



#AccelerateEquality



WORLD BANK GROUP

FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK (WB) GENDER STRATEGY WITH KVINNA TILL KVINNA AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

July 17, 2023
Kigali, Rwanda

OVERVIEW

On July 17, 2023, the World Bank (WB) held a discussion on the World Bank Gender Strategy 2024-2030 with representatives of the [Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation](#), a feminist women's rights organization which works to promote women's rights in conflict-affected areas, and several of its partner organizations in Rwanda. The aim of this discussion was to engage, learn and better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment, SOGI inclusion, and potential areas for synergy and cooperation between the World Bank and partners. Key inputs shared by participants are summarized below and will be considered in the development of the Strategy.

KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

- **Partnership with Women's Rights Organizations:** Participants underscored the contributions of women's rights organizations to gender equality and women's empowerment— they have been key in creating the enabling environment, pushing for policy changes, mobilizing women in leadership, engaging in research and advocacy. Participants stressed the importance of the WB listening to women's rights organizations, seeing them as key partners, and helping them make change on a broader scale—by inviting them into higher-level spaces and supporting them to affect policy at the national level. Participants suggested that the WBG needs to look beyond governments for partnerships.
- **Data and Evidence:** Participants highlighted the fact that local women's rights organizations often have a wealth of data and evidence to share, but that limited data available on LGBTQI+ communities and experience presented a persistent problem.
- **The Green Transition and Women's Economic Empowerment:** Participants noted that resources from green funds/climate funds do not typically flow toward transformative programs focused on upskilling women into higher-earning roles. Participants further stressed that funding women's organizations is critical to both gender equality and empowerment, and to ensuring a gender equitable green transition. Participants highlighted the need for specific programming and budgeting for transformative and diverse economic empowerment programs, and emphasized the power that the WB has at the national level to support get buy-in for the women's empowerment agenda and to influence where money is being used.



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- **Closing the Implementation Gap and Addressing Social Norms:** Participants highlighted how implementation problems persist despite good laws on gender equality being in place, and stressed that closing this gap requires changing both patriarchal legal and judicial systems, and patriarchal norms at the local level. Women’s rights organizations are working to address both factors, through legal assistance, rights education campaigns, and programs to change behaviors and attitudes, especially among men. They noted the need for further education, awareness-raising, and fostering ownership for gender equality within the government, and stressed that while governments often get credit for enacting reforms, local rights organizations are fundamental to both pushing for reforms and their implementation.
- **SOGI Inclusion:** Participants highlighted the importance of shifting norms and mindsets when it comes to LGBTQI+ inclusion, noting that LGBTQI+ communities face both exclusion and a lack of understanding of their identities, needs, and challenges. Barriers to inclusion include patriarchal attitudes, religious views, and pushback against perceived “western values.” Discussants highlighted the need for strong allies who will help ensure that their voices are heard, provide funding, build organizational capacity, and highlight the important role that LGBTQI+ communities can play in development. Discussants would like to see the WB explore how it can influence the conversation on LGBTQI+ inclusion, both globally and nationally.
- **Intersectionality:** Participants noted that when SOGI issues are explicitly discussed in development spaces, it is often only the experiences of gay men, and transgender men; gay and transgender women and other groups excluded on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity often remain excluded from policies and conversations. Participants shared that they want to see the issues of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people discussed frankly and specifically.
- **Language and approaches:** Participants commented on the potential limitations of using development language to frame the conversation around gender equality and empowerment, highlighting the need to use human rights language.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Rwanda Women’s Network
- Haguruka
- Feminist Action Development Ambition (FADA)
- The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation