



## Updating the World Bank's Gender Strategy: Strategic Direction and Opportunities 13 April, UFGE's Partner Dialogue on Gender Strategy, Spring Meetings 2023

On April 13, 2023, the World Bank Group's [Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality \(UFGE\)](#) held an in-person partner dialogue on the World Bank Group's (WBG) Gender Strategy 2024-30. This was part of the WBG and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings 2023. Participants included representatives from UFGE donor partner governments and agencies. Key takeaways are summarized below and will be considered in the development of the Strategy.

### Key Takeaways

- Donor partners discussed the **conceptual framework** proposed for the 2024-2030 WBG Gender Strategy and suggested that the WBG consider lessons from implementing large scale programs during the pandemic. For example, could lessons around the care economy, precarious work or health systems be incorporated to improve systems?
- The topic of **accountability** was important for both the work of the WBG and clients. The WBG could consider how to further engage local organizations to support service delivery as well as act as key partners in ensuring accountability.
- Donor partners suggested that to truly **engage with women's groups**, greater and more flexible financing would be needed. Partners highlighted that successful economic empowerment programs have pushed large volumes of liquidity to women's groups at controlled rates in a mass mobilization of finance to women's groups. The WBG could consider how to apply these lessons and facilitate and encourage greater support to women's groups and women's rights organizations, especially in light of the focus on collective action.
- The Strategy's emphasis on **ending gender-based violence (GBV)** was welcomed by donor partners, who further asked whether the WBG also plans to work on technology facilitated GBV, aligned with the theme of this year's [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\) - Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls](#). Donor partners also underscored the importance of **working with men and boys** for addressing GBV as well as the importance of making the economic, business and human capital case for focusing on GBV to build support and momentum.
- The WBG could consider **gender-differentiated wages and productivity** in the Strategy alongside the focus on female labor force participation.

- Participants suggested that the WBG could consider how to balance longer-term **research**, including most impact evaluations, with **real-time support** to task teams, as rigorous policy-relevant evidence is needed alongside information for task teams to make decisions in dynamic environments.