



#AccelerateEquality



WORLD BANK GROUP
Gender

WORLD BANK GROUP 2024-2030 GENDER STRATEGY CONSULTATION MISSION FEEDBACK SUMMARY

September 19-22, 2023

Maputo, Mozambique

**Cooperation Partners, Civil Society Organizations, Government
Representatives**

MISSION OVERVIEW

Between September 19 and 22, 2023, the World Bank Group held consultations on the proposed World Bank Group Gender Strategy 2024-2030 with representatives from cooperation partners and civil society organizations (CSOs) working in the gender space in Mozambique. These discussions aimed to engage, learn, get feedback, better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment, and identify potential areas for collaboration. Key inputs from the consultations are summarized below and will be considered in developing the strategy. Detailed meeting summaries are provided in the annexes.

KEY MESSAGES AND FEEDBACK

- **Endorsements for the gender strategy:** The gender strategy consultations endorsed the proposed strategic objectives—particularly welcoming the attention to engaging women as leaders—and drivers of change, including collective action to involve men and boys.
- **Operationalizing the strategy in Mozambique:** Mozambique country program is already well aligned with the proposed gender strategy. Mozambique has the potential to serve as one of the “flagship” countries for the strategy’s operationalization.
- **Key priorities** that emerged from discussions at both community and central levels include education and skill development for girls and boys, economic empowerment for women, access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights (SRHR), as well as the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV).
- **Social norms:** Despite the presence of protective laws against harmful practices, issues like child marriage and adolescent pregnancy persist, emphasizing the need for a shift in attitudes and behaviors among all individuals, encompassing both men and women, as well as boys and girls.

- **Engaging men and boys:** Local civil society organizations, community groups, and local religious leaders could help involve men and boys toward a change in attitudes and behavior with respect to gender equality, including child marriage, SRHR and GBV.
- **Inclusion:** Many rural and illiterate women lack access to essential support due to platform limitations. Tailored approaches, like audio training, are necessary to bridge this divide and reach marginalized populations effectively.
- **Data-driven decision-making:** More data, particularly at the local level, is essential to design impactful programs and advocacy campaigns. Informed decisions require a deeper understanding of the issues and their contexts.
- **Innovative programs** supported by the World Bank Group, such as Eu Sou Capaz, are contributing to improvements across policy, service delivery, and community practice.

MEETING TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways from stakeholder meetings included the following:

Field Visit

The team visited Integrated Care Centers for the Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

- The Integrated Care Centers for GBV Survivors in Mozambique offer a comprehensive range of services to GBV victims, including health, counseling, police assistance, justice, and social services. These centers are government managed. There are 25 of them in the country, of which some centers in the northern region are supported by World Bank Group programs.
- A notable gap in the services provided by these centers is the absence of a shelter facility for GBV survivors. This deficiency forces survivors to return to their families after reporting abuse, which can be a significant challenge.
- These centers have an outreach program that raises awareness about GBV in communities, collaborates with schools and clinics, and involves local leaders to promote gender equality and encourage the reporting of GBV cases.
- These centers are currently underutilized due to different factors: the absence of a shelter facility, which is vital for providing a safe haven for GBV survivors, limited working hours and location that affect the accessibility to CAI services, lack of financial autonomy and lack basic equipment, among others.
- Issues related to the confidentiality of information, particularly the identity of GBV survivors, negatively affect survivors' confidence in reporting cases. Improving confidentiality measures may encourage more survivors to come forward.

Field Visit

Eu Sou Capaz Program (Harnessing the Demographic Dividend – Mozambique)

- The Program focuses on encouraging girls' school attendance by providing uniforms, awareness, and information through social workers, contributing to improved retention of girls in schools.
- The program's impact includes the return of pregnant girls who had previously dropped out of school. Girls in schools are also mobilized to inspire other girls to enroll.
- A significant factor leading to girls dropping out of school is child marriage and adolescent pregnancies. The program addresses these underlying issues by raising awareness among families about the legal and social implications of marrying off their daughters before the age of 18, which is illegal in Mozambique since 2019.
- The program connects women and girls with sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and provides awareness sessions on family planning. However, female beneficiaries emphasize the importance of involving men in family planning sessions and encouraging them to use contraceptives.
- Beneficiaries expressed the need for the program to support boys as well, not only girls. Some boys drop out of school due to a lack of uniforms, and they believe the program should provide uniforms to boys as well.
- Engaging men and boys as key stakeholders and beneficiaries is a crucial takeaway from the program. Their involvement is seen as essential for achieving the program's goals effectively.

Meeting with Minister Nyeleti Brooke Mondlane, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Action, Government of Mozambique

- Gender priorities in Mozambique are in alignment with the draft World Bank Group gender strategy, reflecting support and common objectives for gender-related issues.
- Despite the progress made, significant challenges remain. It is essential to ensure that both boys and girls have access to education beyond grade 6, as there is a substantial number of out-of-school children in Mozambique.
- The Minister emphasized the need for expanding the coverage of Integrated Care Centers for the survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Currently, these centers are available in only a few districts, and there is a demand for their presence in more districts.
- The Minister stressed the importance of establishing a comprehensive support system to empower women economically and aid GBV survivors within the social structure. Economic independence for women is seen as a key factor that enables them to assert themselves and not remain silent in cases of domestic violence.

ANNEX 1: FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY WITH COOPERATION PARTNERS

September 19, 2023

Polana Hotel, Maputo, Mozambique

Participating organizations:

- Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)
 - Embassy of Norway in Mozambique
 - Embassy of the Netherlands in Mozambique
 - High Commission of Canada in Mozambique
 - Medicus Mundi
 - Ministry of Economy and Finance (Head of Donors Affairs), Government of Mozambique
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
 - United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
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- **Gender-based violence (GBV):** GBV is a significant gender issue that hinders girls' access to education. To address GBV, it is important to address its underlying factors, including engaging community elders and religious leaders, involving men and boys in discussions about social norms, and raising awareness. Additionally, supporting women's economic empowerment programs and improving access to essential services (healthcare, education, and GBV support) for girls and women is essential.
 - **Strengthening GBV services:** Participants also noted that the provision of GBV referral services at the national, provincial, and district levels, through mechanisms like mobile reporting and outreach by social workers to communities, has yielded positive results in Mozambique and holds potential for scaling up. They also identified gaps in GBV service provision, such as limited community outreach, the absence of Integrated Care Centers for GBV survivors in every district, and a lack of follow-up psychological support.
 - **Partnership with cooperation partners:** Several cooperation partners and civil society organizations (CSOs) work in the gender space. Participants emphasized the importance of establishing partnerships and synergies among different stakeholders, particularly CSOs, relevant government agencies, and development partners, to tackle GBV.
 - **Implementation challenges and program sustainability:** Participants highlighted that weak government implementation capacity, noting that strong legal frameworks like laws addressing GBV exist but their enforcement is a challenge, and coordination issues have led to weak implementation. Concerns were raised about the sustainability of different interventions, and participants stressed that embedding programs within the national budget and enhancing government capacity are essential for long-term sustainability. Strong oversight was discussed as being necessary to ensure program implementation, along with capacity development for local institutions at provincial and district levels to ensure GBV services are available in all districts.
 - **Innovative local approaches:** Innovative approaches tailored to the local context, such as engaging women in promoting positive masculinity and conducting behavioral change interventions involving parents, communities, and religious leaders as advocates for change, are needed.

- **Data and evidence:** Some participants also highlighted the need for more data and evidence to design more effective programs, advocacy efforts, and awareness campaigns. Specifically, they emphasized the necessity of localized data to diagnose issues accurately at the community level.
- **Women's leadership:** Participants welcomed the focus on women's leadership within the new gender strategy. They underscored that building women's leadership requires shaping perceptions and fostering a growth mindset to empower decision-making. Building self-esteem and fostering a collective approach for women and girls to drive change are vital components.
- **Child marriages and sex education in schools:** Some donors are actively engaged in addressing child marriage and providing education on topics like menstrual hygiene and sex education to girls, with the aim of delaying pregnancies until completing their education. The Ministry of Education is working to incorporate sex education into the curriculum, potentially raising awareness about family planning and preventing early pregnancies. Although policy development is in progress, skepticism remains regarding its implementation.

ANNEX 2: FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

September 19, 2023

Polana Hotel, Maputo, Mozambique

Participating organizations:

- Action Aid
 - ADC Genero - The Association for the Development of Capabilities on Gender (ADCG)
 - Associação Moçambicana para Desenvolvimento da Família – The Mozambican Association for Family Development (AMODEFA)
 - Associação para Promoção e Desenvolvimento da Mulher (MAHLALE)
 - Be Girl
 - Fanelo ya Mina
 - Fórum Mulher
 - Italian Association Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO)
 - LAMBDA Association
 - MUVA
 - N’weti
 - Network for Change
 - Rede Homens pela Mudanca (HOPEM)
 - Save the Children
 - TechnoServe
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- **Social norms for engaging men and boys:** Participants agreed that gender-based violence (GBV) is a significant concern in Mozambique. They stressed the critical importance of engaging men and boys in behavioral change interventions aimed at transforming harmful social norms and addressing GBV. Awareness programs targeting men to educate them about the challenges women face, such as time poverty and the burden of unpaid care responsibilities, could help enhance men’s understanding of the constraints women experience. One participant highlighted the effectiveness of involving men in an economic empowerment program, as it demonstrated the importance of women’s economic empowerment for the improvement of their lives.
 - **Social norms:** Stressing the importance of addressing harmful social norms, one participant suggested mapping social norms across the country and grouping them into different categories, identifying key players, and determining ways to influence and reshape these social norms.
 - **Provision of legal services to GBV survivors:** Strengthening the enforcement of GBV laws in Mozambique can have significant benefits. Weak enforcement sometimes results in women remaining silent about GBV. Additionally, discussants mentioned that engaging and mobilizing communities to support GBV survivors, including involving the parents of survivors, is also essential.
 - **Poverty and economic problems:** Participants noted that poverty and social pressures contribute to GBV and domestic violence. Poverty often leads to early marriages, causing domestic violence, adolescent pregnancies, and girls dropping out of school. Engaging and supporting men are vital components of GBV prevention. It is crucial to support men in addressing the problems they face, as these issues can indirectly affect women.

- **Adapting approaches to local contexts:** Participants pointed out that rural women are underrepresented in GBV interventions. Reaching illiterate women in rural areas presents challenges due to the lack of appropriate platforms. Consequently, illiterate and disabled women, especially those in rural areas, do not benefit from essential social and economic support, including financial literacy training and access to hygiene and sexual and reproductive health services. One key lesson from implementation is the need to adapt approaches to local contexts and the tools that beneficiaries have access to, such as providing audio training for illiterate women.
- **Women in Disaster Risk Management (DRM):** Natural disasters are becoming increasingly prevalent in Mozambique, disproportionately affecting women and rendering them highly vulnerable to such calamities. Women require more support in DRM compared to men. Discussants suggested that the strategy should provide more extensive guidance on this issue, considering the growing significance of natural disasters and climate change-induced incidents in the region.