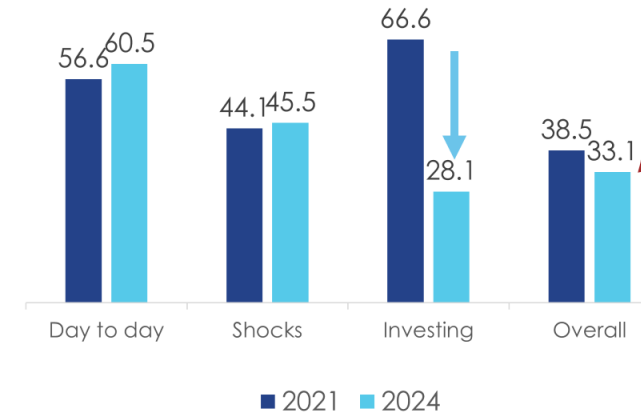
How might we help women MSMEs with financial solutions for investing?

Financial Health by main livelihood groups

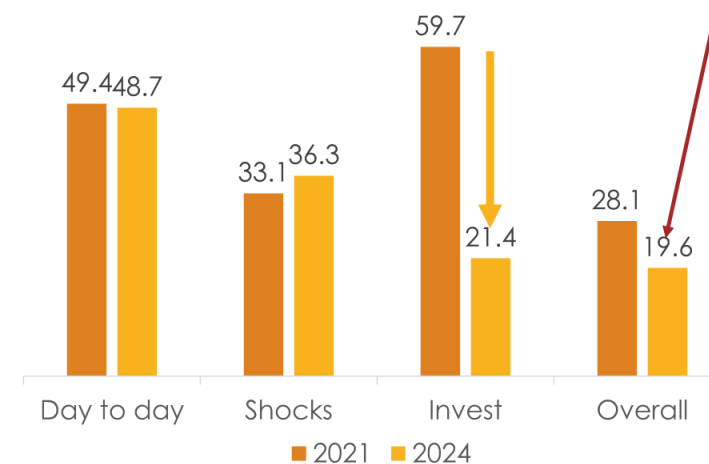


Creating value through **inclusive finance**

Male-business owners



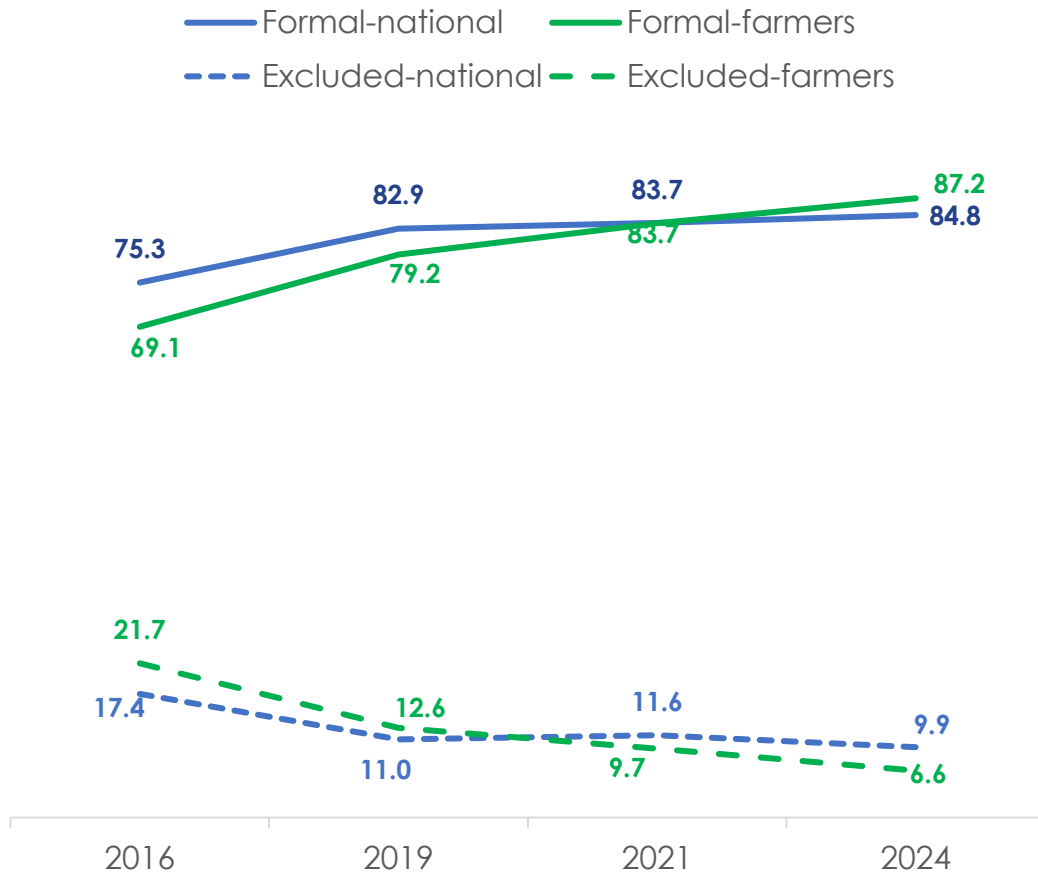
Female-business owners



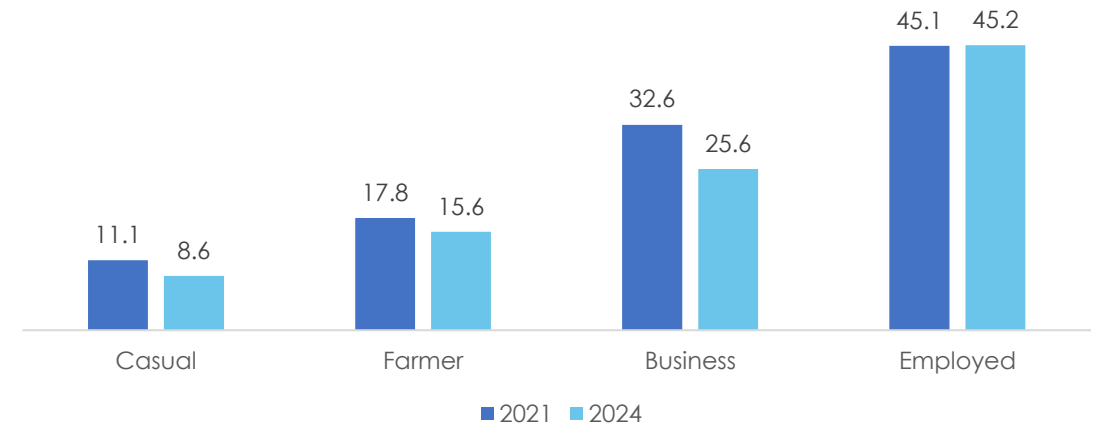
Financial health GAP of **13.5%** of male vs. female MSMEs!

Smallholder farmers fare worse on financial health even as inclusion increases

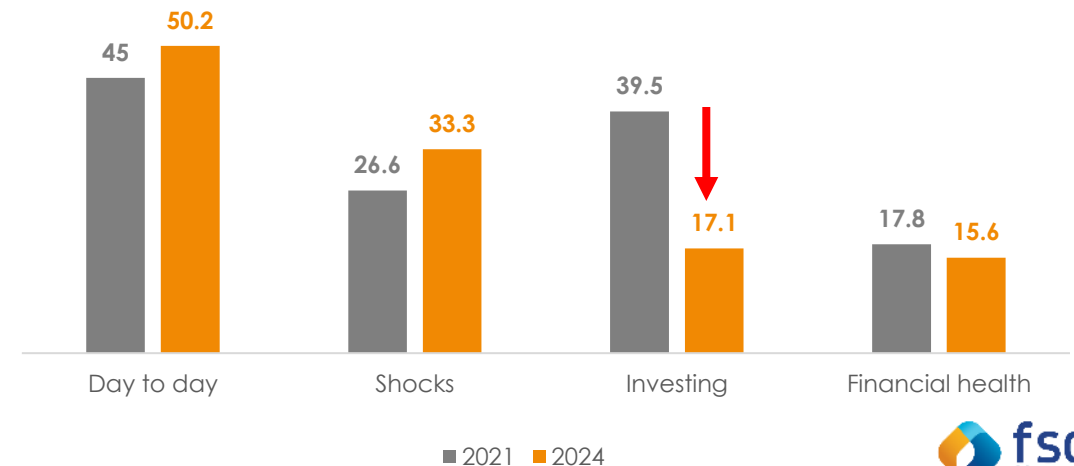
Financial inclusion



Financial Health by main livelihood groups

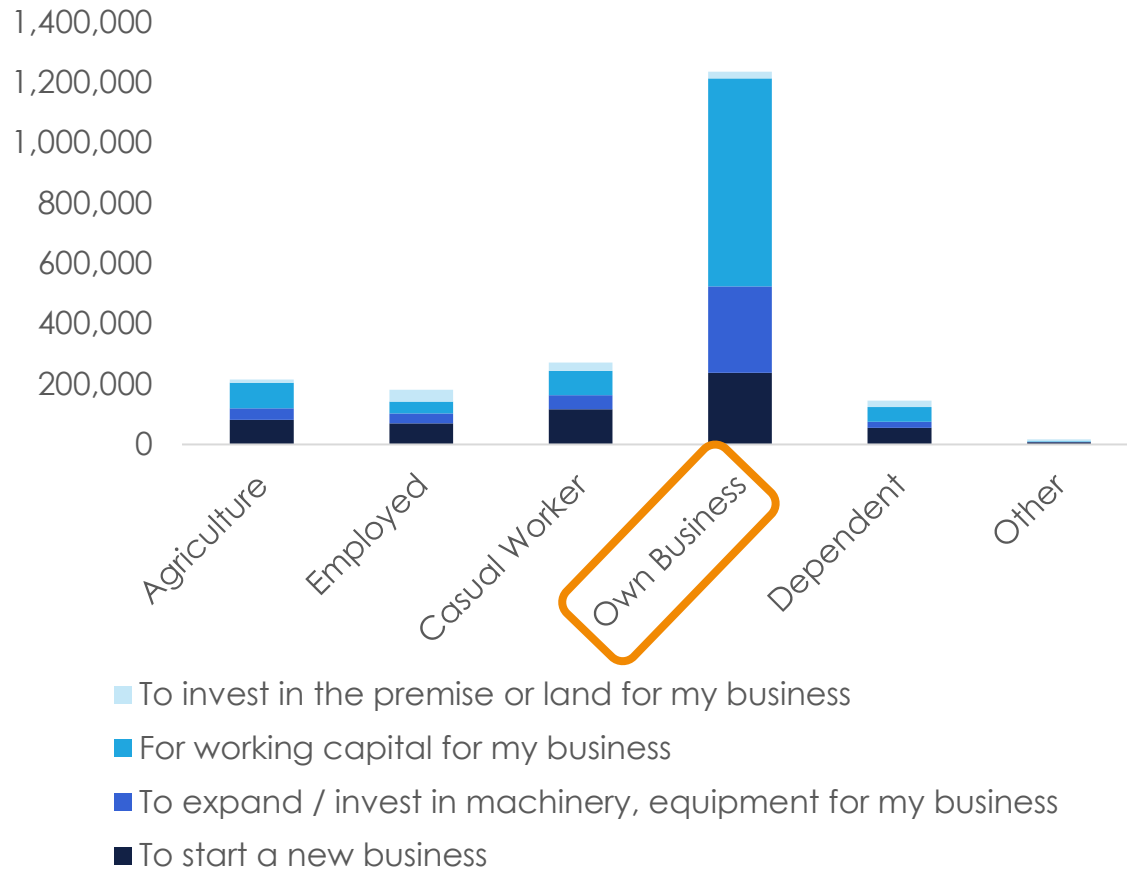


Farmers- financial health by domain



How might we help all farmers and enterprises access appropriate loans if they have a need or opportunity?

All livelihoods take loans for
“business purposes”



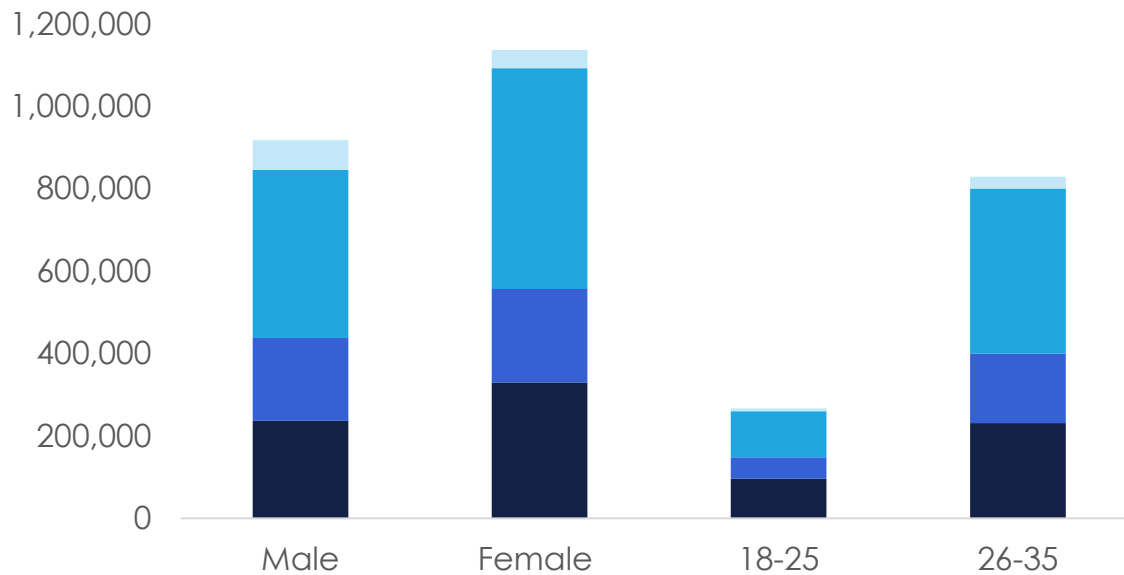
Creating value through **inclusive finance**

All livelihoods take loans for
Agriculture



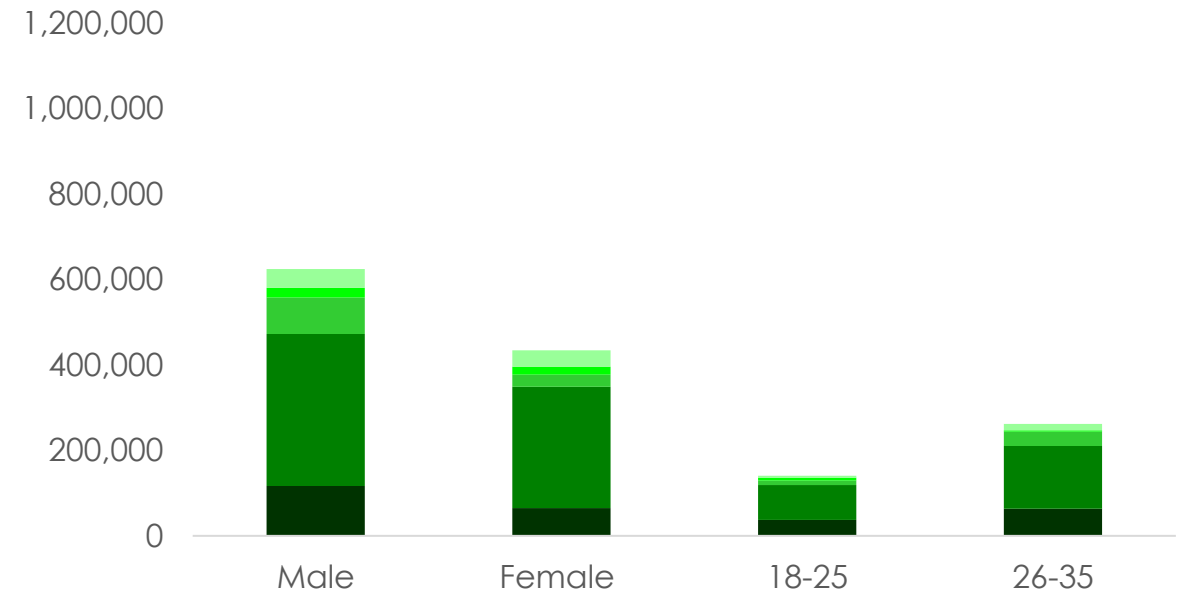
By gender and age

Business loans



- To invest in the premise or land for my business
- For working capital for my business
- To expand / invest in machinery, equipment for my business
- To start a new business

Ag loans

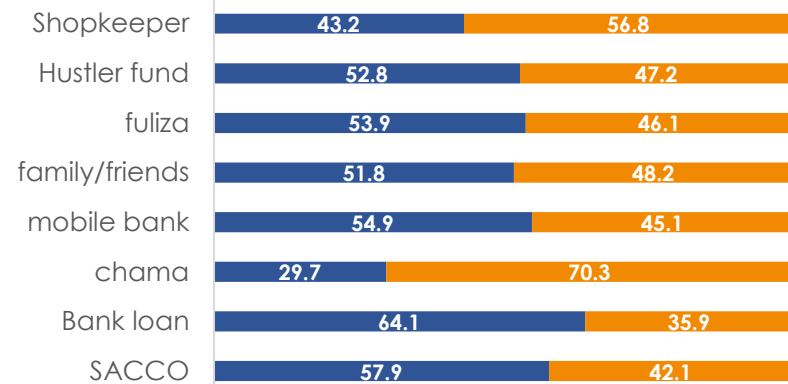


- Pay for farm labour
- Purchase ag implements (e.g. plough, hoe, tractor)
- Ag improvements (e.g. Green house, irrigation)
- Purchase ag inputs (e.g. seeds, fertiliser)
- Purchase livestock

% of loans by demographics eg 43.2% of shopkeeper loans were taken by men and 56.8% were taken by women...

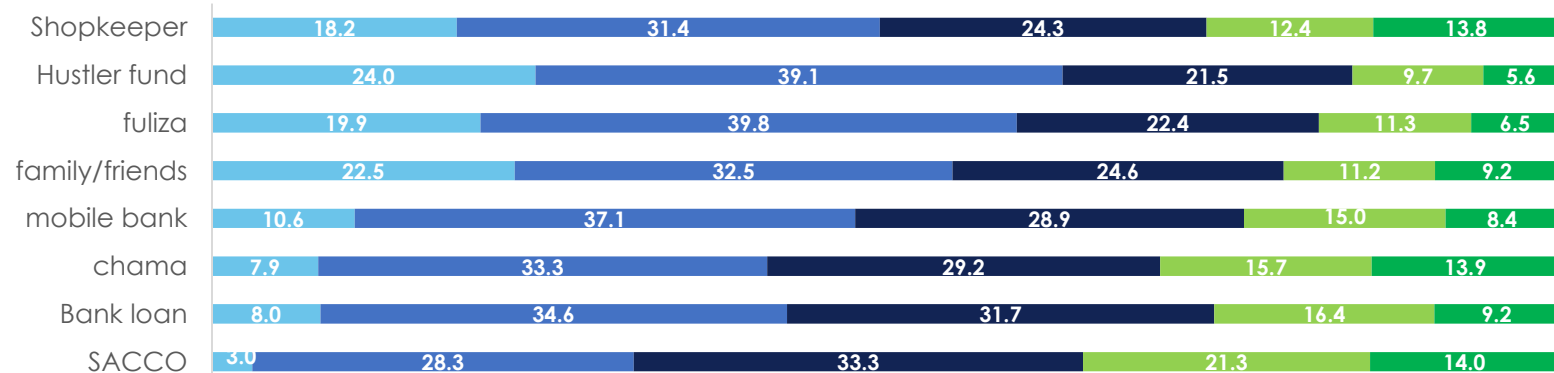
Gender-credit

Male Female



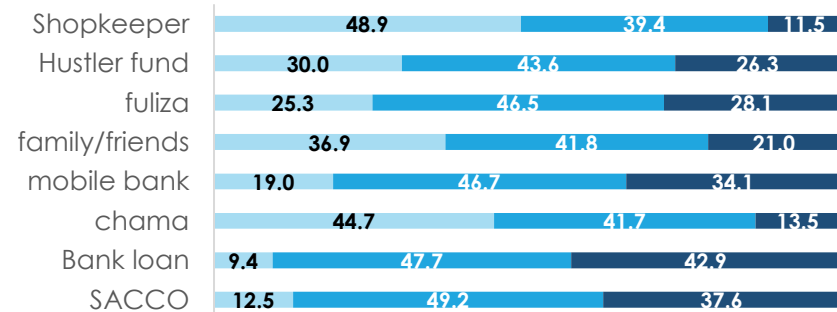
Age group-credit

18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 Above 55



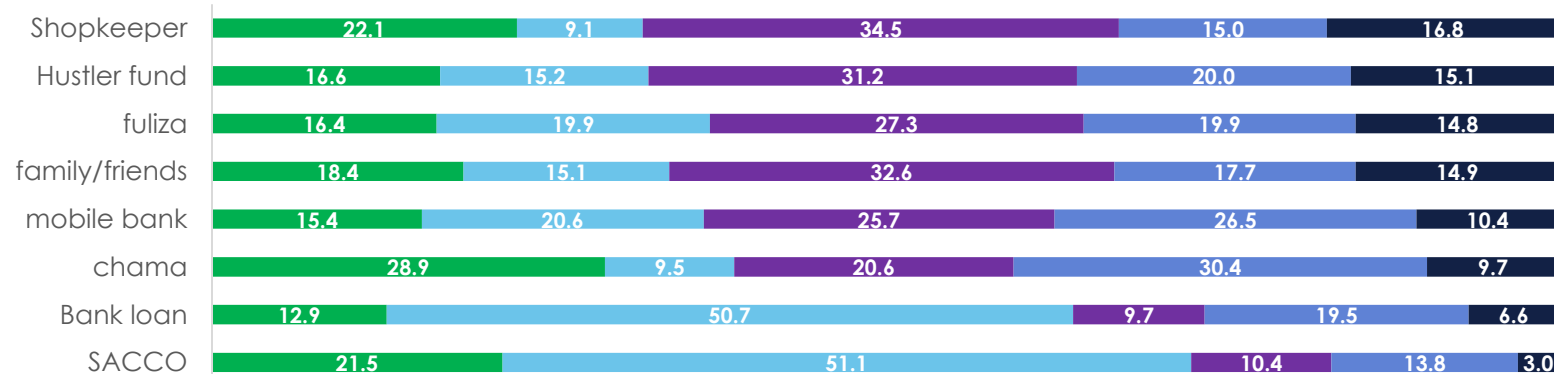
Wealth quintile-credit

bottom 40 middle 40 top 20%



Livelihood-credit

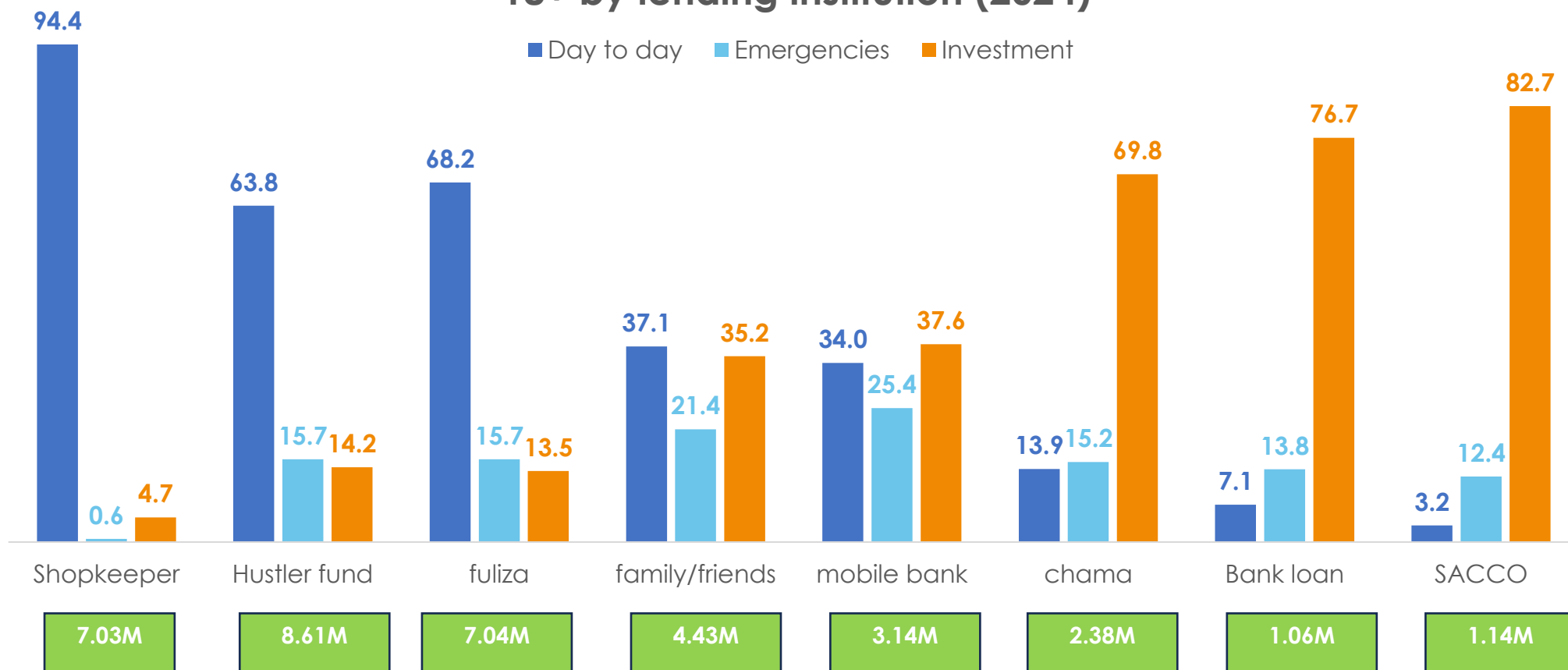
Agriculture Employed Casual Worker Own Business Dependent



Base: Shopkeeper= 7,021,451 , hustler fund = 8,611,889 , fuliza = 7,042,847 , family/friends= 4,426,929 , mobile bank= 3,144,419 , chama = 2,383,092 , bank loan= 1,064,170 , SACCO= 614,689

Credit usage for daily needs, emergencies and investment by loan provider

Use of credit for **daily needs**, **emergencies** and **investment**: % of loans
18+ by lending institution (2024)

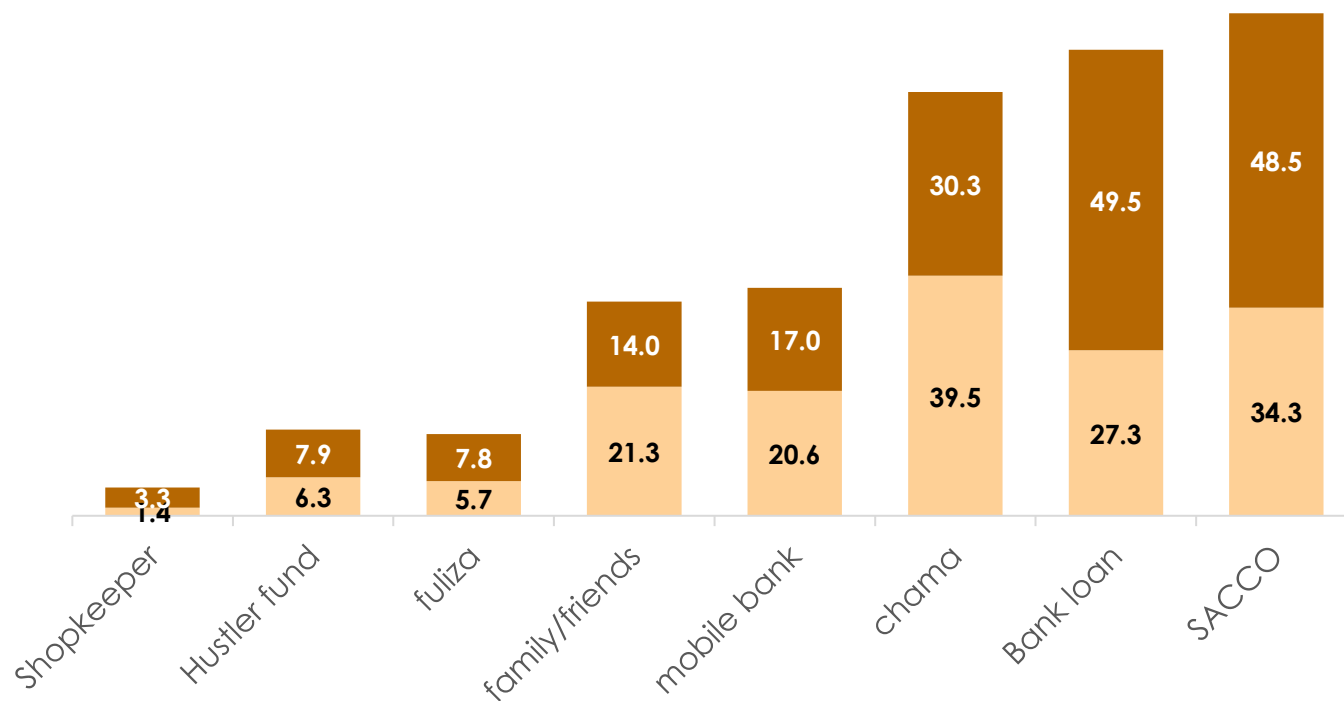




Investment in education

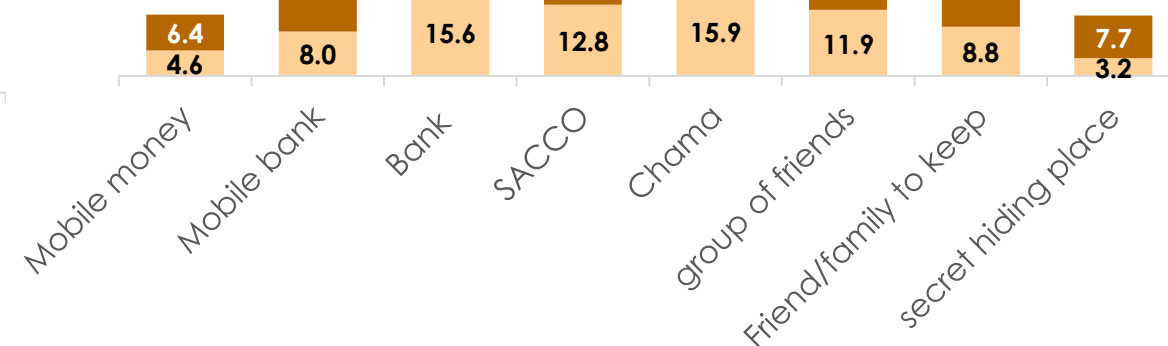
Credit

Education Investment minus education



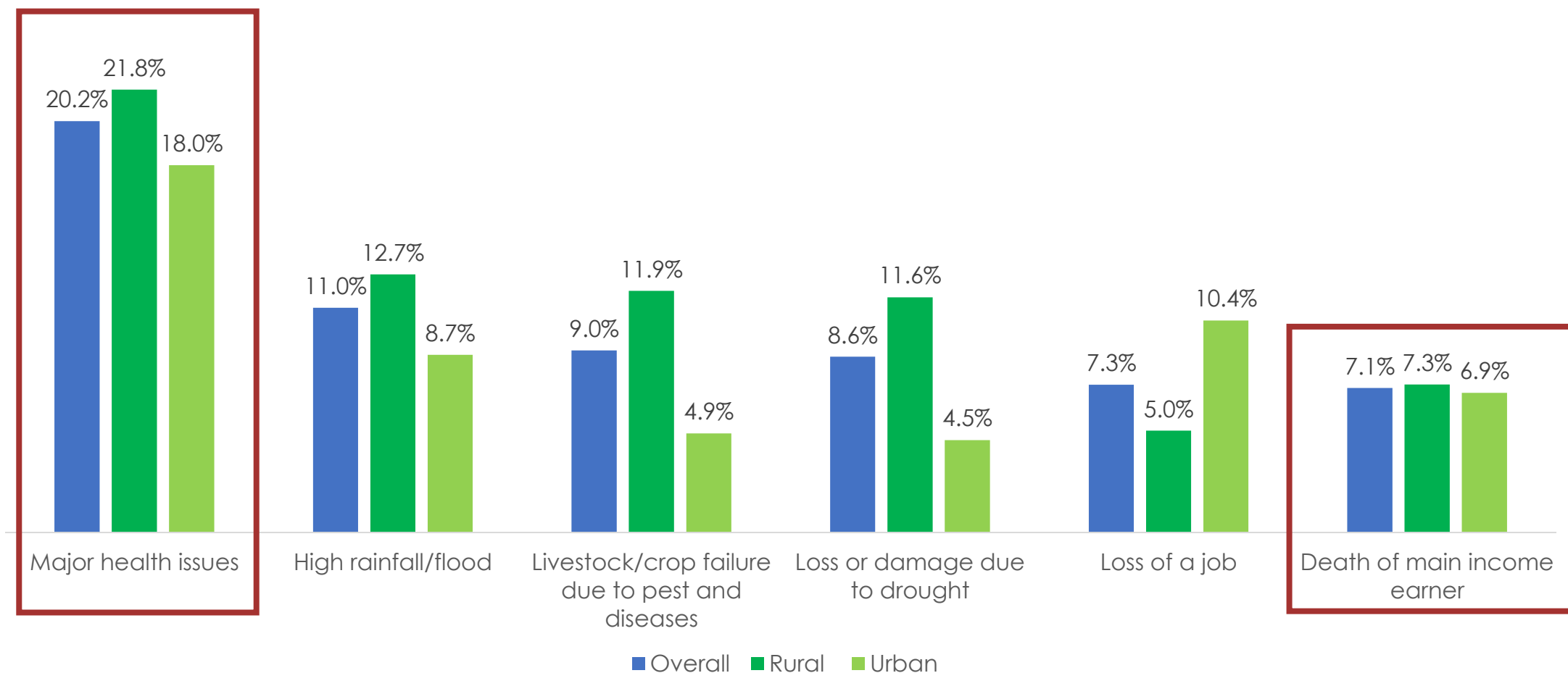
Saving

Education Investment minus education



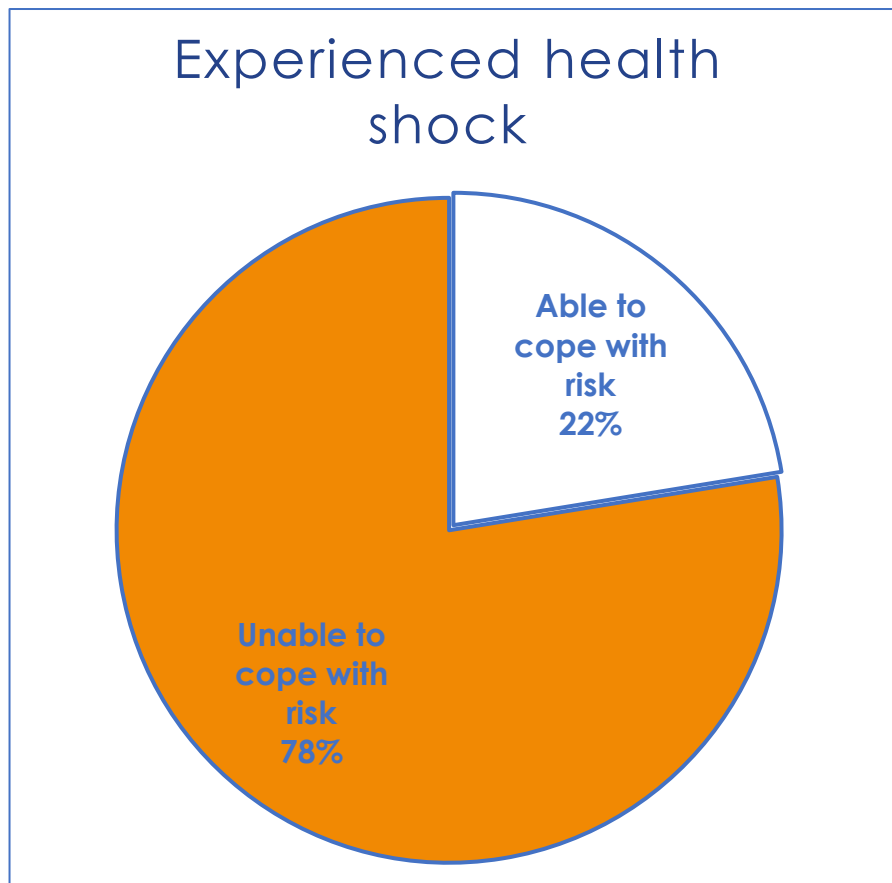
Experienced shocks

% of population who experienced shocks by residence



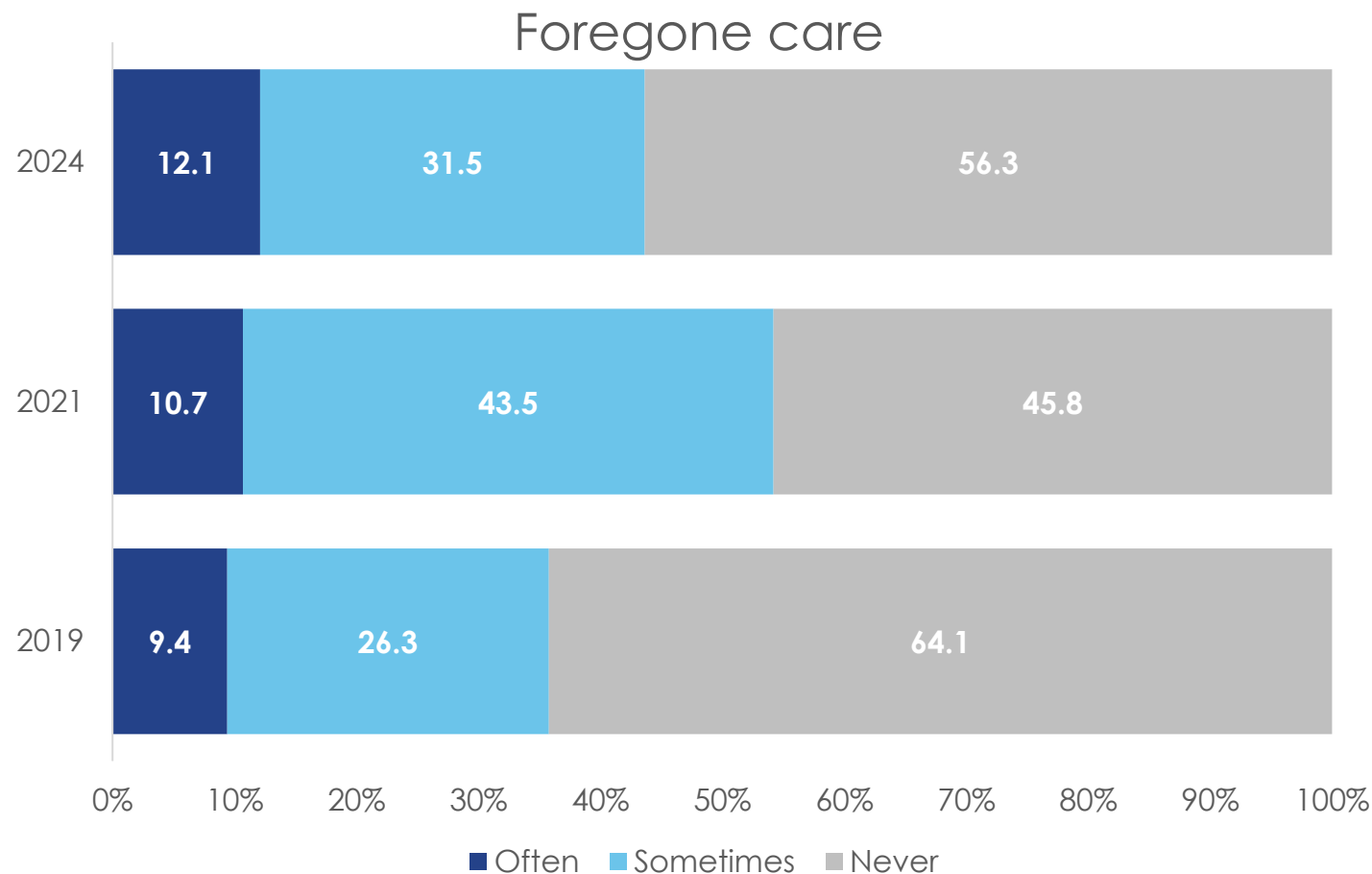
Base: Total adult population = 28,142,069, rural population = 16,416,851, urban population = 11,725,218
Creating value through inclusive finance

Intersection of Financial health & Healthcare



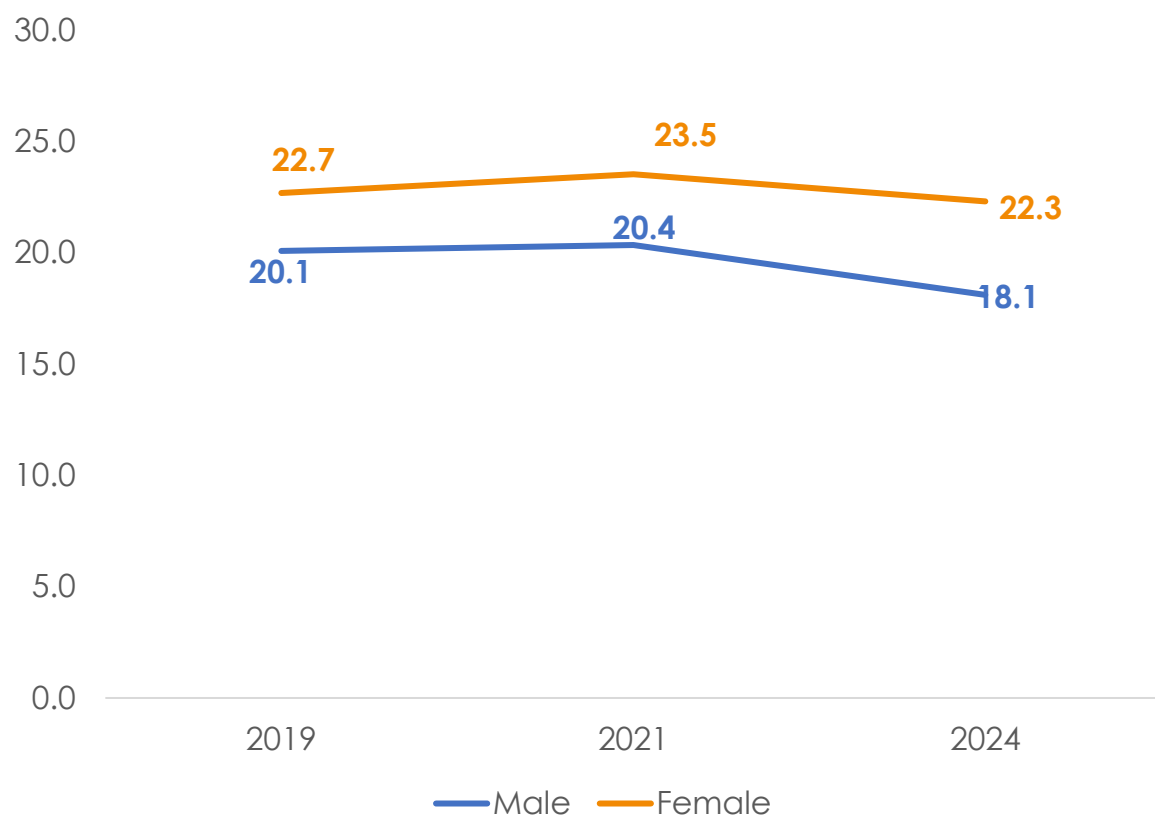
Total who experienced health shocks: 5,688,390.

Base: Total adult population in 2024 = 28,142,069
Total adult population in 2021 = 27,307,678
Total adult population in 2019 = 25,880,553

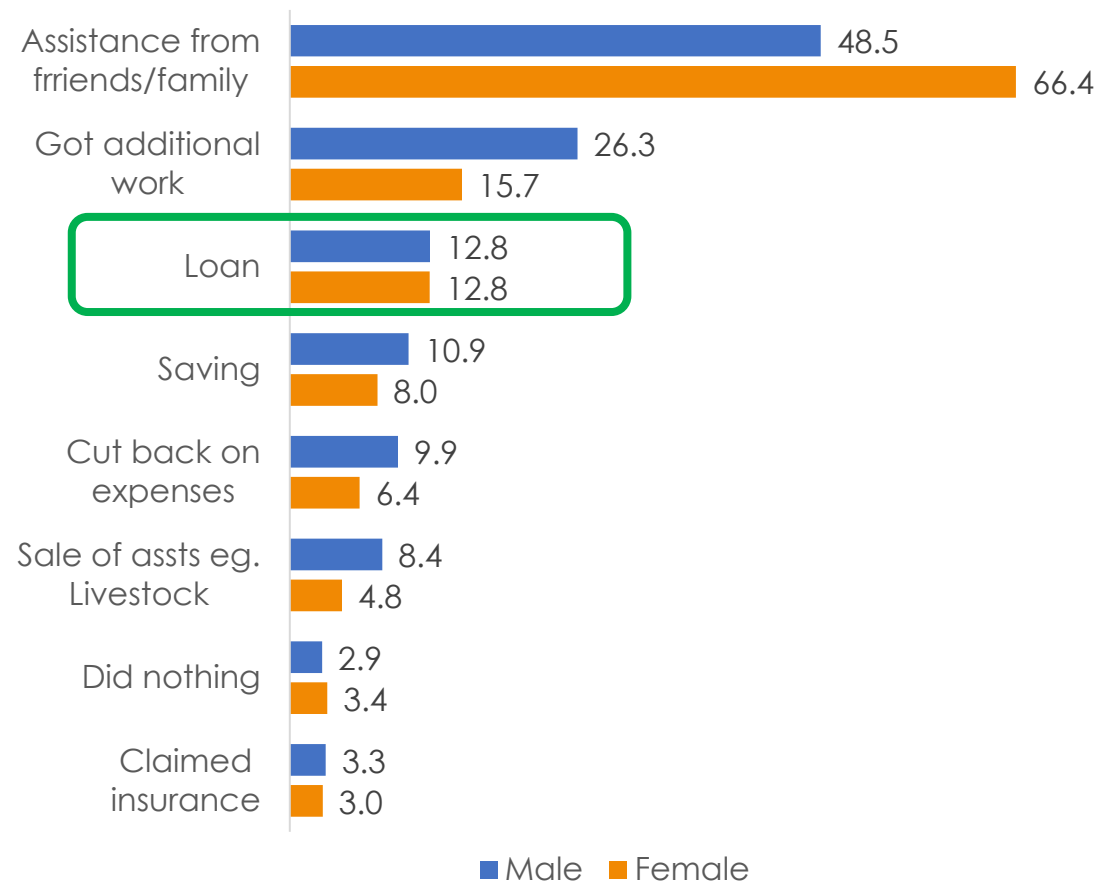


Health shocks and how they dealt with shocks

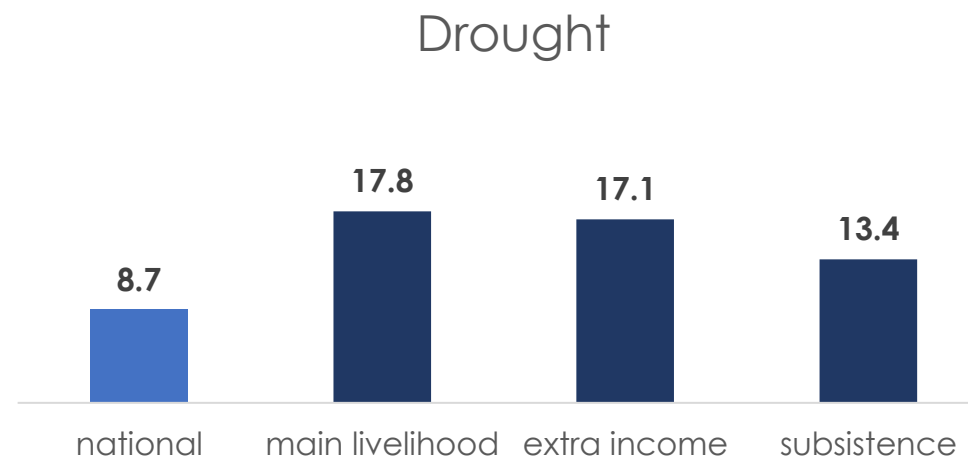
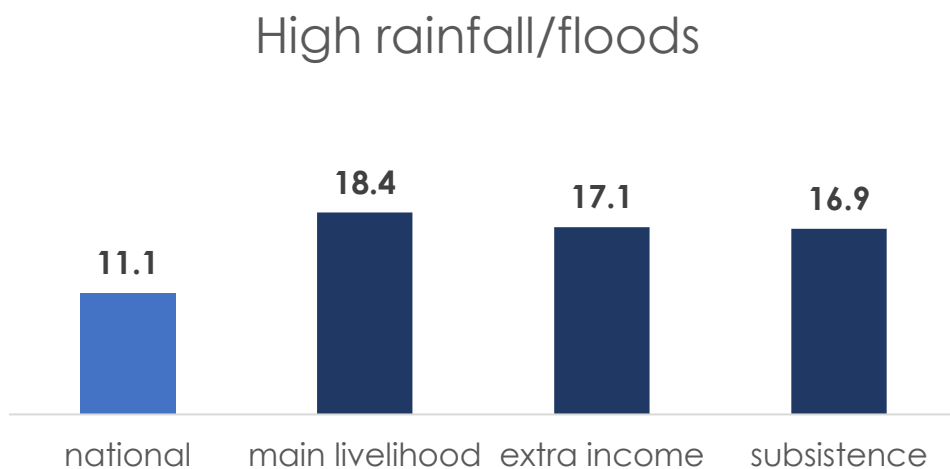
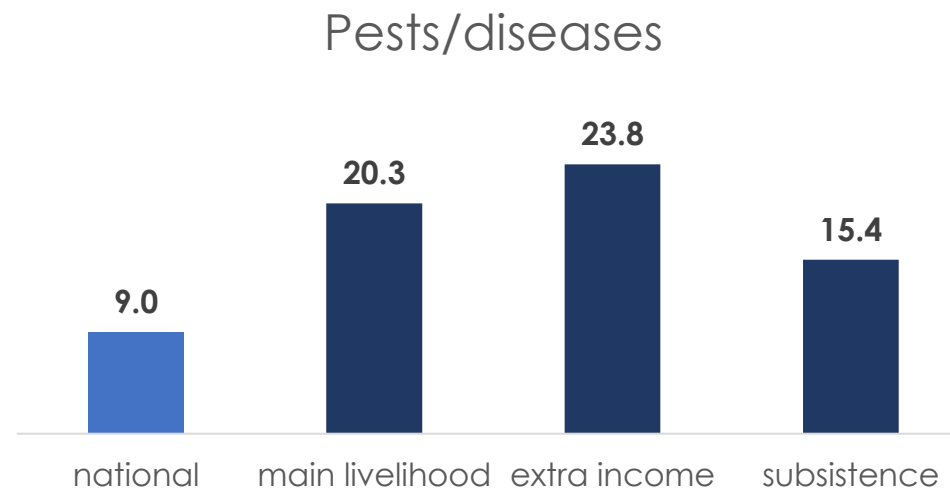
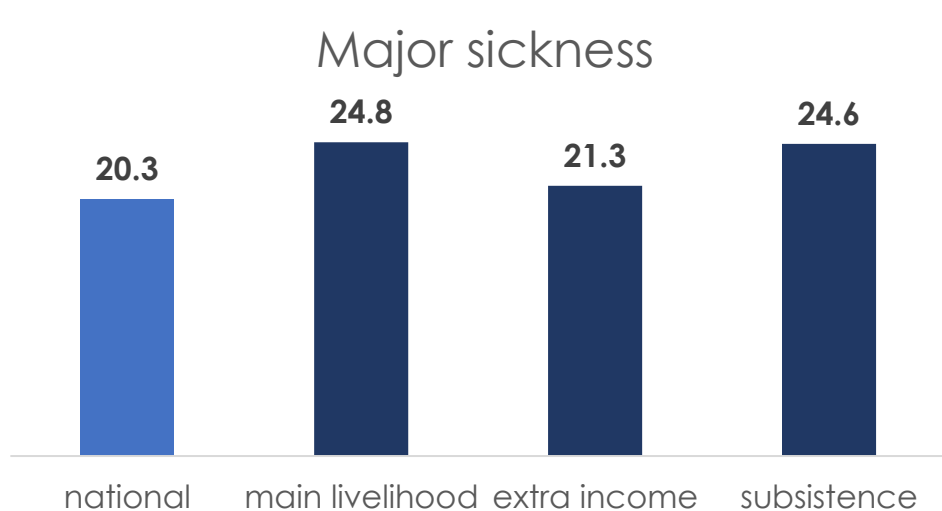
Experiencing health shock



How they dealt with health shock

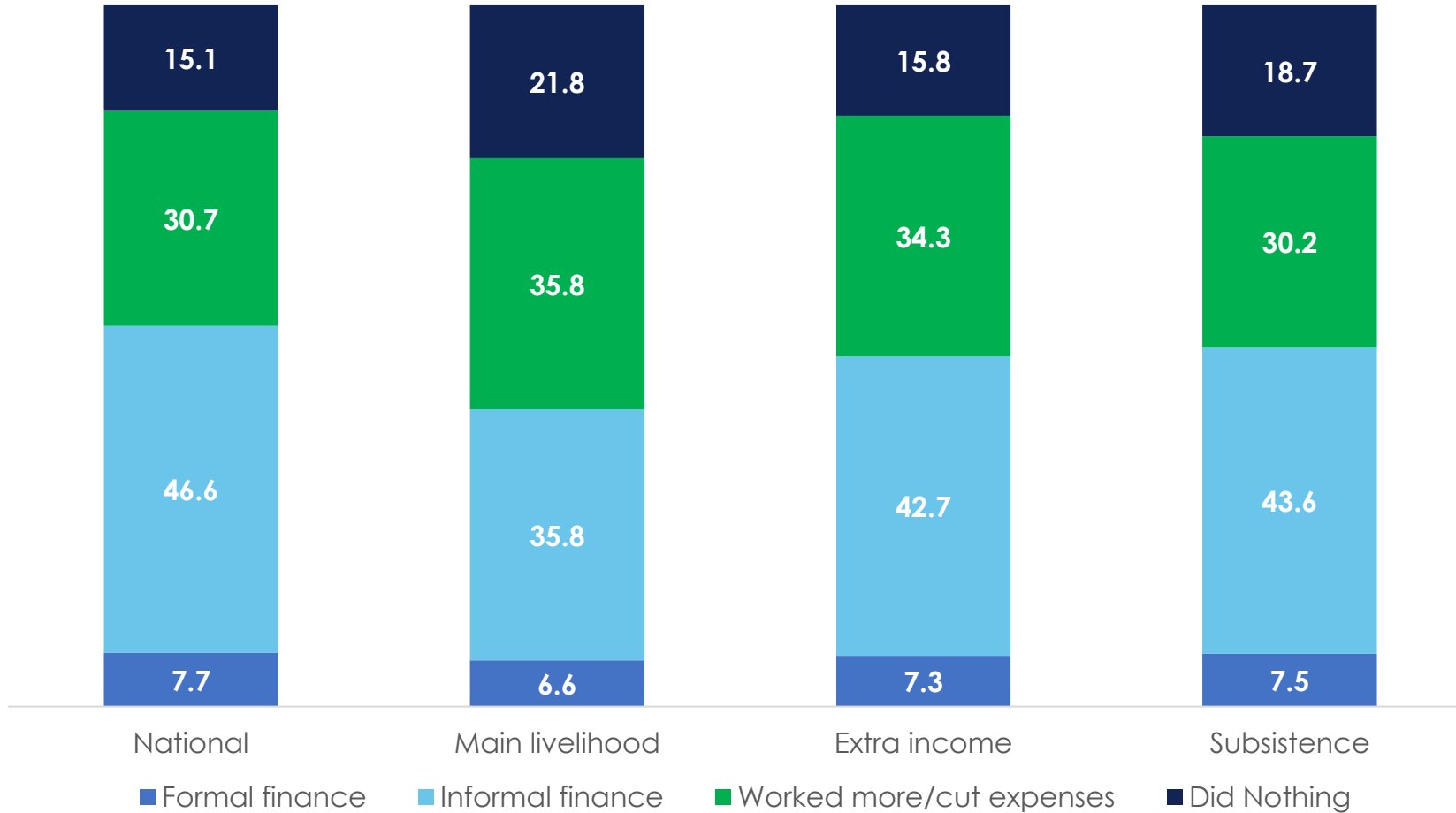


Top shocks experienced by farmers



Base; Population = 28,142,069 Main livelihood= 5,049,276 , extra income= 2,187,381; subsistence= 4,752,323

How farmers finance shocks



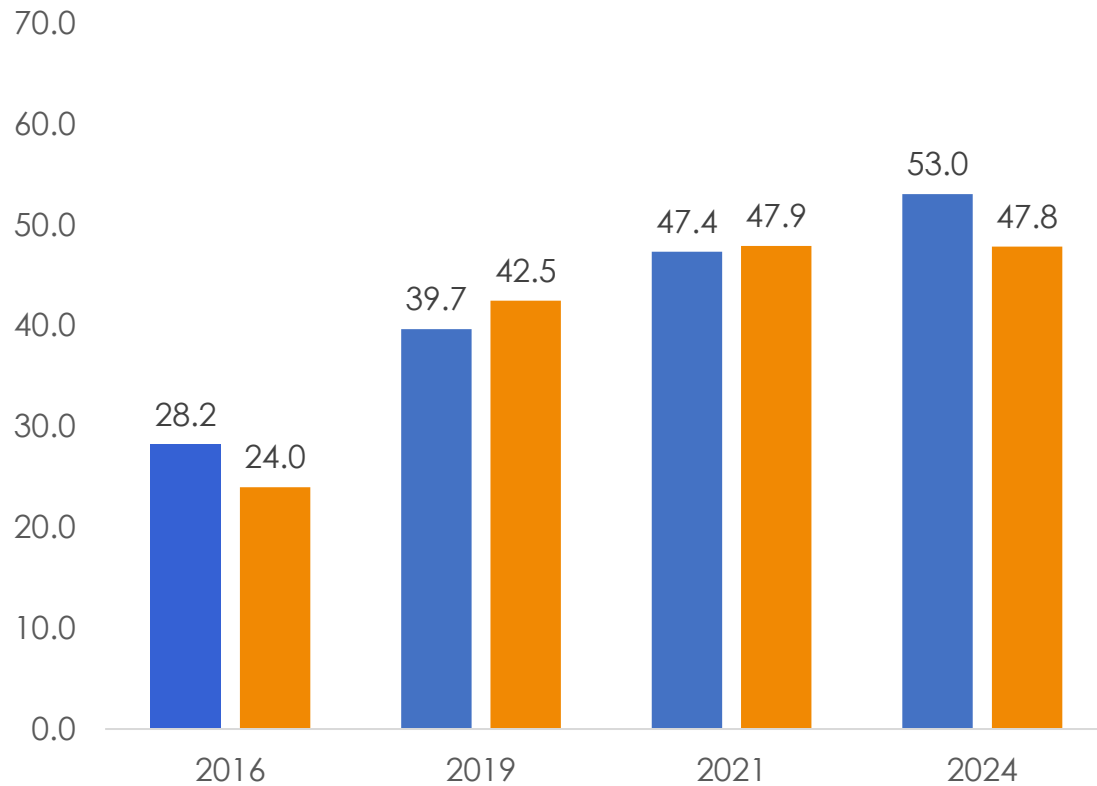
Base: who experienced shocks; Population = 12,363,846 Main livelihood= 2,814,771; extra income= 1,216,301 ; subsistence = 2,529,635



Youth savings and credit

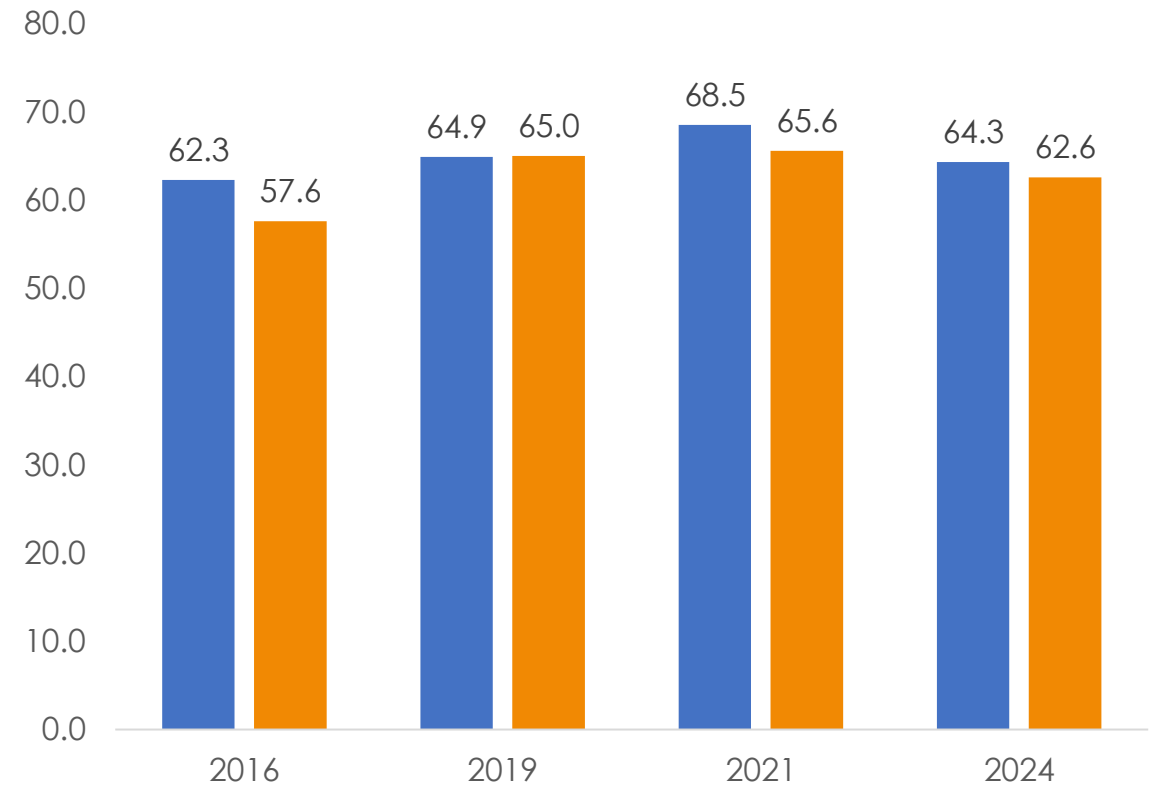
18-25 credit

Male -credit Female Credit



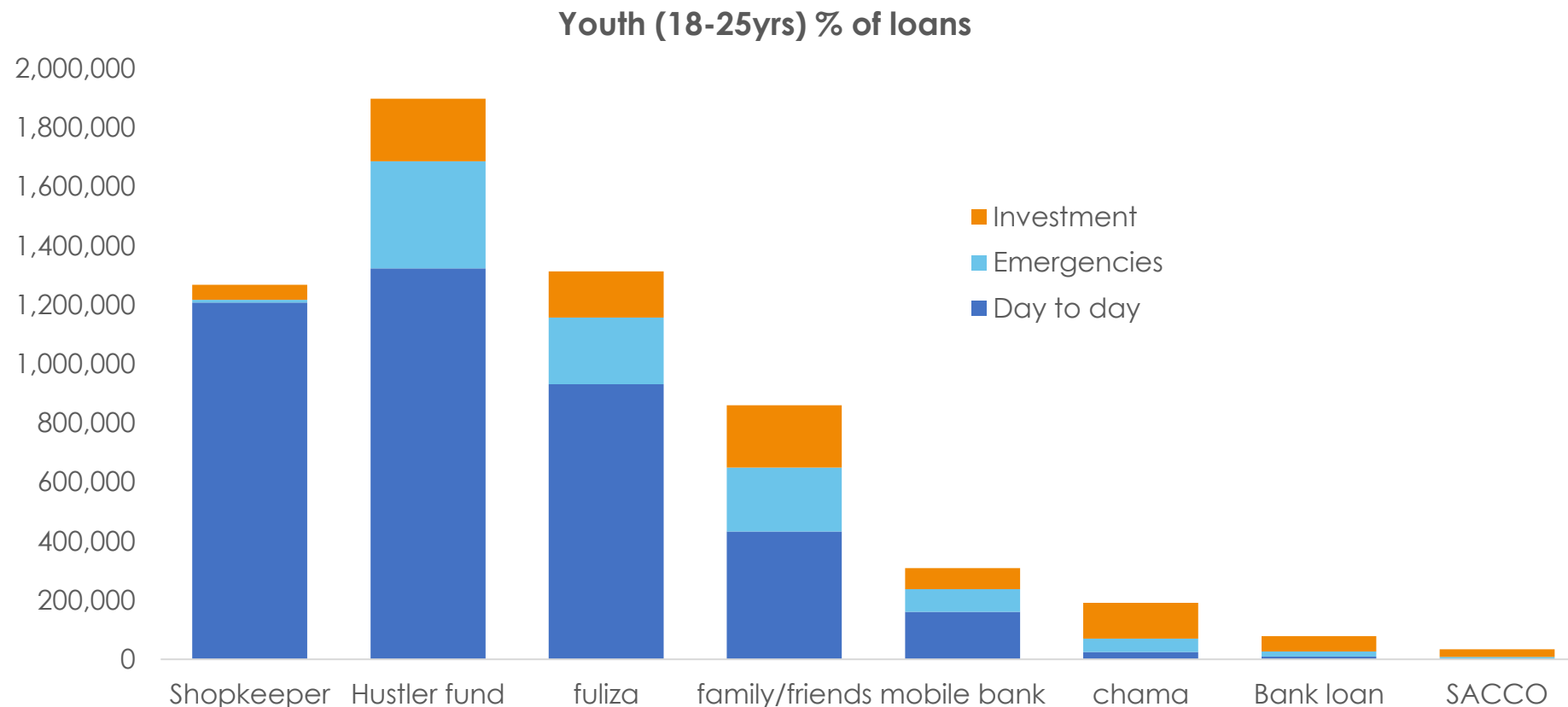
18-25 saving

Male -saving Female-saving





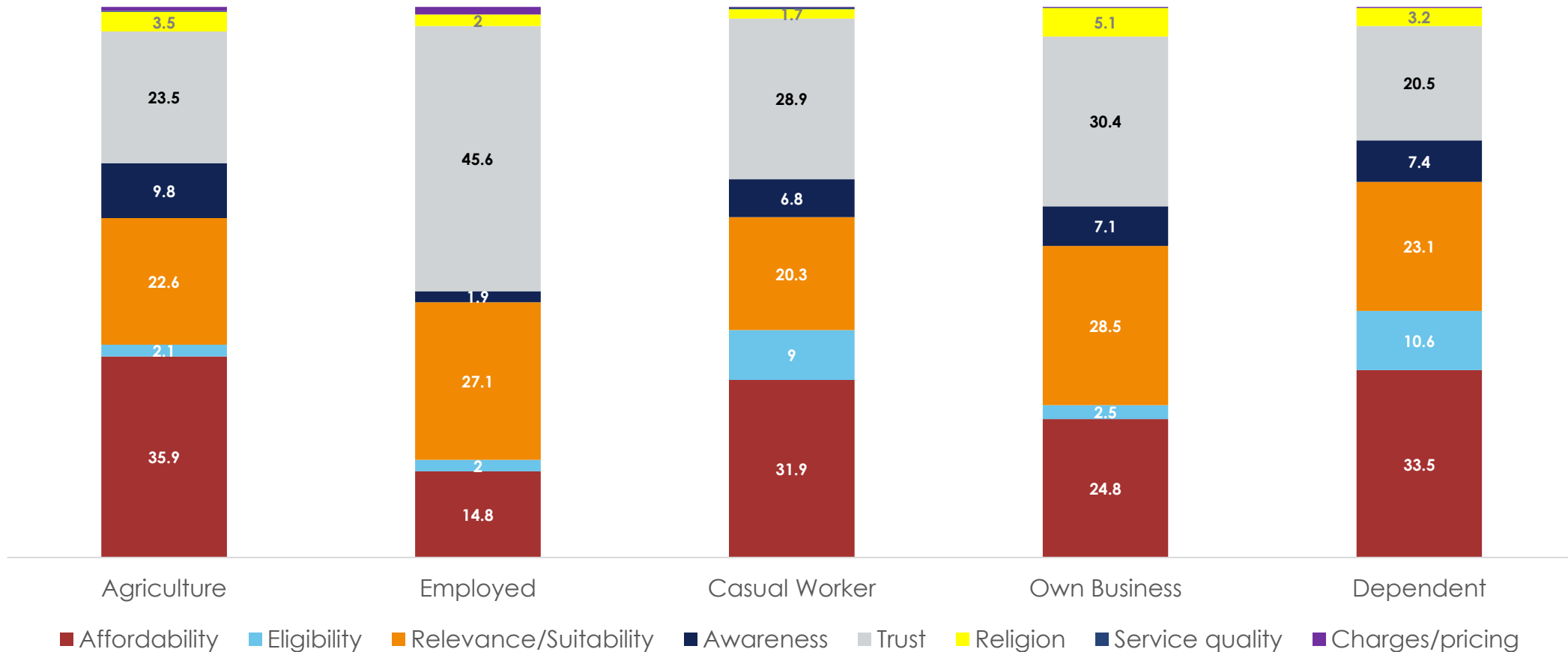
Youth (18-25years) borrowing patterns



Shopkeeper= 1,275,681, hustler fund = 2,068,510, fuliza = 1,404,462, family/friends= 995,330, mobilebank = 333,519, chama = 187,714, bank loan= 85,647, SACCO= 33,923

How might we address the barriers to credit?

Livelihoods



How might we protect customers from harm?

Issues by Service Provider

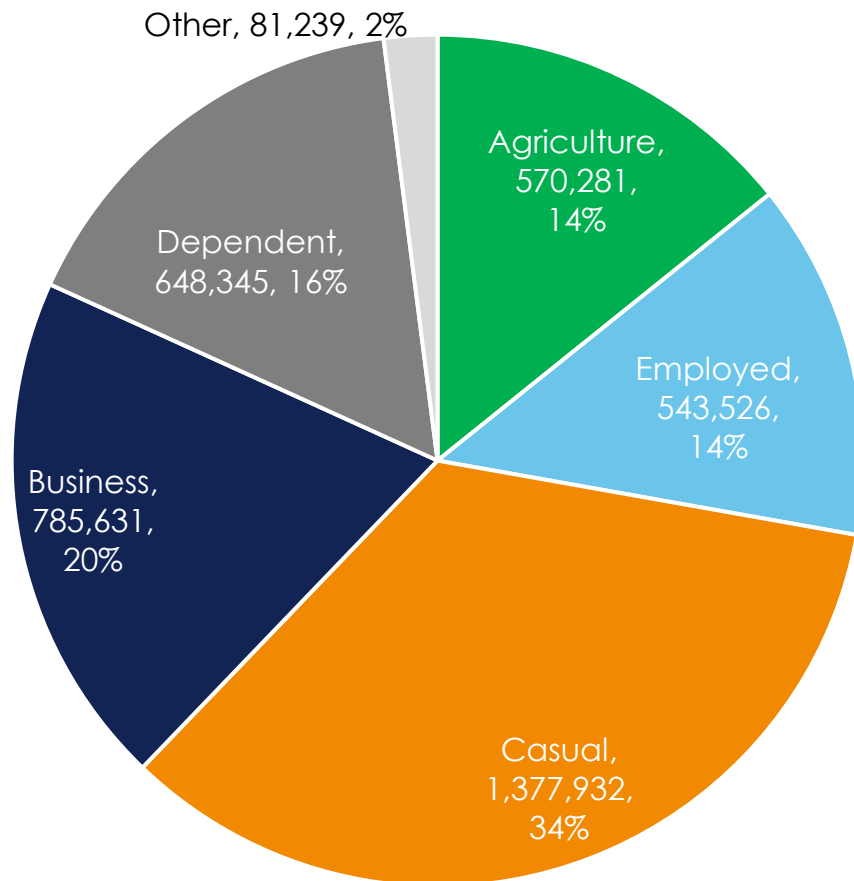


	Base total users
Bank	8,104,894
Sacco	3,271,665
Mobile Money	23,083,898
Mobile bank	9,264,965
Securities	750,536
Digital Apps	666,898
MFI	211,477

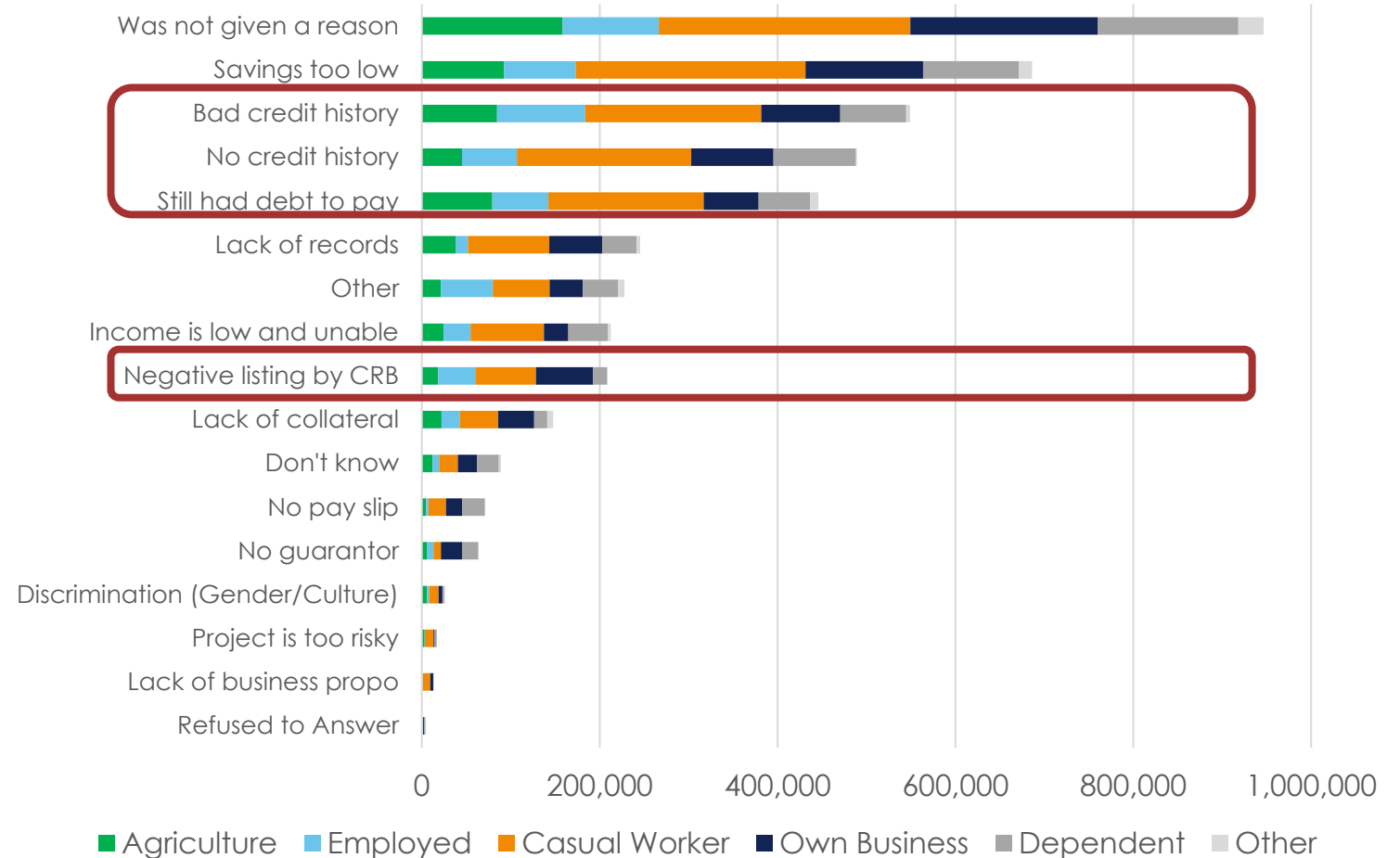
How might we help less people be denied a loan? (including not applying when it won't help)

Applied for a loan and denied

(4 million people, 14% of adult population)



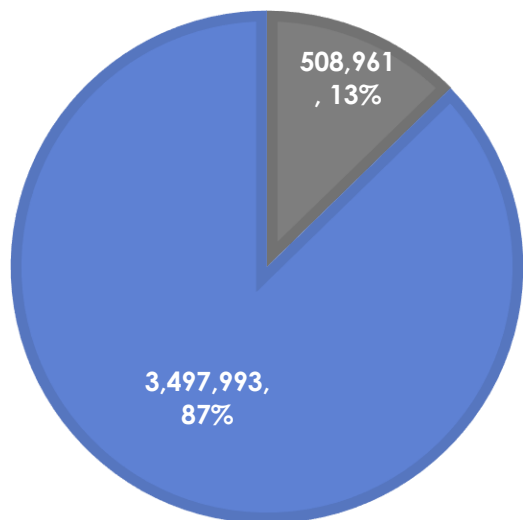
What do you think were the reasons? (multiple answers)



Denied loan

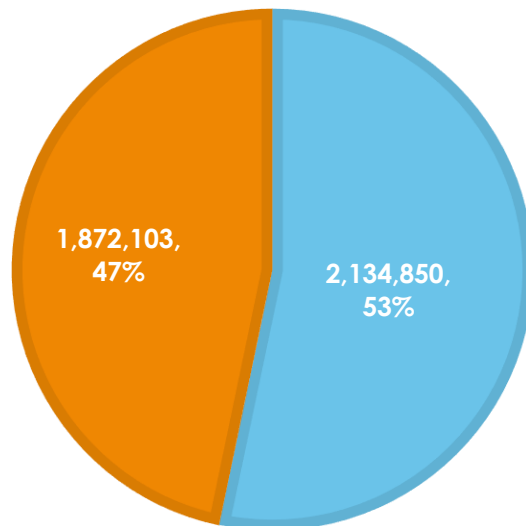
LOAN USAGE

■ No loan ■ Has loan



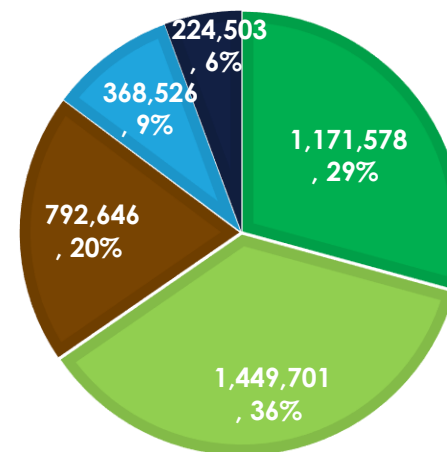
GENDER

■ Male ■ Female



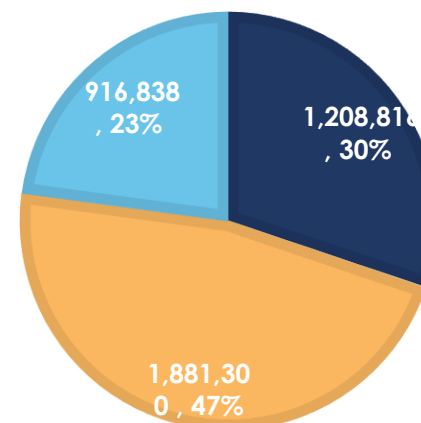
AGE GROUP

■ 18-25 ■ 26-35 ■ 36-45 ■ 46-55 ■ Above 55

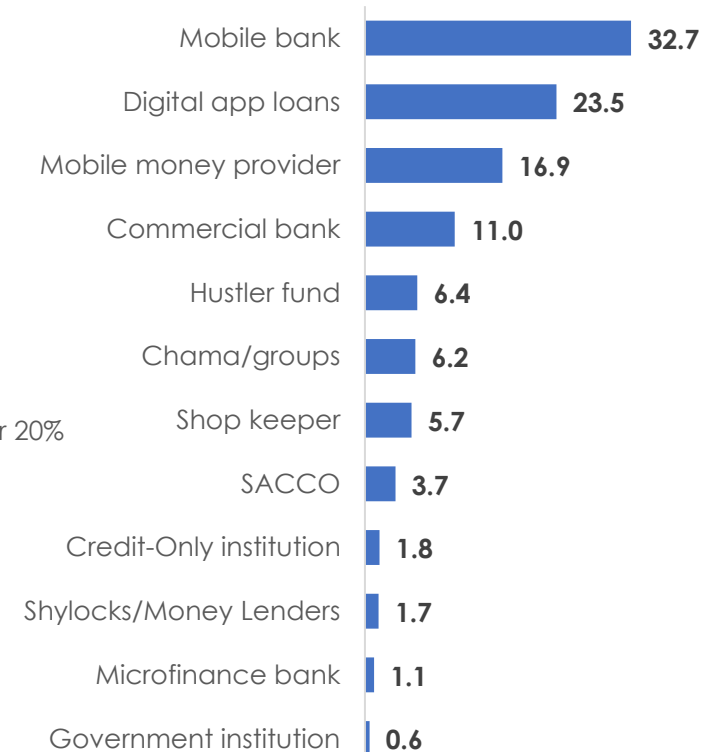


WEALTH QUINTILES

■ Bottom 40% ■ Middle 40% ■ Upper 20%



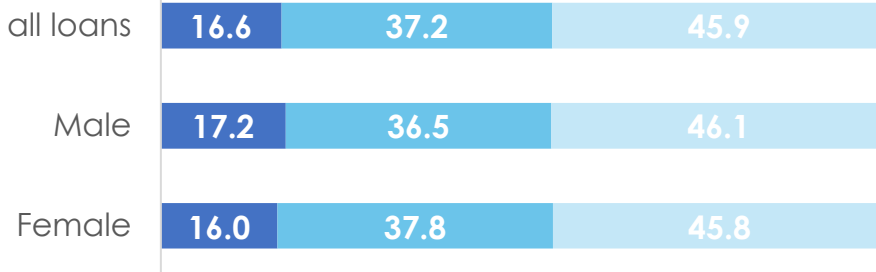
Which loan was denied?



Debt default and stress

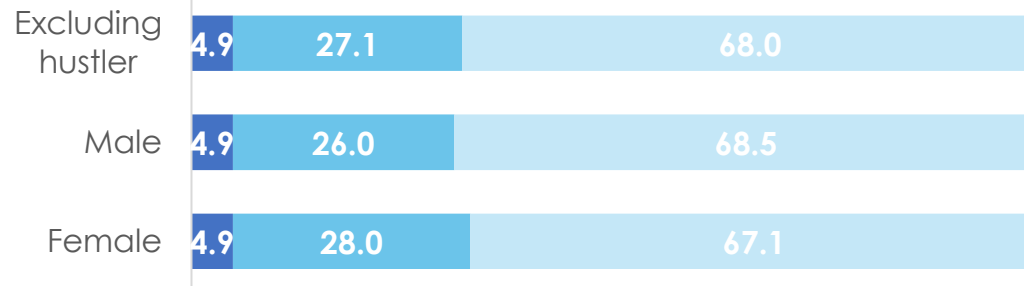
% of all borrowers

■ Didn't pay ■ Paid late ■ Didn't default



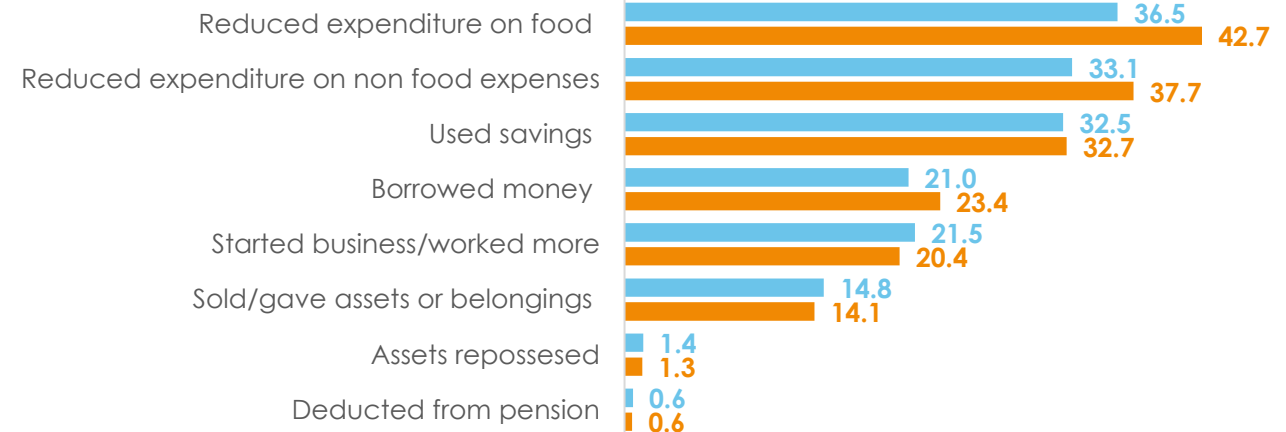
% of all borrowers (excluding Hustler fund)

■ Didn't pay ■ Paid late ■ Didn't default



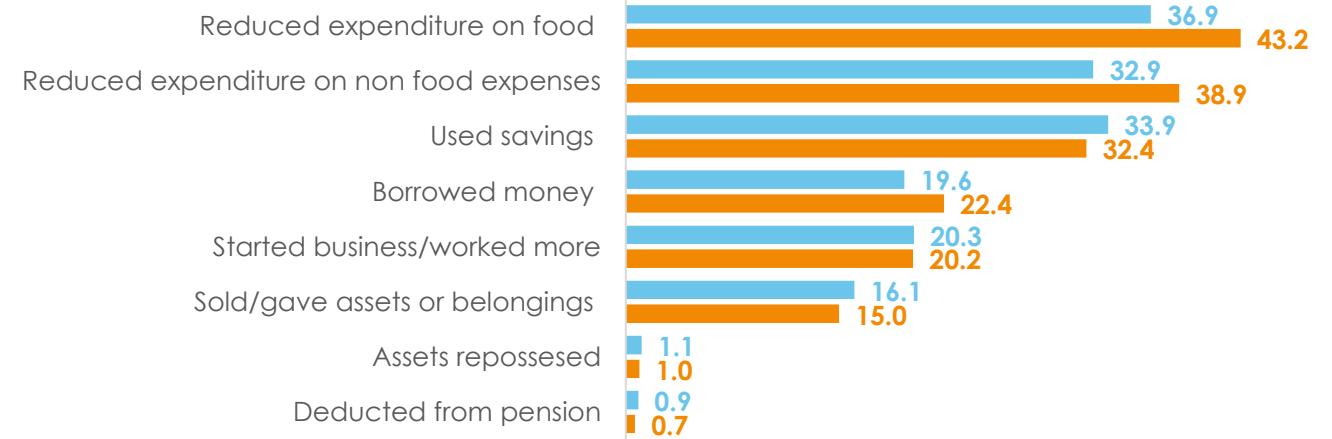
Debt stress: measures taken to repay loan (all loans)

■ Male ■ Female



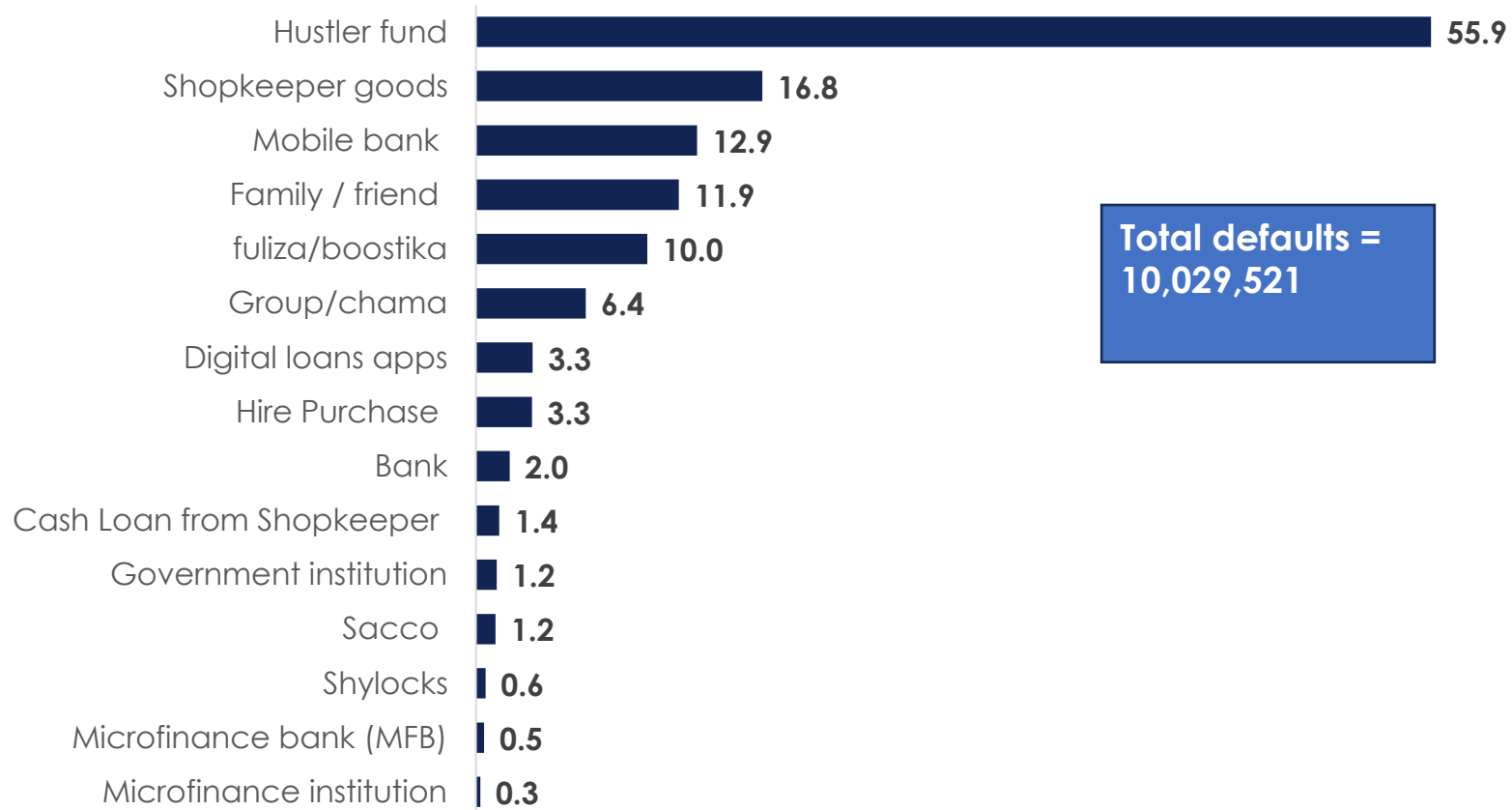
Debt stress: measures taken to repay loan (excl. hustler loans)

■ Male ■ Female



Which loan was defaulted

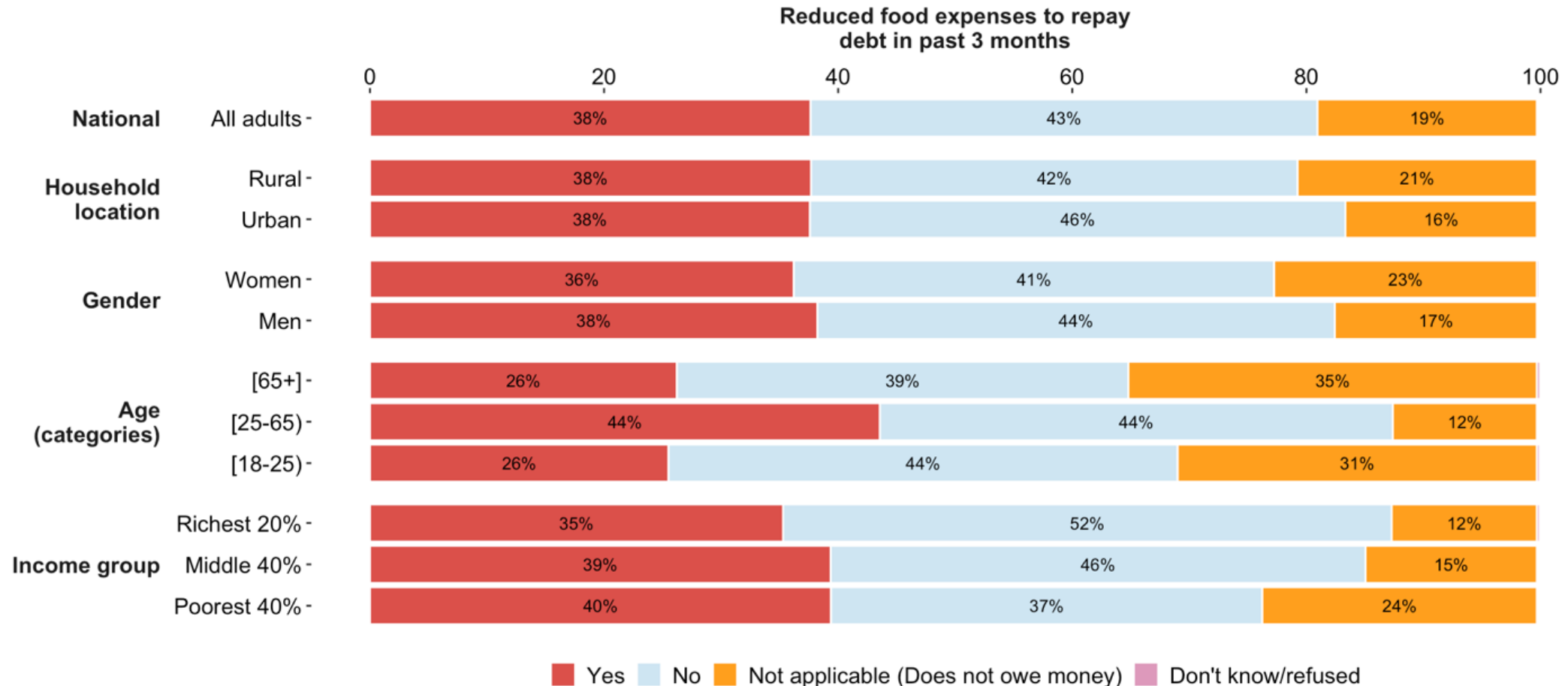
Loan didn't pay at all/missed payment



Difficult trade-offs to repay debt

Difficulty repaying debt

Adults (% 18+)

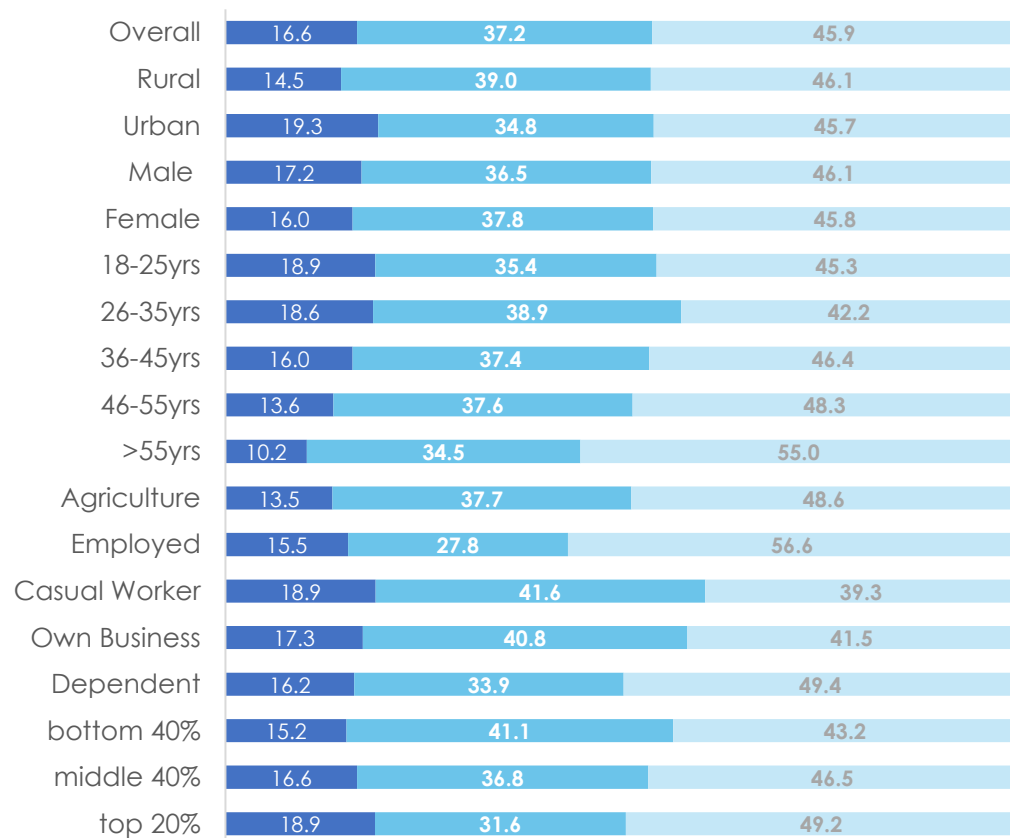


Source: Author's own calculations using the 2024 FinAccess survey. Notes: This figure is based on responses to the following question: Think about the money you owe (for example to a bank, MFI, SACCO, a shopkeeper, friends or family or a loan you took over the phone). In the past 3 months have you had to reduce spending on food to repay any money that you owe?

Default by demographics

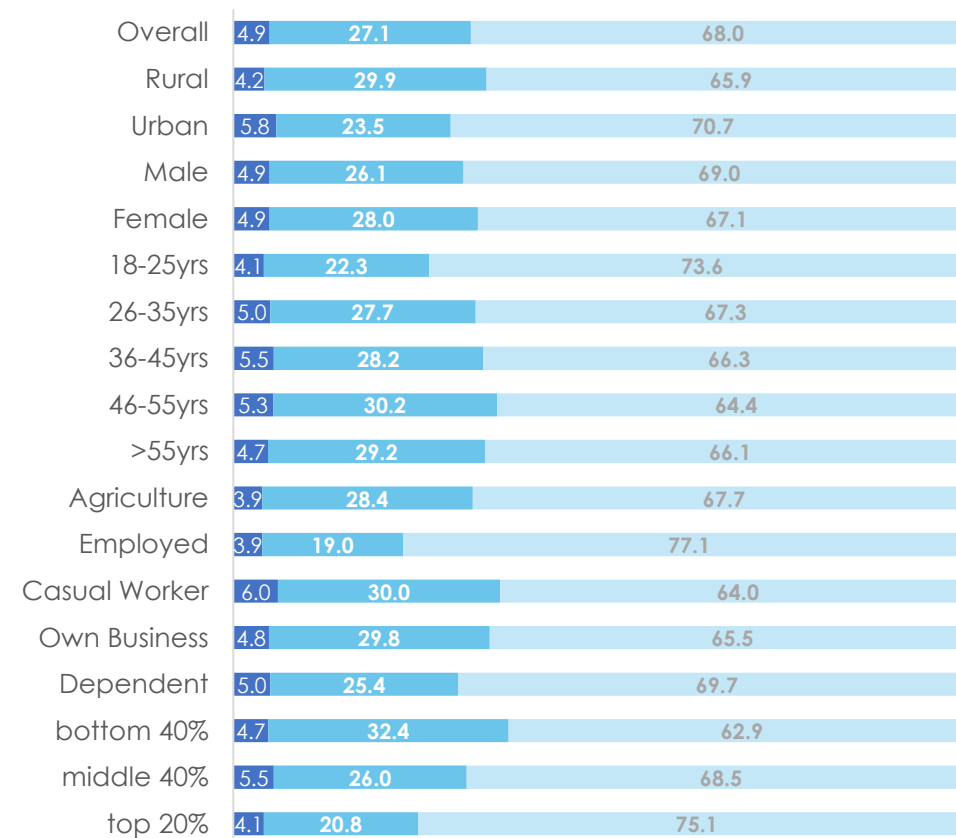
All loans

■ Didn't pay at all ■ Paid late/Missed a payment/Paid less ■ did not default



Loans excl. Hustler Fund default

■ Didn't pay at all ■ Paid late/Missed a payment/Paid less ■ did not default



⋮ Demand-side surveys require a big lift



- 20,871 households interviewed
- 47 counties, 1,885 enumeration areas
- Access, Usage, Quality & Impact



FinAccess in the field



What's next?

