



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

Consultation with UNFPA

September 13, 2023

Virtual discussion

OVERVIEW

On September 13, 2023, representatives from the World Bank held a discussion and formal consultation session on the draft World Bank Gender Strategy 2024-2030 with representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This discussion aimed to engage, learn, and better understand opportunities and challenges for gender equality and empowerment, listen to feedback on the proposed Gender Strategy, and identify potential areas for constructive collaboration and further cooperation between the World Bank and UNFPA. Key inputs shared by participants are summarized below and will be considered in developing the Strategy.

KEY THEMES AND FEEDBACK

- **Care Economy:** Participants noted that they would like to see more attention given to unpaid care work and the implications for human capital. They stressed the importance of taking a holistic view of the care economy, including paid and unpaid care, child and elder care, and the need for better data and analysis to capture the value of unpaid care work to the economy.
- **Collective Action and Partnerships:** There was support for the strategy's focus on collective action, but participants also stated that they wanted to see more on how these efforts could support women's movements, feminist movements, grassroots organizations, and localization, all of which are critical to the sustainability of collective action. Participants further expressed interest in seeing more information in the strategy about systems of accountability in collective action, in terms of support for CSOs, to ensure the sustainability of collective action.
- **Backlash:** Participants noted that pushback against gender equality is a problem at all levels and across all sectors, adding that while the strategy addresses the pushback to gender equality early on, they were curious to see how it would be addressed going forward, especially in implementation.
- **FCV and Humanitarian Response:** There was interest in how the strategy would engage with the humanitarian-peace-development nexus and how it will frame and support partnerships in humanitarian settings. There was a request for clarification on the strategy's representation of emergencies, and how



the focus on gender equality might shift when working in emergency contexts. Participants cited the [Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies](#) initiative as a useful model in this sphere. The group also agreed to have a dedicated in-depth discussion on GBV in the foreseeable future.

- **Climate Change and GBV:** UNFPA noted that its GBV operational plan frames climate and technology as cross-cutting issues with GBV, and expressed concern that climate in the WB gender strategy is discussed primarily in the context of leadership. Participants expressed a desire to see more information about climate in the context of GBV, how the WB plans to address GBV in this context, and the evidence base for these plans.
- **Social Norms and Gender-transformative Approaches:** Discussants expressed appreciation for the strategy's emphasis on social norms change, and inquired whether the strategy would look at broader systemic and institutional approaches to shifting gender norms. This was flagged as an important element of GBV prevention. There was also a desire to see more emphasis in the strategy on gender-transformative approaches, especially at the systemic level. Participants also noted the importance of shifting of resources and power (through gender transformative approaches) to human capital outcomes.
- **Adolescents and Youth:** In addition to partnerships with women's rights organizations, participants stressed the importance of engagement with adolescents and youth, and in particular youth-led organizations, which they emphasized was important from both a human rights and accountability perspective.
- **Access to Services:** UNFPA spoke on the ongoing issue of sufficient service providers, especially in rural areas, and the importance of these providers to human capital. Participants noted that it would be good to see more focus in the strategy on the economic conditions that would facilitate service providers to stay in rural areas. WB representatives noted that the strategy does have a strong emphasis on services, and how Covid has underscored the importance of frontline service providers.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)