



CSW67 UFGE Donor Breakfast

March 16, 2023 • New York

On Thursday March 16th, 2023, the Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE) organized a dialogue on UFGE achievements and priority funding areas with donor representatives attending the United Nations' sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67). The event included a presentation and discussion on the World Bank Group's 2024-2030 Strategy as well as presentations on the impact and future directions of work supported by UFGE through the Africa Gender Innovation Lab (AFRIGIL) and under thematic areas of Gender and Climate and Gender-based Violence (GBV).

Discussion Summary:

- Partners expressed interest in the implementation of the Gender Strategy, emphasizing the need to focus on addressing social norms that limit women's economic participation despite women's increased access to education.
- Partners commended the WBG's efforts on GBV:
 - *WBG:* Efforts led by the WBG to address barriers to women's labor force participation have been captured in a thematic note on [Female Labor Force Participation](#), serving as an analytical underpinning for the [Gender Strategy](#). Examples of work led by the WBG in this field include information interventions to modify norms and encourage women to enter male-dominated sectors, and numerous interventions to expand access to childcare. The Strategy will also adopt an increased focus on addressing harmful social norms and changing collective mindsets.
- Partners stressed the importance of childcare systems and the care economy more broadly, suggesting to leverage partnerships, including to improve access to quality childcare (UN Women and ILO), and to address the challenges faced by women in FCV contexts (UN Women).
- Partners also encouraged greater collaboration with the private sector through IFC and urged IFC to take a lead role in developing innovative solutions, including for increasing women's access to finance.
- Partners underlined the importance for donor partners to be included and engaged in the Strategy Consultations. They recommended that the Strategy considers results from UFGE's midterm review.

- *WBG*: Official consultations on the Strategy will begin this summer. In the meantime, the World Bank Group has begun an extensive dialogue process, which has included sessions and meetings with Executive Directors at the World Bank and bilateral meetings with donor partners, and sessions with civil society stakeholders including a roundtable discussion during CSW67, which brought together Civil Society Organizations partners recommended by UN Women. The UFGE midterm review which will be completed in July 2023 will feed into the Gender Strategy as it will still be in the process of being drafted at that point.
- IFC highlighted the work on the care economy and innovative finance. IFC's [Tackling Childcare initiative](#) explores how employer supported childcare can improve women's career opportunity. The study on [gender balance in private equity and venture capital](#) and subsequent [guide](#) explores the business case for diversity in the funds. Finally, initiatives such as [ScaleX](#) help close the gender financing gap by incentivizing accelerators to support women entrepreneurs.

Resources

- [Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality Website](#)
- [WBG Gender Strategy 2024-2030 Website](#)
- [World Bank Group Gender Thematic Policy Notes Series](#)

Annex 1.

Attendance

Donor/ Guest Organization (Alphabetical Order)
Canada: Global Affairs Canada
Finland: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Hewlett Foundation
Netherlands: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
Sweden: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
Switzerland: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
United Kingdom: Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)