



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting, July 10, 2015 Feedback Summary Kingston, Jamaica

The consultation meeting with **development partners** was held on **July 10, 2015** in **Kingston, Jamaica**. After a presentation by the 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: 6. 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 consider the following areas as priority:

- **More and better jobs.** The focus on more and better jobs resonated with the group.
- **Informality.** Informality accounts for approximately 40 percent of Jamaica's economic activity. Moreover, there are high rates of informality among women. The WBG should focus on this area in general, and support measurement efforts.
- **Gender-based violence.** Currently services for survivors are extremely limited. More hotlines are needed, as well as access to services via social media. The WBG should focus specifically on the economic needs of survivors. Without ways to break economic dependency, women have a much harder time leaving their abusers. Additionally, survivors typically lack access to mainstream social protection programs due to high barriers to entry.
- **Working with men and boys:**
 - Much work is needed in this area, particularly as it relates to socialization and masculine norms.

- **Male marginalization.** This issue generated much discussion: In some cases, “male marginalization” was considered to be more of a “class marginalization” issue, since well-off men do not experience the same sort of marginalization. In poor and rural communities, often men are more visible and are engaged in risky behavior, which is why they are perceived as more marginalized. However, at this socio-economic level, women are also marginalized and exploited, but less visible.
- **Sexual and reproductive and sexual health (SRHR):**
 - Adolescent pregnancy, particularly as an intergenerational exploitation issue.
 - Relatedly, maternal mortality rates among adolescent girls.
 - HIV/AIDS, especially among adolescent girls.
 - Access to SRHR services for adolescents and the relationship between lack of access and the legislative framework.
- Other areas for the WBG’s consideration include:
 - **Care.**
 - **Women’s entrepreneurship.**
 - **Sex workers.**
 - **Men who have sex with men (MSM).**

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 following examples were shared as good practices:

- **ScotiaBank Foundation’s “Economic Jump Start” project:** The project provided survivors of violence with immediate training and certification for certain skills for survivors of violence. Therefore survivors developed a new skill that could help to reduce their economic dependence on their abusers.
- **UNICEF-supported “moveable chicken coops”:** Different projects targeted women, as well as children engaged in commercial sex work who were HIV-positive and faced sexual violence. These initiatives helped to reduce economic vulnerabilities for both groups in a cost-effective way.
- **Eve for Life/UNICEF program:** The project focused on girls’ empowerment and among other activities, provided hygiene products, makeup, and uniforms for adolescent girls. This component of the project was especially important because it focused on the dignity and pride of at-risk adolescent girls. This approach was found to be extremely successful.
- **UNICEF’S previous “Roving Caregivers Program (RCP)”:** The RCP was a rural home visiting, early stimulation and parenting initiative, which was designed to provide enrichment to young children and their parents through training and deployment of a cadre of young caregivers called Rovers. It was designed to promote the development, health and nutrition of children, the self-esteem and child rearing knowledge and practices of the parents, as well as to assist with income-generating activities for families. An impact evaluation of the program indicated that its child beneficiaries have significantly higher development

quotients than those in similar circumstances who have not participated in the RCP. RCP was considered a highly successful care program, but it was not taken up by the government due to lack of fiscal space. This program was also successful in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

- **Private-sector models of early childhood development (ECD) related to previous Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs:** Companies considered the link between investing in ECD and women’s labor force participation, related to both formal employment and entrepreneurial activities. The pilot program focused on specific communities and trained members of the community to become caregivers for families within the same community. This approach helped to reduce the burden of care for women, created employment for other community members and built trust. Caregivers were also equipped with ECD training kits and would help parenting with child-rearing skills.

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

To help countries yield more sustainable results in the area of gender equality, the WBG should:

- Focus on the **sustainability of its development interventions**. One-off interventions without monitoring and evaluation are not successful.
- **Improve synergies among projects**, especially in the area of health, which can help to reach the most marginalized, at-risk populations. Also, create synergies among gender and health programs.
- Prioritize **gender-responsive budgeting and child budgeting**. Current donor efforts are trying to shift the culture of the Ministry of Finance with respect to its budgeting processes. While Jamaica is highly indebted and the fiscal space is limited, there are still resources that are wasted or misallocated.
- **Engage in the fiscal policy space**. The WBG could play an enormous role in the fiscal policy space, particularly through a gender-lens. Currently, this space is very hostile and the WBG could create a softer development dialogue.
- **Focus on policy monitoring**. More specifically, track the implementation of existing policies down to the micro-level.

6. 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

- The WBG could conduct a **study on the impact of dancehall on gender gaps**.
- The Bank Group could help to deconstruct **women’s educational streaming and preferences**. Often women are more socialized to pursue a more traditional academic route, while men opt for shorter training courses. These preferences could account, in part, for differences in labor market opportunities.

7. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

- The WBG should also prioritize improving the **understanding of gender equality**.