



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting with Civil Society, 15 June 2015 Feedback Summary Brasilia, Brazil

The consultation meeting with **representatives from civil society** was held on **June 15, 2015** in **Brasilia, Brazil**. After a dialogue with World Bank Group Gender Team on the background, intended scope and process for the strategy, the floor was open for participants' comments and recommendations. The summary below captures the main points and recommendations raised during the meeting.

Total Number of Participants: 2. A participant list is available [here](#).

Feedback from Stakeholders

1. KEY GENDER GAPS THE WORLD BANK GROUP SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION AS PRIORITY TO HELP COUNTRIES REDUCE POVERTY AND PROMOTE MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETIES

- The World Bank Group (WBG) should prioritize the following areas:
 - **Barriers to financial services.** Since land is often publically owned, and the Government's National Programme for the Strengthening of Family Agriculture (PRONAF) requires land titles to access credit, poor communities (both men and women) in rural areas have limited access to financing. This challenge persists, despite the successful advocacy for joint titling by the "Margaridas' March" that was implemented in 2007.
 - **Overlapping disadvantages.** In the Brazilian context, the WBG should consider issues of overlapping disadvantages, such as race and ethnicity, particularly since policies often do not reach marginalized communities.
 - **Changing norms** early through **working with men and boys.**

- **Violence against women.** Violence in Brazil should be addressed urgently. Often, public policies do not reach remote communities, therefore, violence should be tackled in the context of appropriate public policies.
- **Gender equality in school curricula.** Due to political challenges, gender equality in school curricula is not institutionalized. Its inclusion often depends on local stakeholders, and even when such programs receive stakeholder buy-in, parental support is needed. Most recently, in Guarulhos, an attempt was made to develop a gender equality booklet and it was blocked by the conservative groups.
- **Women's health.** Often breast milk is contaminated with pesticides, which poses a health risk to both the mother and her child. In Brazil, many family farms are trying to produce foods without pesticides, however, the aerial application of pesticides is causing cross-contamination. The WBG should prioritize this issue.
- The WBG should also consider the following areas:
 - **Education as a pathway to autonomy,** especially for female rural workers.
 - **Women in prisons.** Improving the lives of incarcerated women should also be a focus. There are attempts to monitor them, however, there are difficulties that result from the current visitation policies. Overall job training and capacity building are needed, otherwise women leave jail unprepared for real life.

2. EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR POLICIES, APPROACHES AND PROGRAMS THAT HAVE HELPED REMOVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS TO WOMEN AND GIRLS AND THAT THE WORLD BANK GROUP STRATEGY COULD LEARN FROM

- The **“Margaridas’ March”** was cited as an approach that the WBG can learn from. The march helps to maintain dialogue between rural women in municipalities and the government as it develops policy. The next march is scheduled for August 2015 and 100,000 women are expected to participate. The establishment of women’s police stations resulted from the first “Margaridas’ March”.
- Another program that could hold lessons for the Bank Group is an **education project that prioritizes community development.** More specifically, rural students spend 45 days at university, twice per year (January and July) and return to their rural communities for the remainder of the year. This could help to reduce the mass migration to urban area and promote investment in rural communities.
- The WBG could learn from **“I-Penha”**. The Maria de Penha domestic violence law requires a controlled database. It captures aspects of domestic violence crimes, such as age and ethnicity of the perpetrators, as well as their motives.
- The Bank Group can learn from the partnership **that National Confederation of Agricultural Workers (CONTAG) has with federal, state and municipal governments to fight violence against women.** Currently, CONTAG is building a team that provides psychosocial support and family-based interventions. These teams will access various communities in Rondônia and Pernambuco using mobile units in the form of buses and boats.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE WORLD BANK GROUP CAN BETTER SUPPORT COUNTRIES AND COMPANIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO GENDER EQUALITY TO YIELD MORE SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

- The WBG can help to create more sustainable results by:
 - Focusing on the **solvency of family farms and environmental sustainability**, more broadly. According to participants, approximately 70% of food is produced by family farmers and most producers are women. Women are often not recognized, despite the fact that they care for both the farm and the family.
 - Supporting projects that **promote healthy eating habits for women in rural areas**.
 - **Facilitating education and training on gender equality**. One specific suggestion in this area is to teach the Maria de Penha laws in schools as an attempt to shift norms.
 - Prioritizing the **situation of women working in the fields** among Quilombola communities in Piauí. Ensuring access to quality education could help to empower them and facilitate their independence. In this state, the Bank Group should also focus on the **sexual exploitation of children**, the high rates of child prostitution and HIV/AIDS can be found in Piauí.

In the area of domestic violence, the WBG could:

- **Work in partnership with the private sector to better disseminate information and services**.
- Support **the government in the implementation of the Maria de Penha domestic violence law**. While the law is federal, local governments are responsible for its implementation. In addition, the WBG should consider regional specifics and partner with federations, such as Federation of Agricultural Workers in the state of Pará (FETAGRI) and CONTAG, which were said to have great capillarity and therefore could help to reach remote areas. The WBG should also link implementation of the de Penha law with the disbursement of project funds when possible. States need to allocate resources for its implementation: 3-5% of municipal budget could help it to be successful.

4. IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE GAPS – AREAS WHERE WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH AND THE WORLD BANK GROUP SHOULD PRIORITIZE IN ITS WORK TO HELP CLOSE GENDER GAPS

- In the area of domestic violence, the WBG could **facilitate judicial reform with respect to alignment of information systems**. This is particularly important because women interface with several different courts as their case moves through the justice system. Consequently, often the court that tries the murder case of a woman who is killed by her abuser, is not the same court where she lodged previous complaints. Therefore, judges sometimes do not have an account of the full history of abuse. Legal support is needed; one possible solution is for the General Prosecutor's Office to name a judge for a specific case to ensure consistency.