Strengthening World Bank efforts to promote gender equality

Commission on the Status of Women
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Gender in the Bank: *a timeline*

- **1977**: First Women in Development Adviser appointed
- **1984**: OMS 2.20, Project Appraisal requires consideration of gender

- **2001**: *Engendering Development* flagship
- **2001**: Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
- **2001**: OMS 2.20 replaced by OP 4.20

- **2007**: Gender Action Plan – pilots, evaluations and data
- **2008**: President Zoellick’s 6 commitments on gender.
- **2010**: IEG report
- **2011**: GAP Transition Plan
- **2011**: DC Paper on WDR 2012 Implications
- **2012**: Regional Gender Action Plans

- **Gender as a special theme in IDA 16**
- **Major scorecard commitments**
- **WDR 2012**
- **2007**: Gender Action Plan – pilots, evaluations and data
First ever on gender equality and development

Key messages
- **Intrinsic value** of gender equality, alongside smart economics
- Gender inequality is **multidimensional** – new emphasis on voice and agency
- **Growth is not enough** to address disparities
- Need to understand underlying determinants

Widespread dissemination
- tailored to country context

Companion reports—regional and network

Hugely successful **ThinkEQUAL** campaign reached 43.9 million people
Strategic Directions for the WBG

Endorsed by the Executive Board on August 23, 2011 and Development Committee on September 24, 2011.
Overall lending substantial: US$ 57.3 billion in FY11
  • $26.7 billion IBRD—middle-income countries
  • $16.3 billion IDA—low-income countries

In 2010: US$ 65 billion of World Bank loans over the preceding five years were rated as adequately gender mainstreamed or better –

Efforts to improve mainstreaming in several aspects of operations:
  • Analysis and consultations
  • Content and actions
  • Monitoring and evaluation
Range of approaches to gender informed financing

**South Sudan:** Adolescent Girls Initiative
- Supporting 3000 girls and young women ages 15-24 in clubs, support & training
- $1.9 m

**Bolivia:** National Roads and Airport Infrastructure Project
- $109.5 million — aims to improve major national road and airport
- Strengthen complaint mechanisms as well as training in tourism marketing for women

**Ethiopia:** Women's Entrepreneurship Development Project
- $50 million IDA
- Targets female entrepreneurs — aims to increase earnings and employment

**India:** National Rural Livelihood Project
- $1 billion WBG financing with GOI $6 billion, expected to leverage additional private investment
- Covering 350 million rural poor — aims to enable rural women to increase household incomes
Mainstreaming involves a suite of services and instruments:

- **Country assistance strategies**

- **Policy dialogue**
  - Picked up in *Development Policy Loans* – eg Pernambuco, Brazil

- **Innovative analytical work and evidence**
  - Investments in data and statistics
  - Working groups on GenderStats and international core indicators

- **Partnerships**
  - Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls -- Liberia

→ The provision of innovative knowledge, financing and convening packages to support integration of gender into policies and programs
Peru

- **Focus:** foster equity through social services, infrastructure and competitiveness, while continuing to preserve macro stability.
- **Identified gender gaps** in endowments, economic opportunities and women’s agency. High rates of violence against women.
- **Gender as cross-cutting theme** along with governance.
- **Gender components in several projects**
  - Lima Water and Sewerage Systems
  - Rural Water and Sanitation
  - Rural Roads
  - Sierra Rural Development Project
  - PSI- Sierra Irrigation
  - Health Reform (APL2)
  - Justice Services Improvement II Project.
- **New ESW on Gender and Agency**

Lao PDR

- **Focus:** bolster competitiveness and connectivity and support country’s efforts to exploit their natural resource wealth sustainably and equitably.
- **Identifies gender gaps** in accessing finance, markets, and information.
- **Strong gender focus** in strategic objective “Inclusive Development”
  - Improved access to and quality of **education**
  - Improved **maternal & child health and nutrition**
  - **Health** financing and health systems reform
  - **Targeted community** poverty reduction and livelihood programs
  - **Access to finance**
Managing Opportunities and Risks

Opportunities:
• Fruits of earlier investments and analysis
• Launch of the WDR2012
• Increasing country and regional interest
• Senior management attention

Risks:
• Deep-seated structural inequalities take time to redress
• Risk of fatigue → demonstrable progress plus patience.