



Towards a World Bank Group Gender Strategy Consultation Meeting with Civil Society: 26 June 2015 Feedback Summary Stockholm, Sweden

The consultation meeting with **civil society** was held on June 26, 2015 in Stockholm, Sweden. 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 prioritize the following areas:

- **Fragility and gender-based violence (GBV):** Participants called for WBG support in addressing sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCS). How can the WBG best support the generation of knowledge that can help CSOs to combat sexual and gender-based violence? Additionally, GBV often goes under-reported, so the reality is likely much worse than the existing but limited data indicate. Combating GBV should therefore be an important component of the Bank Group's work.
- **Norms and normative change.** Participants asked if and how normative change can be incorporated as an integrated project component. Currently, much work goes into changing policies and laws that work against women and girls, but to create long-lasting change norms may need to be changed as well.

- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** is an area of particular interest among the civil society organizations (CSOs). The WBG should therefore work on this area and emphasize this in the new strategy.
- **Social protection** has a huge impact on reducing gender equality therefore the WBG should continue to look at how to implement social protection in particular in low-income countries. Cash transfers were recognized by participants as a useful tool to get around the constraints in low-income countries.

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

To better support countries in yielding more sustainable results, the WBG should:

- **Establish country-specific metrics.** Given that the WBG operates in many different contexts, it is not feasible to have one monitoring and evaluation system that applies to all projects. Instead, its metrics should be adapted to the particular country and context.
- **Incentivize gender integration.** In order to ensure that gender is not just seen as an additional requirement, WBG should think about how to incentivize promoting gender policies in projects.
- **Results and fragility.** The results indicators should reflect the particular challenges of those states, where for women simply surviving can already be a measure of success.
- **Operationalizing projects in fragile and conflicted-affected states.** Operating in a fragile state often means not having a state or institutional counterpart. To circumvent that problem, WBG should work more with CSOs to implement their projects.
- **Recognize gender** as an area of **expertise** like any other.

3. 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

- **Gender-based violence.** Participants emphasized that producing new knowledge on this issue is also a valuable contribution where the WBG can play an important role.

4. 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.

- **Stakeholder analyses.** When designing a project and assessing the existing constraints to gender equality, WBG should take into consideration stakeholders who might be resistant to a change in gender dynamics. Addressing gender inequality often entails changing power relations, at the household, community and societal levels. Therefore, specific measures to manage resistant actors should be implemented, as such stakeholders can often undermine the success of a project.

5. ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS.

- Participants discussed whether and how it would make sense to better promote women and girls through the operational policies as well as through safeguards.
- Participants also encouraged the WBG to not be limited to the gender-relevant indicators and targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework to be determined later this year.