Inputs for the proposed World Bank Group (WBG) Gender Strategy 2024-30

- The previous strategy had a strong focus on voice and agency as these themes feel a bit buried in the current draft. This is especially important given the constraints social norms place on women and the worrying rollback on women’s rights.
- There is strong alignment with the draft strategy and the FCDO Women and Girls strategy and the latest White Paper on international development.
- It’s especially interesting to see the strong reference to GBV as well as the reference to human capital (including health, education, skills and social protection).
- The focus on jobs, assets and economic participation aligns well with the women’s economic empowerment campaign announced in our development White Paper.
- It is positive to see the discussion on unpaid work and care, but as a significant binding constraint to women’s economic empowerment this could have a more prominent feature in the strategy. Similarly, the UN High Level Panel on WEE describes 7 drivers which are still significant and relevant. The Work and Opportunities for Women programme recently published an update on progress against the drivers and it would be useful to make sure the strategy speaks to these international recognised and endorsed drivers/barriers to WEE as part of the wider Gender Strategy.
- The previous strategy had a strong focus on voice and agency as these themes feel a bit buried in the current draft. This is especially important given the constraints social norms place on women and the worrying rollback on women’s rights.