

***For endorsement:***

***An Update to the UFGE Work Plan and Budget for FY26 (July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026)***

***November 18, 2025***

**Contents**

**Summary ..... 2**

**Investments in the UFGE during FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) ..... 3**

**UFGE Allocated Funding for FY26 and FY27 ..... 4**

    Pillar 1. Evidence for Informed & Scalable Gender Programs | The Regional Gender Innovation Labs (GILs) ..... 4

    Pillar 2. Private Sector Solutions – IFC and MIGA..... 4

    Pillar 3. Better Gender Data ..... 4

    Pillar 4. Multisectoral Country-driven Solutions ..... 4

**Program Management and Coordination ..... 5**

**New Call for Proposals in FY26 ..... 5**

**Financial Report as of October 30, 2025 ..... 6**

**Available Balance as of October 30, 2025 ..... 7**

**Draft Decision by the Partnership Council ..... 7**

**ANNEX A: UFGE WORK PROGRAM WORK WHEEL FOR FY26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)..... 9**

## Summary

The [Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality](#) (UFGE) is the World Bank Group (WBG) leading platform for advancing gender equality. UFGE is the only WBG multi-donor trust fund fully dedicated to generating knowledge, evidence and data that helps governments and companies invest effectively in policies and programs to unlock economic opportunities. Following its extension through June 2030, the UFGE continues to align its work with the objectives of the [WBG Gender Strategy 2024–2030](#), and its [Implementation Plan](#).

With **US\$197.6 million** in pledged funding across **304 grants**, in FY26, the UFGE continues to implement activities across its four pillars—(1) Federation of Gender Innovation Labs; (2) Private Sector Solutions; (3) Better Gender Data; and (4) Multisectoral Country-Driven Solutions—focusing on sustaining results from ongoing multi-year programs and supporting the **second phase of the Gender Strategy Fast-Track Country Program**. The UFGE will also continue to invest in frontier areas such as **social norms around women’s empowerment and violence against women and girls**, and **macro-fiscal policy integration** to strengthen policy dialogue and inform country-level reforms.

The FY26 Work Plan builds on past achievements and reflects the UFGE’s role in mobilizing evidence and financing to help countries deliver the World Bank Group Gender Strategy’s global targets by 2030.

- **300 million** more women using broadband, unlocking access to finance, education, and jobs;
- **250 million** women benefiting from social protection programs that enable workforce participation; and
- **80 million** women and women-led businesses gaining access to capital.

Despite steady progress and partner engagement, the UFGE remains underfunded relative to the ambitions of the Gender Strategy. As of October 30, 2025, the UFGE’s available balance stood at **US\$24.8 million**, including new commitments from the Gates Foundation and the Government of Iceland. Of this, **US\$18.1 million** was allocated across the four programmatic pillars, **US\$3.4 million** for program management, and **US\$1 million** set aside as contingency at the request of UFGE Partners. There remains **US\$1.2 million** unallocated core unpreferred funds with an additional **US\$0.4 million** expected to be received in core contributions in FY26. The overall resource envelope remains insufficient to meet growing demand from countries for knowledge to inform policy and solutions aiming to advance women’s economic opportunities, underscoring the need for continued replenishment and strategic partner engagement.

FY26 priorities include:

- Advancing the **second phase of the Fast-Track Country Program**, with a focus on policy reform and operational engagement. Leveraging the **UFGE Social Norms; Climate, Gender, and Jobs**; and **Macro-Fiscal** programs to integrate gender analysis in WBG core diagnostics and policies, strategies, and operations.
- Strengthening the **Gender Innovation Labs (GILs)** to deliver scalable, policy-relevant evidence.
- Advancing data and measurement through the **Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS)**, **Women, Business and the Law (WBL)**, and **Strengthening Gender Statistics (SGS)** for evidence-based policymaking.
- Reinforcing **coordination, communication, and results reporting**, including ongoing donor engagement.

This FY26 Work Plan seeks Partnership Council endorsement to repurpose the **US\$1 million** contingency for the proposed allocations of core unpreferred funding, toward a new FY26 call for proposals, and agreement on the

targets under the new endorsed UFGE results framework to monitor progress toward the Gender Strategy outcomes.

## **Investments in the UFGE during FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)**

We extend our sincere appreciation to all UFGE Partners for their continued support and guidance. Their partnership underpins the foundation of UFGE's progress and impact. As the latest UFGE Annual Report highlights, since 2012, UFGE knowledge, evidence, and data have influenced over 373 World Bank Group operations, informed policy dialogue in 111 countries, and changed how more than 224 private sector companies operate. In the last fiscal year alone, 58 percent of UFGE-supported activities were in IDA-eligible or FCV-affected countries—reaching those who need it most.

During FY26, the UFGE secured new and ongoing contributions that sustain critical workstreams and extend coverage across multiple regions and pillars:

- **Government of Ireland: EUR€0.4 million (US\$0.46 million)** in core unpreferred funding.
- **The Gates Foundation:** Expected contribution of **US\$1.34 million**, preferred to the Africa Gender Innovation Lab (AFRIGIL) for activities in Ethiopia.
- **Government of Iceland:** Expected contribution of **US\$0.4 million** in core unpreferred funds and **US\$0.1 million** in preferred funds for Women, Business and the Law (WBL).
- **UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO):** Pledged **£27 million** of which **£9.4 million (US\$10.5 million)** was signed in January 2025. Out of the **£9.4 million** signed, the remaining amount of **£1.9 million (US\$2.5 million)** in preferred funding is expected in FY26 to support the Gender Innovation Labs in Africa, East Asia and Pacific, and South Asia, as well as the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS).

As of October 2025, the UFGE's available balance stands at **US\$24.8 million**, including new commitments from the Gates Foundation and the Government of Iceland. Of this:

- **US\$18.1 million** is allocated across the four pillars (**US\$17.8 million** preferred; **US\$0.3 million** unpreferred).
- **US\$3.4 million** is allocated for program management.
- **US\$1 million** remains as a contingency fund, initially set aside at Partners' request.

The total unallocated core balance for FY26 is **US\$1.2 million**, with an additional **US\$0.4 million** expected to be received from the Government of Iceland, bringing the total available core funding to **US\$1.6 million**.

While these investments demonstrate continued partner confidence, the UFGE's overall balance remains low relative to the scope of demand generated by the WBG Gender Strategy (2024-2030). Without additional replenishment, the UFGE will be unable to initiate new programs at the scale required to support the ambition in the Gender Strategy and the 2030 targets. For more details on the proposed replenishment for the next phase of the UFGE, please see the [UFGE Funding Proposal \(2024-2030\)](#) shared earlier with UFGE Partners.

## UFGE Allocated Funding for FY26 and FY27

In FY26 and FY27, the UFGE will continue investing through its four program pillars to implement the WBG Gender Strategy 2024–2030, strengthen evidence and policy engagement, and sustain multi-year programs already under implementation.

### Pillar 1. Evidence for Informed & Scalable Gender Programs | The Regional Gender Innovation Labs (GILs)

Funding for GILs adopted in previous years continues to support ongoing multi-year activities with an available balance of **US\$5.8 million** as of October 30, 2025. An additional **US\$7 million** is expected in receipts from FCDO and the Gates Foundation across FY26–FY27, supporting GILs in Africa, East Asia and Pacific, and South Asia.

### Pillar 2. Private Sector Solutions – IFC and MIGA

Funding allocated in prior years continues to sustain ongoing IFC activities in FY26. The remaining **US\$50,000** window balance and **US\$60,000** trustee balance have been assigned to the Morocco for Diversity grant.

### Pillar 3. Better Gender Data

UFGE investments in data remain critical to informing policies and measuring outcomes.

**Strengthening Gender Statistics (SGS).** No new allocations are anticipated without replenishment.

**Women, Business and the Law (WBL).** **US\$0.9 million** allocated in FY26 from the Gates Foundation and FCDO preferred funding.

**We-Fi.** Total funding of **US\$1.94 million** preferred funds from the Gates Foundation for ongoing FY25–26 activities, of which **US\$0.1 million** is expected in FY26.

**Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS).** **US\$1.7 million** in new preferred funds from FCDO for multi-year activities through FY27.

### Pillar 4. Multisectoral Country-driven Solutions

UFGE continues to serve as a catalyst for integrated, country-driven solutions spanning jobs, climate, care, and social norms.

**UFGE Flagship Country Program.** Five grants (Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Iraq, and Peru) are expected to close in FY26, with lessons feeding into the next phase of the Gender Strategy Fast-Track Country Program.

**Gender Strategy Fast-Track Country Program.** Launched in FY25, this program now operates in 16 countries — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, India, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, and Viet Nam — promoting a unified *One WBG* approach and implementing comprehensive, coherent, and scalable, country-led programs. UFGE has allocated **US\$2.4 million** in core funds to 10 grants supporting analytics, policy reform, and cross-sector collaboration, and no balance remains.

**Mashreq Gender Facility (MGF).** Ongoing multi-year activities continue with a balance of **US\$0.2 million** as of October 2025.

**Behavioral Science and Social Norms Program.** 13 grants funded through **US\$2.2 million** in FY24–25 core allocations; only **US\$0.16 million** remains.

**Integrating Gender Analysis in Country Core Diagnostics and Macro-Fiscal Policies.** 11 grants funded from **US\$1 million** allocated in FY25; **US\$0.23 million** remains available.

**Gender, Climate, and Jobs Program.** 16 grants funded for a total of **US\$2.2 million**; no balance remains.

UFGE’s FY25 Annual Report showcases the results and operational impact made possible through Partner contributions and provides examples of how UFGE-supported work is informing policy and implementation across regions. Without replenishment, UFGE will be unable to expand these innovative programs despite strong country demand and proven results.

## Program Management and Coordination

The UFGE Secretariat, housed in the WBG Gender Group, remains exceptionally lean, high-performing coordination unit. It ensures efficient management, timely donor reporting, and strategic knowledge exchange. Activities include organizing two Partnership Council meetings annually, preparing the UFGE Annual Report, and facilitating learning events and communications to highlight the UFGE’s results and impact.

## New Call for Proposals in FY26

**To sustain momentum and support country-driven implementation of the WBG Gender Strategy 2024–2030, the UFGE proposes to launch a new Call for Proposals in FY26 focused on advancing knowledge and evidence for policy and operational solutions under the second phase of the Gender Strategy Fast-Track Country Program.**

Priority topics include the following, among others:

- **Innovations in policy design.** Introducing critical innovations to accelerate progress, scale impact, enhance comprehensiveness, and address persistent barriers.
- **Public-private programs.** Joint design and implementation of initiatives by the World Bank, IFC, and MIGA to achieve shared objectives (e.g., Strategy Targets, Jobs).
- **Expanding macroeconomic analysis to support policy financing on gender priorities.** Covering WBG core diagnostics and beyond, including a focus on home-grown and locally adapted models that inform policy decisions and guide resource allocations.
- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Access to Finance.** Accelerating progress on each of these strategic priorities.
- **Advancing Jobs:** Reducing the unique barriers that women face to access more and better jobs through stronger public and private investments and evidence-based reforms for enabling services, skills, and entrepreneurship.

Given limited core resources (**US\$1.2 million available**), the UFGE proposes to reallocate the **US\$1 million** contingency fund to finance this call. The contingency—initially earmarked for potential gender and COVID-19 research—remains unused.

This proposal aligns with WBG Trust Fund guidance, which does not require maintaining contingency reserves for Umbrella Funds. Repurposing the funds will allow UFGE to finance new country-level initiatives that directly support the Gender Strategy’s strategic objectives and accelerate results supporting the 2030 targets.

## Financial Report as of October 30, 2025

(US\$ in millions)					
Activities	UFGE Implementing Teams/Programs	FY25 Allocations	Remaining Balance to commit to Grants for FY26 as of 10/30/2025	Expected Receipts in FY26	FY26 Revised Allocations (remaining balance + expected receipts)
Pillar 1 - Federation of Gender Innovation Labs (GILs)	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>
	AFR	6.3	4.5	9.4	13.8
	EAP	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.8
	ECA	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
	LAC	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MNA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	SAR	0.5	1.1	0.6	1.7
Pillar 2 - Private Sector Solutions	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
	IFC	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
	MIGA	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0
Pillar 3 - Better Gender Data	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>
	SGS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	WBL	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.2
	WeFi	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
	LSMS	0.0	0.6	0.4	1.0
Pillar 4 - Multisectoral Country-Driven Solutions	<b>Total</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
	Social Norms	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.2
	Gender, Climate, and Jobs	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Macro Fiscal	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.2
	MGF	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2
	Flagship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Fast-Track	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Subtotal - Pillars</b>		<b>13.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>18.1</b>
<b>Program Management</b>		2.6	3.1	0.3	3.4

Unallocated (cash balance at trustee level)		1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contingency (requested by donors)		1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Receipts for core contribution expected (FY26)		1.2	0.0	1.1	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20.4</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>22.6</b>

Notes:

1. Preferred funding from the Gates Foundation, Government of Iceland, and FCDO are included in the FY26 revised allocations along with new commitment from the Gates Foundation for AFRGIL.
2. Unallocated cash balance at trustee level is net of donor refunds.
3. Receipts for core contribution expected to be received in FY26 is from Government of Iceland.

### Available Balance as of October 30, 2025

Paid-in contributions, transfers, and available balance	Amounts in US\$ (in millions)	Comments
Pledged contributions	199.3	Contributions signed from 2012 to end-October, 2025, including new commitment from the Gates Foundation to Africa Gender Innovation Lab and additional core funding from the Government of Iceland
Cumulative paid-in contributions	188.9	Cash received from Donors from 2012 to end-October 2025
<i>plus</i> investment income <i>minus</i> administrative fee	8.0	Earned on all TFs from 2012 to end-October 2025, posted to Trustee less TF cost recovery amount applicable to UFGE agreements
<i>less</i> transfers to/from windows/grants/refunds	194.7	Transferred from Trustee to windows/grants/refunds from 2012 to end-October 2025
Cash in Trustee (FY26)	2.2	Available amount in the Trustee to transfer to grants
deduct contingency funds	1.0	Contingency amount requested by Donors
Cash balance available at Trustee level (FY26)	1.2	Amount in the Trustee for new grants and/or transfer to windows net of US\$1 million contingency

### Draft Decision by the Partnership Council

We kindly request UFGE Partners to approve the following:

- The Partnership Council will endorse the FY26 revised work plan (see Annex A).
- The Partnership Council will endorse the targets in the new UFGE Results Framework.
- The Partnership Council will endorse the release of the US\$1 million contingency funds so that it can be allocated for a new call for proposals to fund the second phase of the Gender Strategy Fast Track Country Program.
- The Partnership Council will agree on the date of the next PC meeting.

**ANNEX A: UFGE WORK PROGRAM WORK WHEEL FOR FY26 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)**

