

Read Me

Public preferences for economic reforms are shaped more by design than cost

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File Structure

Codes

The subfolder “Codes” contains all codes used to replicate the figures and tables in the main text and appendix. The master do-file (0_master_do_file.do) includes annotations indicating which .do files replicate which figures and tables. Before running any individual file, the global macros for directory paths defined in the master file should be executed first.

- **Codes/Cleaning** contains do files to clean raw and harmonize raw survey data.
- **Codes/Graphs** contains do files to produce all figures in the main text and the appendix.
- **Codes/Tables** contains do files to produce all tables in the appendix.

Where files are labeled numerically, it is recommended they be run in that sequence.

Data

The subfolder “Data” contains the data needed to replicate the analysis.

- **Data/Raw Data** contains the raw data that is processed by the do-files.
- **Data/Clean Datasets** contains the clean datasets produced by the codes from data cleaning do files.

Output

The subfolder “Output” contains the tables and figures used in the paper.

- **Output/Graphs** contains all figures produced used in the paper.
 - **Output/Tables** contains the file “Tables.xlsx” contains all tables used in the paper, in separate sheets.
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Computing Environment

Operating system: Mac OS Sequoia v15.6.1

Software used: STATA MP 19.0 for Mac (Apple Silicone). Java installed (for importing .sav SPSS files using import spss).

Packages used:

1. **Grc1leg:** (net install grc1leg.pkg, from(<http://www.stata.com/users/vwiggins/>)). Used to combine graphs with a common legend
2. **Egenmore:** (ssc install egenmore, replace). Used for additional generate commands
3. **Reghdfe:** (ssc install reghdfe, replace). Used to estimate high-dimensional fixed effects regressions.
4. **Coefplot:** (ssc install coefplot, replace). Used to plot regression coefficients and confidence intervals from stored results.
5. **Heatplot:** (ssc install heatplot, replace). Used to generate heatmaps.
6. **Sankey_plot:** (net install sankey_plot, from(<https://github.com/gvegayon/sankey>)). Used to generate Sankey diagrams to visualize flows, such as response changes across groups.
7. **Ftools:** (ssc install ftools, replace). Required dependency for reghdfe and other high-performance commands.
8. **Ereplace:** (ssc install ereplace, replace). Used to efficiently replace values in large datasets.
9. **Parmest:** (ssc install parmest, replace). Used to extract model parameter estimates into datasets for flexible post-estimation analysis.
10. **Palettes:** (ssc install palettes, replace). Used to define and apply custom color palettes in visualizations.
11. **Colrspace:** (ssc install colrspace, replace). Provides color space manipulation tools used by palettes and colorpalette.

The packets can be installed by running the code in “Codes/required_packages.do”. Custom programs written by the authors are included within the .do files themselves and will execute automatically when the code is run. No separate installation is required.

Execution time: Approximately 440 seconds

Disk space needed: 816 MB

Index

Below is an index of all files, code, figures, and tables included in the replication packet. Each .do file is listed alongside the figure or table it generates, to allow for easy cross-referencing.

General .do Files

Below is a list of .do files the subfolder “Codes/” that are not directly associated with any specific figure or table but are part of the overall analysis.

- The file **0__master__do_file.do** provides an overview of the replication workflow and sets the required global directory paths for all subsequent code files.
- The file **required_packages.do** installs and loads all user-written packages needed to run the replication code.
- The file **“Cleaning/1_harmonization.do”** cleans and harmonizes all raw country survey data
- The file **“Cleaning/2_experts.do”** cleans the data from the survey of experts.

Figures

A list of all figures, along with their file names in the subfolder “Output/Graphs” and the corresponding .do files (in the folder the subfolder “Codes/Graphs”) used to replicate them (where applicable), is provided below. For figures that are not replicable, an explanation is provided.

- **Figure 1** (filename: Fig1.png). Replicated using 1_sankey_change_due_to_design.do
- **Figure 2** (filename: Fig2.png). Replicated using 2_SO_by_price.do
- **Figure 3** (filename: Fig3.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure 4** (filename: Fig4.png). Replicated using 4_expert_predictions.do
- **Figure 5** (filename: Fig5.png). Replicated using 5_coping_compensation.do
- **Figure C1** (filename: surveyflow.png). Figure illustrates the survey flow using a schematic created manually. It is not generated programmatically and is not part of the replication code.
- **Figure D1** (filename: Fig3_energy.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D2** (filename: Fig3_incgroup.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D3** (filename: Fig3_trust.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D4** (filename: heat_SO_byfeature.png). Replicated using 6_heatplots.do
- **Figure D5** (filename: heat_comp_coping_rationalized.png). Replicated using 6_heatplots.do
- **Figure D6** (filename: Fig5_byprice.png). Replicated using 5_coping_compensation.do
- **Figure D7** (filename: Fig5_bysubgroup.png). Replicated using 5_coping_compensation.do
- **Figure D8** (filename: Fig1_EGY.png). Replicated using 1_sankey_change_due_to_design.do
- **Figure D9** (filename: Fig1_IDN.png). Replicated using 1_sankey_change_due_to_design.do
- **Figure D10** (filename: Fig1_MON.png). Replicated using 1_sankey_change_due_to_design.do
- **Figure D11** (filename: Fig1_UZB.png). Replicated using 1_sankey_change_due_to_design.do
- **Figure D12** (filename: Fig2_EGY.png). Replicated using 2_SO_by_price.do
- **Figure D13** (filename: Fig2_IDN.png). Replicated using 2_SO_by_price.do
- **Figure D14** (filename: Fig2_MON.png). Replicated using 2_SO_by_price.do
- **Figure D15** (filename: Fig2_UZB.png). Replicated using 2_SO_by_price.do
- **Figure D16** (filename: Fig3_EGY.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D17** (filename: Fig3_IDN.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D18** (filename: Fig3_MON.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D19** (filename: Fig3_NIG.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D20** (filename: Fig3_UZB.png). Replicated using 3_change_SO_by_feature.do
- **Figure D21** (filename: sankey_reducenergy.png). Replicated using 1_sankey_change_due_to_design.do

Tables

A list of all tables, along with their sheet names in the file “Output/Tables/Tables.xlsx” and the corresponding .do files (in the folder the subfolder “Codes/Tables”) used to replicate them (where applicable), is provided below. For tables that are not replicable, an explanation is provided:

- **Table B1** (sheet: Energy table). Not part of the replication code as it presents summary values directly sourced from external online databases, and not generated through code.
- **Table C1** (sheet: N/A). Not part of the replication code as this information was compiled manually from survey instruments and is not derived from analysis code.
- **Table C2** (sheet: N/A). Not part of the replication code as this summarizes variables, and is provided for reference and was compiled manually; it is not generated by replication code.
- **Table D1** (sheet: Demographics). Replicated using demographics.do
- **Table D2** (sheet: Balance (information)). Replicated using balance.do
- **Table D3** (sheet: Balance (price)). Replicated using balance.do
- **Table D4** (sheet: Eq 2). Replicated using eq2.do
- **Table D5** (sheet: Eq 2 (with controls)). Replicated using eq2.do
- **Table D6** (sheet: Eq 1). Replicated using eq1.do

- **Table D7** (sheet: Eq 2 (support)). Replicated using eq2_support.do
 - **Table D8** (sheet: Eq 1 (support)). Replicated using eq1_support.do
 - **Table D9** (sheet: Eq 2 (full distribution)). Replicated using eq2_full.do
 - **Table D10** (sheet: Eq 1 (full distribution)). Replicated using eq1_full.do
 - **Table D11** (sheet: Eq 2 (IPW)). Replicated using eq2_ipw.do
 - **Table D12** (sheet: Eq 1 (IPW)). Replicated using eq1_ipw.do
 - **Table E1** (sheet: Expert descriptives). Replicated using expert_descriptives.do
 - **Table F1** (sheet: N/A). Not part of the replication code as it summarizes key theoretical results derived in the subsequent subsection. It is included for reader clarity and is not generated by code.
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Datasets

The following is a list of all datasets used in the replication, along with a brief description and source reference for each file. Note: for some of the country surveys and the expert survey included in this replication package, we are unable to provide direct links to official World Bank Microdata Library entries. While we have cited these links where possible, many surveys were independently conducted by country teams using localized servers or platforms and were not formally archived. We have, nevertheless, included the raw datasets required for replication within this package. These datasets are sufficient for reproducing all results, and no additional access to external sources is required for replication to work:

Global Monitoring Database

- **File:** Data/Raw data/GMD/GMD_allcountries.dta. Contains a harmonized, representative sample of key socio-economic indicators for multiple countries from the Global Monitoring Database, used to compare our sample against national populations. **Source:** World Bank Global Monitoring Database (GMD). Survey data not publically available. Researchers interested in obtaining the original data should contact the corresponding author for access details or guidance on requesting it from the World Bank.

Country Surveys: Egypt

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/EGY/Energy survey WB_final.sav. Country survey for Egypt. **Source:** World Bank. Not publically available yet. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms. .

Country Surveys: Indonesia

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/IDN/anon_l2indo_M15_coping.dta. Coping module for the Listening to Indonesia World Bank household survey (up to Round 11). **Source:** World Bank. Not online yet but mentioned here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/world-bank-listening-surveys>. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/IDN/anon_l2indo_M14_gasoline.dta. Module capturing public opinion on fuel price reform for the Listening to Indonesia World Bank household survey (up to Round 11). **Source:** World Bank. Not online yet but mentioned here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/world-bank-listening-surveys>. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms.

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/IDN/Anon_HH_L2Indo_Analysisfile_r14.dta. Main household level module for the Listening to Indonesia World Bank survey (up to Round 14). **Source:** World Bank. Not online yet but mentioned here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/world-bank-listening-surveys>. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/IDN/anon_l2indo_M14_gasoline_r14.dta. Coping module for the Listening to Indonesia World Bank household survey (up to Round 14). **Source:** World Bank. Not online yet but mentioned here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/world-bank-listening-surveys>. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/IDN/Anon_HH_L2Indo_Analysisfile.dta. Main household level module for the Listening to Indonesia World Bank survey (up to Round 11). **Source:** World Bank. Not online yet but mentioned here: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/world-bank-listening-surveys>. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms. ### Country Surveys: Mongolia
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/MON/MNG Energy survey R1.dta. Country survey for Mongolia. **Source:** World Bank. Not publically available yet. This is included in this replication package under data-sharing terms.

Country Surveys: Nigeria

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/p2r13_sect_a_2_5g_8_11c_12.dta. National Longitudinal Phone Survey 2021-2024 **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/4444/data-dictionary>
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/p2r13_sect_2_5d.dta. National Longitudinal Phone Survey 2021-2024 **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/4444/data-dictionary>
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/p2r12_sect_5g.dta. National Longitudinal Phone Survey 2021-2024 **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/4444/data-dictionary>
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/Post Harvest Wave 5/Household/sect11b_harvestw5.dta. Section 11b of post harvest wave 5 survey in Nigeira, containing important demographic information for the households in our sample. **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6410>
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/Post Harvest Wave 5/Household/sect8b_harvestw5.dta. Section 8b of post harvest wave 5 survey in Nigeira, containing important demographic information for the households in our sample. **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6410>
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/Post Harvest Wave 5/Household/sect1_harvestw5.dta. Section 1 of post harvest wave 5 survey in Nigeira, containing important demographic information for the households in our sample. **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6410>
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/NIG/Post Harvest Wave 5/Household/sect4a_harvestw5.dta. Section 4a of post harvest wave 5 survey in Nigeira, containing important demographic information for the households in our sample. **Source:** World Bank. <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6410>

Country Surveys: Uzbekistan

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/M23_tariff.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. Tariff module (Round 78). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioend here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication

package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/l2cu_cati_M12_opinions.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. Opinions module (Round 78). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/l2cu_cati_M06_views.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. View module (Round 78). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/l2cu_cati_M02_shocks.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. Shock module (Round 78). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/l2cu_cati_base@78.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. Base data (Round 78). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/l2cu_cati_individual_data_79.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. Individual data (Round 79). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/l2cu_cati_household_data_79.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025. Household data (Round 79). **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.
- **File:** Data/Raw data/Country_surveys/UZB/Round 81/l2cu_cati_M23_tariff.dta. Listening to the Citizens of Uzbekistan Survey 2018-2025 (Round 81) **Source:** World Bank. This dataset is an earlier version of the survey mentioned here: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/6412/data-dictionary>. While the exact version used here is not publicly hosted, it is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. The structure and documentation remain largely consistent with the linked source.

Descriptive Data

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Descriptives/P_Data_Extract_From_World_Development_Indicators.xlsx. Contains selected country-level indicators from the World Bank's World Development Indicators database, used to compare national statistics with our sample. **Source:** World Development Indicators – World Bank (<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators?Series=SE.XPD.CTOT.ZS>, Database: World Development Indicators; Countries: Egypt Arab Republic, Indonesia, Series: Educational attainment, at least completed post-secondary, popu-

lation 25+, total (%) (cumulative) Mongolia, Nigeria, Uzbekistan; Series: Educational attainment, at least completed post-secondary, population 25+, total (%) (cumulative) [For Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Nigeria] , Educational attainment, at least completed post-secondary, population 25+, total (%) (cumulative) [For Egypt and Mongolia], Rural population (% of total population), Rural population (% of total population); Years: 2020-2024)). Accessed July 2025.

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Descriptives/P_Data_Extract_From_Gender_Statistics.xlsx. Contains selected indicators from the World Bank’s Gender Statistics database, , used to compare national statistics with our sample. **Source:** Gender Statistics – World Bank, (<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators?Series=SE.XPD.CTOT.ZS>, Database: Gender Statistics; Countries: Egypt Arab Republic, Indonesia, Series: Population ages 0–14 (female, male), 15–19 (female, male), 20–24 (female, male), 25–29 (female, male), 30–34 (female, male), 35–39 (female, male), 40–44 (female, male), 45–49 (female, male), 50–54 (female, male), 55–59 (female, male), 60–64 (female, male), 65 and above (female, male); Years: 2020-2024)). Accessed July 2025.

Expert Survey

- **File:** Data/Raw data/Experts/Designing Publicly Acceptable Energy Price Reforms_responses.csv. Raw data for the survey of experts. This dataset was collected by the authors and is not publicly hosted online. It is included in the replication package under data-sharing terms. Researchers seeking further information may contact the corresponding author.

Clean Datasets

- **File:** Data/Clean datasets/survey_of_experts.dta. Clean version of the survey of experts **Source:** Produced within the replciation packet
- **File:** Data/Clean datasets/harmonized_surveys.dta. Clean and harmonized country survey **Source:** Produced within the replciation packet
- **File:** Data/Clean datasets/harmonized_surveys_long.dta. Cleaned and harmonized country survey in long format, with each design feature reshaped so that every question appears in a separate row per respondent. **Source:** Produced within the replciation packet

Citations

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). (2024). General Household Survey, Panel 2023-2024 [Data set]. World Bank, Development Data Group. <https://doi.org/10.48529/ZD5S-TJ25>

World Bank. 2025. Gender Statistics (database). Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/gender-statistics>.

World Bank. 2025. World Development Indicators (WDI) (database). Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>.

World Bank (2025) Global Monitoring Indicators – June 2025 version