



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting May 22, 2015 Feedback Summary Islamabad, Pakistan

The consultation meeting with members of the **Interagency Gender and Development Group** was held **on May 22, 2015 in Islamabad, Pakistan**. 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: 13.

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 should consider as priority the following:

- **Gender barriers to transport:** mobility and transport are a barrier to women getting jobs in Pakistan. There are no government public transport systems which are safe and secure. Most women rely on a male household figure for transportation. The renewed strategy should explore different options to provide affordable, accessible and safe public transport.

- **Informal economy:** the renewed strategy should put an emphasis on the informal economy as most of the workers in the informal sector are women. It would be interesting for the strategy to explore different pathways for workers to graduate to the formal economy.
- **Data collection and analysis:** for a country to be able to do informed policies it is important to have enough quality data. In the case of Pakistan, the census is done every 10 years and the household surveys are done by male door-to-door data collectors. This poses a double problem as the data is rapidly outdated and it is often skewed – female led households will not open the door to a male interviewer. The Bank Group could encourage the Government of Pakistan to undertake census more frequently and to invest in new, more inclusive way for data collection.
- **Engagement of men:** at the community level it is important that men and women are equally engaged. Without the engagement of the men, the support systems don't work.

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 consider a **comprehensive (multi-sectoral) approach** to gender: gender is a transversal approach and should be treated as such.
- The renewed strategy should allow enough flexibility so that it can be adapted to each **country's specificities**. The strategy should clearly specify how is it going to be implemented and translated from global into regional and then into a country strategy.
- It is important to take into account the issue of territoriality and **the divide between rural and urban areas**.

3. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

- The WBG renewed gender strategy should go beyond women and men and also include **different sexual orientations**.
- **Sustainability of projects:** often times, the projects end the moment that the donor funding ends, even if the projects have been successful and there is an interest from the community for them to continue. The Bank Group could take the lead in the donor community to find incentive mechanisms for the government to give continuity to projects once the donor withdraws.