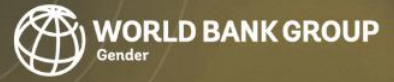




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FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY

Consultation with Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement (RFLD)

October 5, 2023

Virtual meeting

OVERVIEW

On October 5th, 2023, the World Bank Group (WBG) held a consultation on the proposed gender strategy 2024-2030 with representatives from “The Women Leaders Network for Development” [[Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement](#) (RFLD)], Benin. The aim of the discussion was to engage, learn, get feedback, better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment, and identify potential areas for collaboration. Key inputs are summarized below and will be considered in developing the strategy.

KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

Alignment between RFLD’s strategic plan and the proposed WBG gender strategy

- The RFLD representatives shared that they aim to promote and protect the voices and rights of vulnerable groups in sub-Saharan Africa, working with 470 members from over 60 women-led member organizations across 27 countries. They support local women-led initiatives, indigenous organizations, women's rights advocates, and girls' movements. They are also a strong advocate for the [Maputo Protocol](#) and their activities are guided by the [RFLD Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#). The discussion centered on how core elements of the RFLD strategic plan align with the proposed 2024-30 WBG Gender Strategy:
 - The RFLD’s strategic goal 1 ‘Further promoting women’s rights, sexual and reproductive health, and representation in decision-making bodies’ aligns with the first strategic objective on ending gender-based violence (GBV) and building human capital, of the proposed WBG gender strategy.
 - The RFLD’s strategic goal 2 ‘Promoting civil liberties and human rights through democratic participation’ aligns with proposed WBG gender strategy’s third strategic objective on women’s leadership as well as the focus on collective action.
 - The RFLD’s strategic goal 3 ‘Fight for economic justice for women and work towards climate justice’ aligns with the recognition of the role of gender equality and women’s leadership in a just transition.
 - The RFLD’s strategic goal 4 ‘Strengthening and consolidating the principle of participatory governance, the innovative capacity of civil society and the development of the media’ aligns with the focus on collective action and country engagement.



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Gender

- The RFLD plans to form alliances with governments to ensure the success of their programs at the national level.

The RFLD mentioned the following main projects and areas of focus:

- **Water justice:** Implementing water justice for peace building and increasing access to healthcare for women. The RFLD recognizes that the unequal distribution of water is a source of violence against women and aims to eliminate violence due to water scarcity.
- **Addressing GBV:** GBV against women is widespread despite national, regional, and international efforts and is linked to cultural practices and norms. Legal provisions for GBV need enforcement, as there is a wide gap between the laws and their implementation. Sensitizing women regarding their rights is a promising area in which the RFLD is engaged. They recently issued a report on “[Addressing the Intersection of VAWG, SRH, and Disability in West Africa](#)” to help eliminate GBV against women and girls in West Africa while providing them with full access to essential [healthcare services](#). The RFLD has an extensive network of civil society organizations (CSOs) and government partners across countries and relies on concerted efforts to End Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- **Strengthening women’s rights:** Reinforcing the legal system in the policy arena by 1) shaping policies through its collaboration with parliamentarians, CSOs, government officials and mayors and 2) increasing women’s economic opportunities. The RFLD stated that the proposed WBG Gender Strategy will help implement positive changes to improve women’s access to equal rights.
- **Partnering with WBG:** Collaboration with the WBG to strengthen women’s leadership through partnerships, either direct collaboration on projects, or as part of the focus on women’s leadership. The RFLD stated that they are well positioned vis-à-vis ministers and members of parliament.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement ([RFLD](#))