



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting July 20, 2015 Feedback Summary London, United Kingdom

The consultation meeting with CSOs and other partners was held on July 20th, 2015 in London, United Kingdom. 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: 20. 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

- In markets and economic empowerment, go beyond the established private sector and/or microentrepreneurs and invest in value change development for women and how to build on this and enhance sustainability of women's firms.
- As enrolment has increased, focus on retention at the high education level.
- Female representation in corporate boards, participation of women in local counties and at the local level, not only in national bodies.
- Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- Legislation, specially legislation that discriminates such as child marriage, abortion bans, etc

- Because financial inclusion is a very successful intervention to women's economic empowerment, the global financing sector has not focused in other important issues. For example, mainstream commercial bank have poor gender disaggregated data.
- Ownership of household and land at the urban level and not only rural land.
- Gender and aging. How to better address the needs and problems of the increasingly high proportion of older women. Better jobs for them today and for those who are aging. How do we link gender issues to social protection and pensions reforms with an eye both in today's older women and the future cohorts of women who will age with gaps in their pensions contributions.
- Unpaid care, role of women as care givers and care receivers.

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

- For small entrepreneurs. when it comes to credit, saving groups and their linkage with commercial banks to fulfill requirements such as balance sheets reports, making smaller business owners more attractive to banks.
- Public care services and involving women free or low cost to help share costs with the households.
- US policy on procurement to see female headed businesses increased in numbers and representation among vendors.
- Get commercial banks to take an active role earlier in the process of engagement with a future entrepreneur: getting valuable customers and not getting customer acquisition cost. Building pre-competitive activity in banks –prepare the markets and supply chains to take into the new initiatives and/or new clients and women specially.
- Low cost and publicly funded childcare
- Integration of projects from small activities not coordinate into an umbrella Project covering several areas –sexual and reproductive rights and health plus income. Integration shows better results across all dimensions. Examples: Indonesia and Madagascar projects on creating alternative livelihoods and sexual and reproductive rights.
- Dignity pensions in Bolivia
- Targeted legal aid to improve women's access to justice
- Organizing women and trade unions.
- India: pensions for small business owners to increase women's Access to pensions.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS ON SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO INCREASE OWNERSHIP OF OR ACCESS TO LAND, HOUSING, FINANCE, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN.

- Emphasis on evidence (data and labs) is not sufficient to trigger changes and returns to investment on gender equality – economic and investment returns, More emphasis needs to be placed and these two.
- Balance the emphasis on the generation of new evidence into also a better organization of the existing evidence and better use of what exists, more funding going to data and evidence seems unnecessary.
- Promote a stronger focus on specific groups of population with specific characteristics instead of aggregates.
- Build the capacity of women’s institutions and ministries at the government level. These institutions don’t have enough resources to implement their strategies and plans, and have no political power over line ministries, the same is the situation for other institutions such as equal opportunity commissions.

4. 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

- It is not clear that the strategy presents big changes on how the World Bank addresses gender equality
- The World Bank should guide its actions by article 2 on CEDAW
- Actions should identify and address key powerholders in each country to make sure progress on gender equality issues are a priority.
- Actions should take social, cultural and religious contexts into account (for example when discussing access to land)
- The Bank should request borrowing countries to implement quotas or have gender policies
- Sustainability as investing in social and structural change requires longer term than project cycle.
- Consider gender differences between rural/urban settings and have context specific data and projects.
- Consider a life-cycle approach and age-specific gender differences and gaps.
- The WBG should take more advantage of its access to Finance Ministers.
- The Strategy should better align with the new SDGs.
- When discussing poverty and gender, emphasize not only traditional poverty measures but multidimensional poverty, as income or consumption are not good enough measures when we are thinking about gender inequalities at the household level.
- The generated evidence needs to be carried forward and used to advocate for change, an important target should be female parliamentarians, and go beyond simply counting how many of them are, but invest in improving their quality by getting them the evidence and capacity needed to make better decisions.

- Increase coordination with other agencies in the field and make it an important objective and frequent practice instead of the exception
- There is a role for the Bank in encouraging private sector partners in contributing into gender equality more proactively. Today these type of actions appear as an add-on rather than as part of the business. The Bank should help private sector to move beyond corporate social responsibility activities to buy into gender equality actions into a more integrated manner.

5. 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

- Relation between gender inequality and gaps and macroeconomic environment
- Housing land and property ownership, not only on legal ownership but on how women access to justice and laws get implemented
- The situation of women in old age. The data is normally not disaggregated by age and gender, and age tends to focus on either childhood or reproductive/productive age.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR EXAMPLES OF BETTER DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS THAT CAN BE USED TO HELP THE UNDERSTANDING OF CONSTRAINTS TO GENDER EQUALITY – BEYOND THOSE CURRENTLY USED BY THE WORLD BANK GROUP, IE. COUNTRY GENDER ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH ON GENDER.

- Women's groups should be involved in diagnostics and plans.
- The diagnostics should have a holistic approach to economic empowerment and make sure to address issues such as care work, violence, social norms, equal pay, and occupational segregation, and look at how well existing social protection measures are care sensitive
- ODI report on income distribution inside households looking into how to improve outcomes for girls and boys –spending on food, son preference, etc. using MICCS data. What can be done to better assess intra-household differences more systematically.

7. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

- EU includes in its internal evaluation framework a monitoring of the extent of the inclusion of gender in policy dialogue generated by them. The World Bank should do the same
- It would be welcome if the Strategy presents what the Bank is doing internally in terms of gender equality.
- Framing the strategy around the need for equal rights it is important, for example, when it comes to jobs, to frame the actions not only on availability but quality of jobs
- Will the World Bank promote or adopt gender-responsive budgeting agenda?
- The strategy could better discuss how to balance the proposed country based approach with the country-specific views and needs. How will the Bank choose areas of focus in a country if there is no government support?
- The concept note states that the Strategy does not intend to have an overall/global level target: what doesn't get measured might not be given sufficient attention if it is not present.
- When it comes to data, the Bank should make efforts to make such data accessible and of use for civil society organizations.
- Strategic focus on jobs needs to be more holistic into voice and agency and barriers on education, sexual and reproductive health, unpaid care, and new initiatives.
- IFC: understand how the strategy will impact IFC, for example when it comes to safeguards or gender protections. Also will the Bank move to make available better data on the impact of IFC investments by gender?