



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

Consultation with International Rescue Committee

September 27, 2023

Virtual Consultation

OVERVIEW

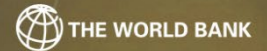
On September 27, 2023, the World Bank held a consultation on the proposed gender strategy 2024-2030, with representatives from the [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#). This discussion aimed to engage, learn, get feedback, better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment, and identify potential areas for collaboration. Key inputs are summarized below and will be considered in developing the strategy. Additional recommendations shared by IRC can be found [here](#).

KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

- **Gender equality in fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) settings:** Participants highlighted challenges in access to services and resilience strategies for women and girls in fragile and conflict settings. They added that the risk threshold and adaptability of the World Bank when engaging in FCV settings, especially in the partnership with non-government actors, can be informed by some existing experiences and lessons. It was recommended to further synergize the draft strategy with other analytical work done by the World Bank on promoting gender equality in FCV settings.
- **Partnerships:** Discussants appreciated the emphasis on acting collectively and enhancing partnerships in the draft strategy. They underscored the potential of expanding civic space and improving effectiveness of World Bank programs by partnering with 'non-traditional' actors in FCV settings. Specifically, it was mentioned that the World Bank could engage more closely with humanitarian systems, especially for data, coordination and adopting do no harm approaches. Engagement with women led organizations was emphasized both for delivery and advisory roles, giving them a greater role to implement their own vision.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV):** Participants appreciated the focus on GBV, particularly in FCV contexts. They suggested that the level of detail devoted to GBV in the draft strategy could also be applied to other sectors.
- **Financing:** Discussants mentioned that funding coalitions of NGOs could help build civic space, by allowing them to partner with local organizations embedded in communities, who can reach the hardest to reach.



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- **Accountability and measuring progress:**

- It was mentioned that patriarchal norms can influence decision making while implementing programs, and specific progress metrics could enhance country level accountability, enabling good policies to translate into improved gender outcomes.
- A question was raised about how the [International Development Association \(IDA\)](#) funding is tracked on gender outcomes. World Bank representatives shared that they are shifting focus from inputs and financing to results and outcomes for tracking progress.

- **Health outcomes:** It was noted that global progress on reducing maternal mortality has plateaued in the last few years, and the World Bank could leverage its collective knowledge to advance progress, especially in FCV contexts. Further it was recommended that future World Bank investments be guided by a nuanced understanding of health data, focusing on where health outcomes are progressing and where they are stalled.

- **Intersectionality:** IRC shared their experience in adopting gender-responsive and transformative approaches. They particularly highlighted the move from focusing on specific characteristics like disability, towards using an intersectional lens that enables program teams to identify whatever area of discrimination and systemic inequality is hindering progress in their context. They added that these tools and resources could be simplified to become accessible to a non-academic audience.

- **Informing World Bank roadmaps:** It was mentioned that the gender strategy could bring a gender lens to World Bank reforms, such as the Evolution Roadmap.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- International Rescue Committee