



#AccelerateEquality



WORLD BANK GROUP
Gender

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

November 17, 2023

Dublin, Ireland

Civil Society Organizations, Government Representatives

MISSION OVERVIEW

On November 17, 2023, the World Bank Group conducted a series of consultations in Ireland with civil society organizations and government representatives on the proposed World Bank Group Gender Strategy 2024-2030. 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 finalizing the strategy.

KEY MESSAGES AND FEEDBACK

- Participants **endorsed the strategic objectives** of the proposed World Bank Group Gender Strategy 2024–2030 and the World Bank Group’s **priority areas** to deliver the strategy. There was appreciation for the proposed strategy’s alignment with Ireland’s national and international priorities.
- The consultation **welcomed the proposed drivers of change**, especially collective action and synergies across organizations, learning from others, and facilitating positive changes at scale.
- Participants welcomed the **inclusion of human rights language** in the proposed strategy.
- Participants appreciated the proposed strategy’s focus on **intersectionality**.
- Participants emphasized the **importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**. Discussion focused on the impact of early forced child marriage and pregnancy on educational and economic opportunities for adolescent girls, emphasizing a rights-based approach to autonomy and reproductive justice.
- Participants called for a **stronger emphasis on girls' health and education**, along with **transforming harmful social and gender norms through the engagement of boys and men**.
- The **importance of addressing power differentials and structural systems** was highlighted, with a call for **strengthening the focus on public services** in the proposed strategy’s three strategic objectives.

- The importance of **enhancing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks** to capture the impact of behavioral interventions, particularly in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) was highlighted, along with the need for comprehensive data beyond enrollment and headcount numbers.
- There was **strong recognition of the importance of care work**, along with the need of **valuing it as an economic model**.
- Opportunities were identified to **promote women's leadership in green jobs** and sustainable development, with a **call for flagship programs demonstrating women's leadership**.
- **GBV** was a key topic of discussion, with a focus on the **prioritization of GBV prevention in humanitarian emergencies**, along with the need for increased financing and collaboration between Ireland and the World Bank Group on monitoring mechanisms.
- Participants advocated for **outcome-focused approaches** and the use of tools like the [OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker](#) for tracking gender equality expenditure and aid in support of women's rights.

MEETING TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways from stakeholder meetings included the following:

Meeting with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Participants:

- ActionAid Ireland
- Aidlink
- Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
- Concern
- GOAL
- International Rescue Committee UK
- Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA)
- Mísean Cara
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Plan International Ireland
- Save the Children UK
- Sightsavers
- Vita
- World Vision
- **Strategic objectives**
 - Participants welcomed the inclusion of human rights language.
 - There was recognition of the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including a focus on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) issues.
 - Emphasis was laid on moving away from heteronormative understandings of gender equality.

- The importance of acknowledging and addressing power differentials and structural systems was highlighted, and the need for public policy, legal reform, and civil society engagement to drive structural change was underscored.
 - The strategy's linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international agreements such as the [International Conference on Population and Development \(ICPD\)](#), [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), and [State International Development Organizations \(SIDO\)](#) were discussed.
 - It was suggested that the discussion of public services in the strategic objectives be strengthened.
- **Focus on adolescents and youth**
 - The impact of early forced child marriage, early pregnancy, and lack of access to reproductive healthcare on educational and economic opportunities for adolescents was discussed.
 - A rights-based approach to autonomy and reproductive justice was emphasized.
 - Participants encouraged World Bank colleagues to ensure that the implementation of the strategic objectives addressed the needs of adolescents and girls effectively.
- **Gender equality and girls' empowerment**
 - The need for a stronger emphasis on girls, particularly adolescent girls, in health, education, and SRH initiatives was underscored.
 - The importance of transforming harmful social and gender norms through behavioral change and societal engagement was discussed, and the need for engaging boys and men in promoting gender equality and promoting positive masculinity was highlighted.
 - There was a call for a stronger commitment to gender equality within the private sector, including actions on human rights and environmental protection.
- **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks**
 - The discussion focused on the importance of enhancing M&E frameworks to capture the impact of behavioral interventions, particularly in addressing gender-based violence (GBV).
 - There was recognition of the need for comprehensive data beyond enrollment numbers to measure the effectiveness of interventions.
- **Intersectionality**
 - Participants welcomed the focus on intersectionality, particularly gender and disability, in the proposed strategy.
 - Participants commended the significant progress that the World Bank Group has made to mainstream disability across its work, and shared that they would welcome clearer commitments on addressing the critical intersection of gender and disability, for instance, the higher risk of gender-based violence that women and girls with disabilities face.
 - Some suggestions to strengthen the commitments to intersectionality in the strategy included drawing connections with existing World Bank Group commitments, such as those in the [Environmental and Social Framework](#) and the [Disability Inclusion and Accountability Framework](#), and articulating how intersectionality fits into the strategy in relation to the drivers of change and internal accountability.

- **Care economy**
 - The importance of valuing care work as an economic model and considering it as a standalone objective was a point raised by several participants.
 - There were some concerns about the private sector-led approach, with participants emphasizing the need for analysis of gendered impacts of policies and investments.
- **Green economy and women's leadership**
 - Participants saw opportunities to develop green-led development pathways and promote women's leadership in green jobs.
 - There was a call for flagship programs demonstrating women's leadership in sustainable development.

Meeting with Government Representatives

Participants:

- Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland
- **Appreciation for the proposed strategy**
 - Participants expressed appreciation for the World Bank Group's draft strategy and consultative process that informed its development.
 - They confirmed that the proposed strategy is in alignment with Ireland's international development priorities, including the strategy's recognition of rights-based approaches and focus on vulnerable groups.
 - Participants welcomed the proposed expanded focus in the new strategy and the adoption of an intersectional approach.
 - Participants were in agreement with scaling up investments on gender issues including data, food security and nutrition, climate change, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and care economy.
- **Women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda**
 - Ireland's engagement in the UN Security Council (UNSC) agenda, particularly on the WPS agenda, was discussed. Participants championed the continuation of advocacy for WPS principles globally and in national action plans.
 - Participants expressed a need to enhance women's effective involvement in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace-building processes.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian contexts**
 - The discussion focused on the prioritization of GBV prevention, awareness, and mitigation in humanitarian emergencies.
 - Participants advocated for increased financing for GBV in humanitarian settings and tracking expenditures using tools like the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker.
 - Participants shared examples of the Irish government's collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and affiliation with initiatives like [Call to Action](#) to protect women and

girls from GBV. They highlighted the involvement in the Irish consortium on GBV for learning and sharing expertise.

- The participants saw future opportunities for collaboration between Ireland and the World Bank Group on learning platforms and monitoring mechanisms.

- **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks**

- Participants highlighted the importance of hardwiring gender equality into delivery mechanisms and tracking expenditures.
- They advocated for outcome-focused approaches and use of tools like the OECD-DAC policy marker for tracking gender equality and women's rights expenditure.