



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting: 13 May 2015 Feedback Summary Saida, Lebanon

The **multi-stakeholder consultation meeting** was held on **May 13, 2015** in **Saida, Lebanon**. 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: 34. 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:
 - **The needs of poor women:** In exploring the drivers for low female labor force participation in Lebanon, which stands at a rate of 26 percent, the WBG should consider the **burden of care responsibilities**, which may hinder formal economic participation. In addition, **their children often face multiple vulnerabilities, including the risk of early marriage** for girls, therefore, their specific needs should be taken into account.
 - **Women's political participation:** Women in Lebanon are typically well-educated, however, they only hold 3 percent of seats in national parliament; therefore, targeted action is needed to boost women's decision-making in the political sphere.

- **Accelerated vocational training:** This type of training for men and women could facilitate their transition to the labor market. Additionally, focusing on small grants, access to collateral, and business development training should be included.
- **Education curricula:** In addition to working on policies and laws, norms should be addressed through the curricula.

2. 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 should **work with women's associations in Saida** to yield more sustainable results with respect to gender equality. These groups were suggested as a pilot project for the implementation of the strategy.
- To bring about more sustainable and effective development results, the WBG should **make an effort to understand the structural barriers and cultural complexities that impede gender equality**, particularly in the Arab World. Additionally, after the dismantling of many societies and multiple refugee crises in the region, tailored solutions are needed.
- In developing the strategy, as well as the subsequent implementation framework, the Bank Group should make an effort to **work with local organizations and focus on results** on the ground.