



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

An Exploration of Subjective Ages of Adulthood in Mexico, Mozambique, and Nepal

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Agenda

- Transition to adulthood in low-income contexts
 - How adulthood is determined
- Our field sites: Jalisco, Mexico; Gaza Province, Mozambique; and the Chitwan Valley, Nepal
- Data and Methods
- Results
- Conclusion



Set the Stage

- Adulthood is delaying in wealthy countries (Arnett 2000; Hogan and Astone 1986; Settersten, Furstenberg Jr., and Rumbaut 2005)
- In low-income contexts, institutions such as education, family, marriage, parenthood, and work impact the transition differently (Juarez and Gayet 2014)
- Adulthood is locally defined, so adult identities should be measured relative to a local context (Shanahan et al. 2005)

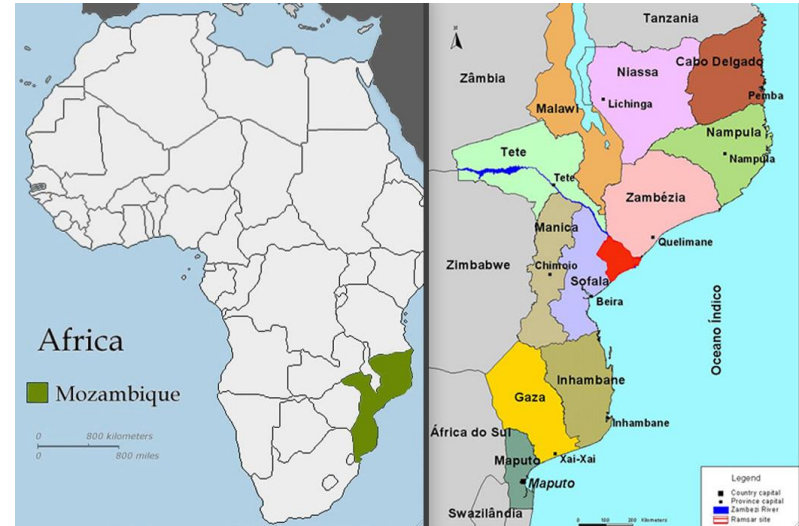
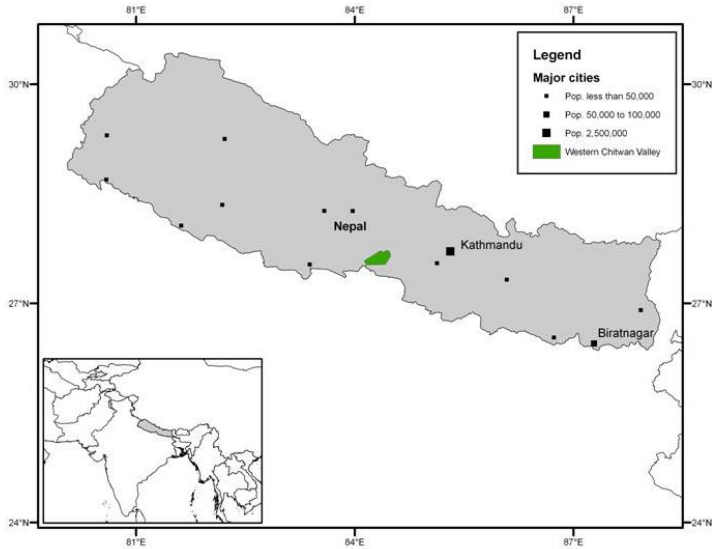


How is adulthood determined?

- **Chronological and physiological indicators** (Arnot, Jeffery, Casely-Hayford, and Noronha 2012; Granic, Dishion, and Hollenstein 2006)
- **Experiences with role transitions** (Modell, Furstenberg, and Hershberg 1976)
 - **Transitions are dependent on social and economic capital** (Billari, Hiekel, and Liefbroer 2019; Buchmann and Kriesi 2011; Furstenberg 2008)
- **In relation to household responsibilities and family relationships** (Burton 2007)



Family Migration and Early Life Outcomes (FAMELO) field sites



<https://www.terrapesada.com/mozambique/>
<https://www.geoengineer.org/news-center/news/item/788-a-landslide-in-jalisco-mexico-is-caught-live-by-local-driver>
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Research Questions

- How is adulthood experienced in our three contexts?
- Are the same mechanisms important across the three contexts?



Family Migration and Early Life Outcomes (FAMELO)

- Household surveys conducted during the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018 in Jalisco, Mexico; Gaza Province, Mozambique; and the Chitwan Valley, Nepal
- Data include: household roster information, caregiver survey, and child surveys





Analytic Method:

- Adolescents ages 11-17
- Sample sizes:
 - Mexico – 1,569
 - Mozambique – 1,378
 - Nepal – 1,898
- Ordinal logistic regression predicting whether children feel like an adult: Never/Rarely, Sometimes, Often/Always
 - Cluster standard errors by household
 - Impute missing values through Multiple Imputation by Chained Equations (MICE)



Predictors:

Basic Controls	Transitions	Household Characteristics	Household Responsibilities
Gender	Worked for pay/kind	Migrant household member	Number of hours spent on household tasks
Age	Enrolled in school	Household assets ²	Monitoring scale ⁴
Puberty ¹	Been in a romantic relationship	Dependency ratio	Whether respondent is an older sibling
	Preferred marriage age	Food insecurity ³	

¹ Puberty is self-reported. Boys were asked if their voices had deepened or they had grown pubic hair and girls were asked if they had had their first period.

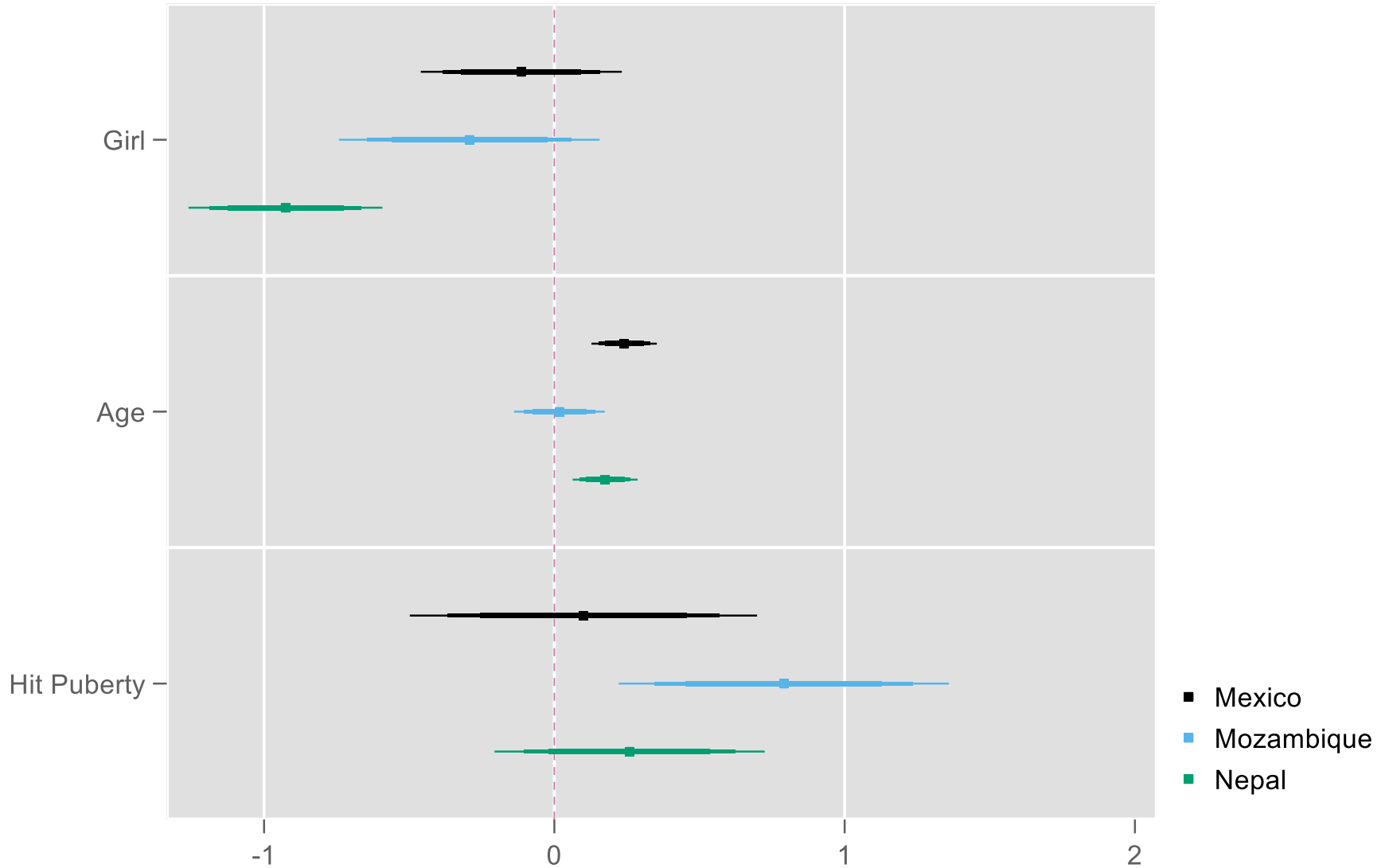
² Household assets is a PCA measure including household appliances and materials used to build the household.

³ Food insecurity asked children how often they were worried they would not have enough to eat.

⁴ Monitoring scale includes questions on curfew and other parental oversight topics, such as knowing children's schedules and locations.

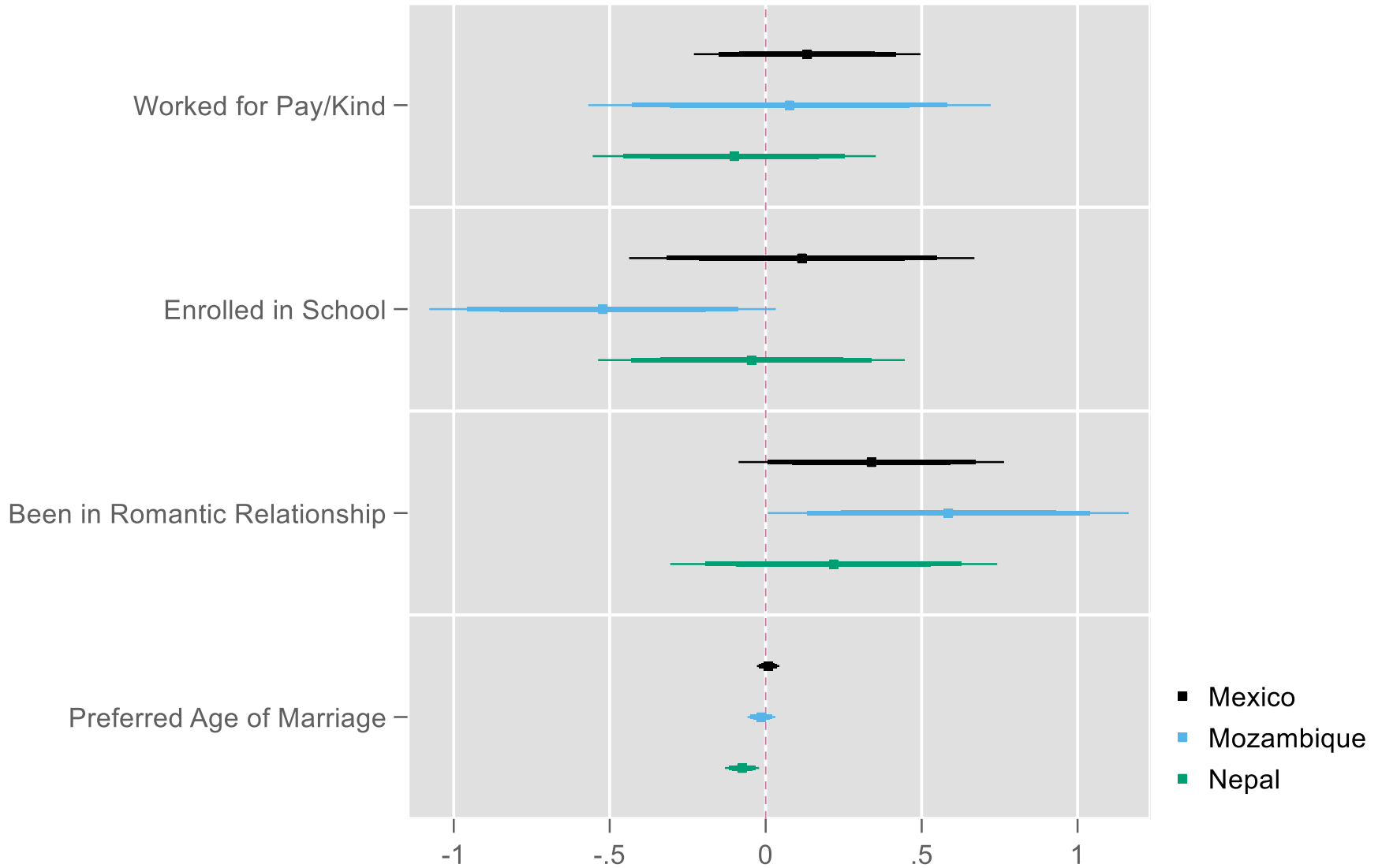


Basic Controls



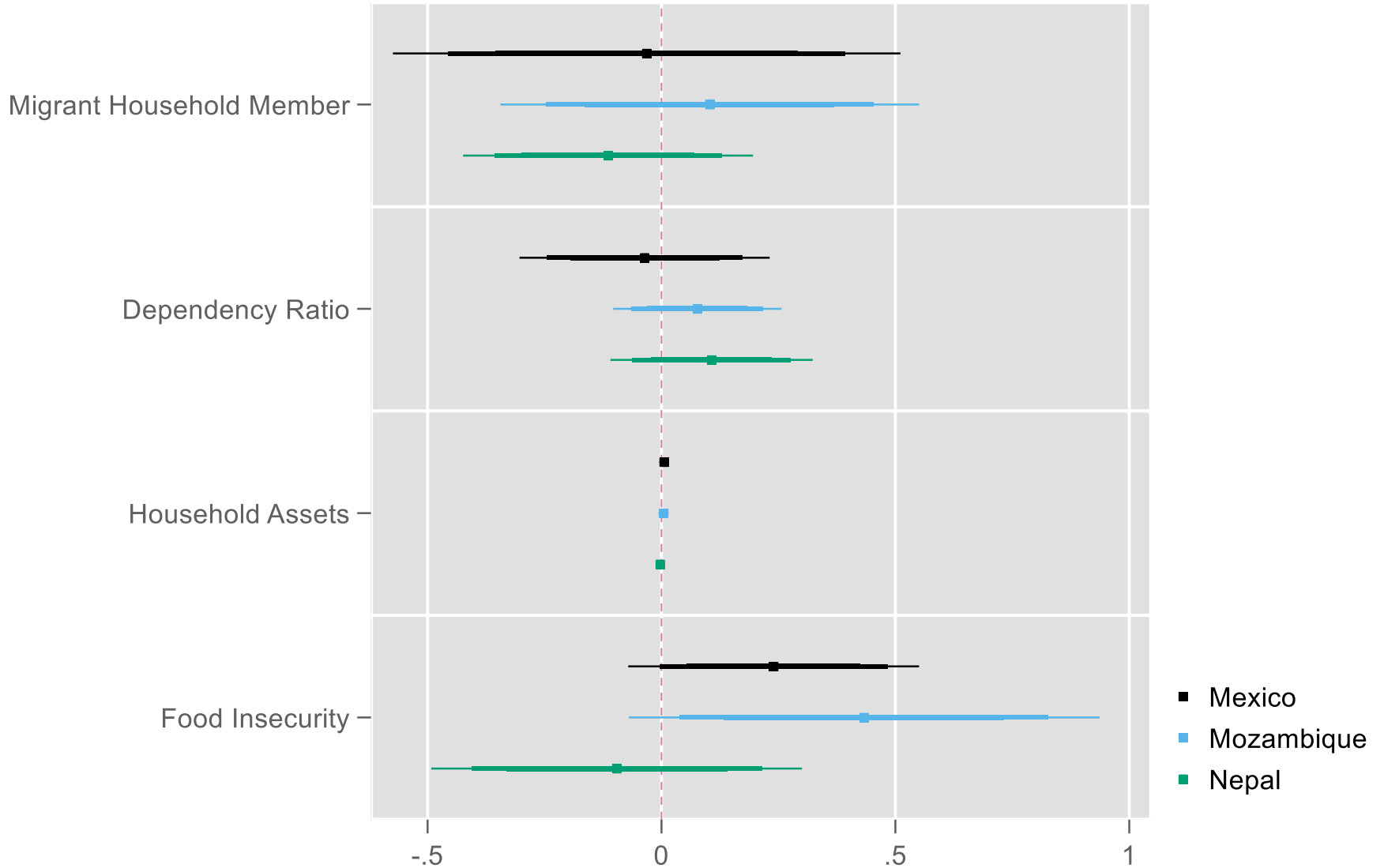


Transitions



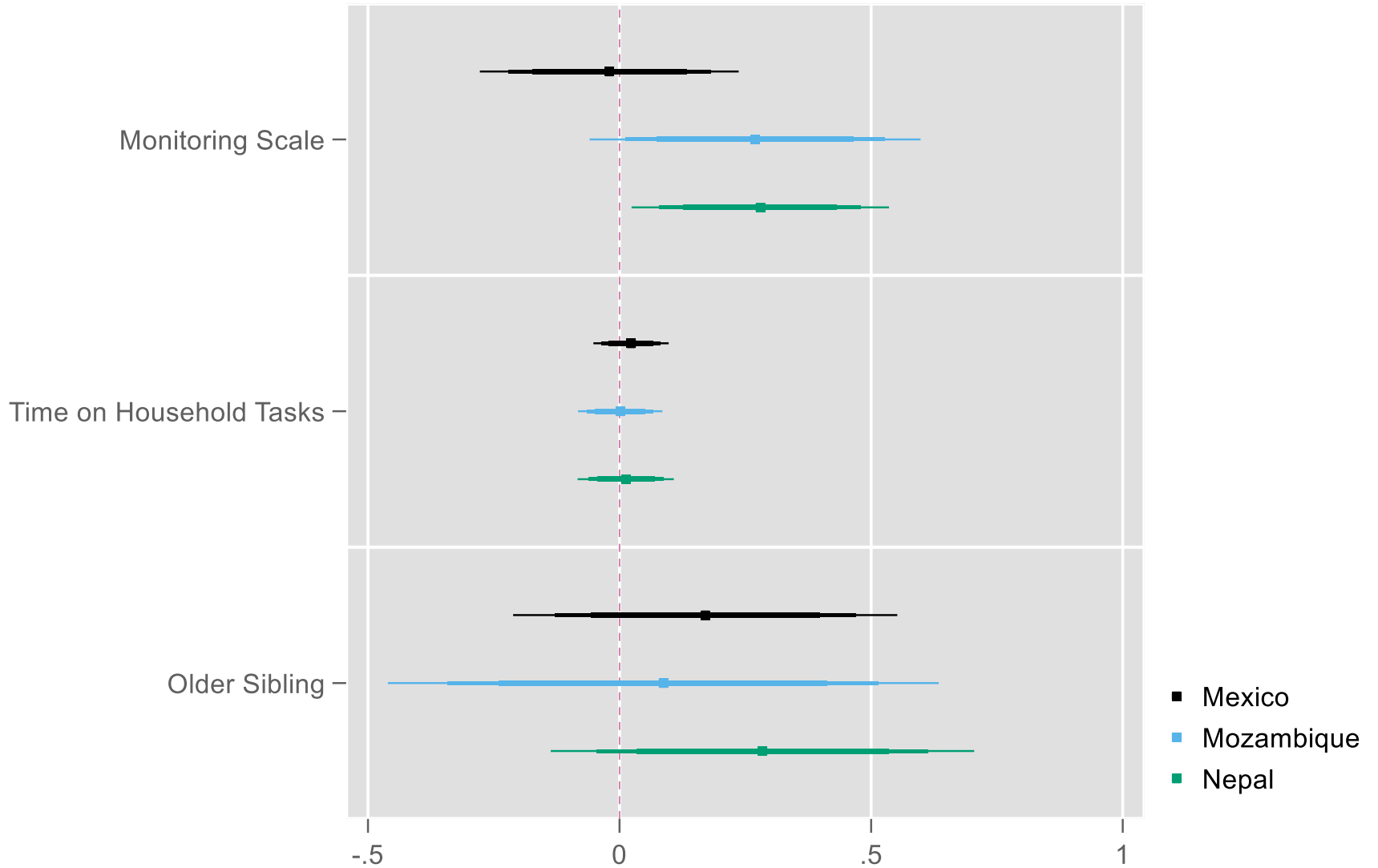


Household Characteristics





Responsibilities





Summary of Results:

- Rather than age, physiological development correlates with adult identities in Mozambique
- School enrollment is unpredictable, except in Mozambique where it correlates with weaker adult identities
- Previous and prospective romantic relationships correlate with stronger adult identities in all sites
- Surprisingly, household characteristics are unpredictable, except food insecurity
- Increased monitoring correlates with stronger adult identities in Mozambique and Nepal



Conclusions:

- Class marginally impacts adult status in our study sites; instead, stress surrounding the availability of resources drives the difference.
- Romantic experiences (both previous and prospective) correlate with adult identities in all sites, while education only does in one.
- The more monitoring from caregivers, the more likely respondents identified as adults in Mozambique and Nepal.



Limitations and Next Steps:

- Future studies will include both an older sample and longitudinal data
- Our samples represent specific regions in the three countries and results should not be expanded to entire countries



**Thank you for your
attention, questions,
and suggestions!**

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