



#AccelerateEquality



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

September 25 – 28, 2023

Abuja, Nigeria

**Government Representatives, Development Partners, Civil Society
Organizations**

MISSION OVERVIEW

Between September 25 and 28, 2023, the World Bank Group conducted a series of hybrid consultations in Nigeria 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 developing the strategy. Detailed meeting summaries are provided in the annexes.

KEY MESSAGES AND FEEDBACK

- **Policy arena:** Participants highlighted the need for a comprehensive approach to promote gender equality. Some suggestions included identifying and sensitizing key stakeholders, enhancing the skills of individuals and rights groups to support women's representation, and collaborating with governments to develop gender-inclusive laws and policies. Additionally, they recommended involving civil society organizations to advocate for evidence-based gender policies and ensuring government accountability.
- **Intersectionality:** The need to address the intersectionality between gender and poverty, location, and disability within the strategy's conceptual framework was emphasized across discussions. Participants stressed that it is vital to understand the importance of the varied needs across groups of women, and not view them as one homogenous group. This approach encourages everyone to identify with gender dynamics and recognize the widespread benefits of gender equality, extending beyond just women.
- **Monitoring:** Participants emphasized the importance of monitoring for projects, both internal and external, to ensure effective implementation of gender equality initiatives.
- **Ownership of economic assets:** Participants acknowledged that gender disparities exist in land rights in Nigeria. They proposed innovative solutions to extend women's access to land, and emphasized the need for legal changes, effectively targeting women through women's groups, and promoting agriculture as a business for women.

- **Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR):** It was suggested that the strategy could benefit from enhancing its focus on SRHR. They discussed how increased funding and improved accessibility to SRHR could contribute to reducing gender-based violence (GBV) and have a positive impact on society, particularly benefiting women and girls.
- **Social norms:** Participants value the strategy's focus on addressing social norms, proposing that promoting fairness, collaborative decision-making, behavior-change communication, and utilizing evidence-based approaches could garner broad support for gender equality. They also acknowledged that policies advocating legal changes can gradually and continuously influence social norms.
- **Accountability:** To ensure accountability in promoting gender equality, participants recommended measures such as gender-responsive budgeting, public spending, and a gender checklist. These measures were considered essential to address pushback and ensure that gender equality efforts are effectively carried out.

ANNEX 1: FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY WITH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

September 25, 2023

World Bank Group Office, Abuja, Nigeria (G-085)

Participating organizations:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of Nigeria
 - Ministry of Women Affairs, Government of Nigeria
-
- **Women in leadership:** There was appreciation that the proposed gender strategy prioritizes engaging women as leaders and emphasized the need for situating them at all levels of the value chain. A question was raised about what could be done differently to pass gender inclusive laws and policies in the Parliament and effectively engage women as leaders, which is a priority in Nigeria.
 - **Policy arena:** Participants suggested mapping stakeholders, especially people in power, to identify and engage key actors to bringing about gender equality.
 - **Gender responsive budgeting:** Participants mentioned that existing macro-economic frameworks are gender-neutral and underlined gender-responsive budgeting and public spending as a means for accelerating gender equality. Specific suggestions included gathering gender segregated data, partnering with institutions for such data, and updating budgeting templates to use gender disaggregated data, at the national and state levels.
 - **Engaging governments and civil society organizations (CSOs):** It was suggested that the World Bank Group work with governments on gender inclusive laws and policies. These could be complemented by involving CSOs to advocate for evidence-based gender policies and hold governments accountable.
 - **Accountability:** Beyond the World Bank Group's gender tag, it was suggested that a gender checklist could lead to better accountability and inform CSOs working on policy planning and programs. For example, the list could ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities, the elderly, and others, are taken into account. The need to see gender impact, especially by integrating gender in World Bank Group programs during implementation, was emphasized.
 - **Backlash:** Participants noted that pushback against gender equality is a problem at all levels and across all sectors, especially in implementation of projects.
 - **Social norms and behavior change communication (BCC):** Participants expressed appreciation for the strategy's emphasis on addressing social norms. It was suggested that broad support for gender equality could be fostered by focusing on fairness and joint decision making, using evidence and approaches like the gender action learning system (GALS). This could enable everyone to see themselves in gender dynamics to realize that gender equality is beneficial for all, not just women.

- **Intersectionality:** Participants underlined the heterogeneity of women's experiences and called for understanding and appropriately addressing needs of different groups of women. The needs of persons with disabilities were particularly emphasized.
- **Digital inclusion:** It was noted that lack of access to technology inhibits many women, especially in rural areas, from accessing services. Participants suggested that measures to bridge the digital divide could examine quality of information imparted through digital tools, develop offline tools to enhance women's access to information and take accessibility for people with disabilities into consideration.
- **Extension agents:** A participant highlighted agriculture extension agents as powerful means for gender equality, provided that the communities can relate with them. Hence men should be extension agents for men, women for women, a person with disability for others with disability and similar pairings.
- **Women's economic empowerment (WEE):** A participant advocated for the World Bank Group's support in actualizing the implementation of the WEE policy and implementation plan.

ANNEX 2: FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

September 28, 2023

World Bank Group Office, Abuja, Nigeria (G-085)

Participating organizations:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
 - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
 - Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
-
- **Social protection:** Participants suggested that the gender strategy could place a stronger emphasis on social protection, especially enhancing financial support for children's education and family expenses.
 - **Intersectionality:** Participants underscored the significance of the intersectionality between gender and poverty, location, and disability. In this context, they suggested exploring how the strategy's conceptual framework could be strengthened.
 - **Monitoring:** Participants emphasized the importance of monitoring, including internal checks for projects.
 - **Partnerships:** They also stressed the need to develop skills and capabilities of individuals and rights groups to advance women's representation.
 - **Engaging women as leaders:** Participants shared that Nigeria's new strategy for women and girls shares a focus with the World Bank Group's gender strategy, prioritizing female leadership and women in business. They also noted strong advocacy from women's rights organizations in the country, promoting both leadership and women's businesses.

ANNEX 3: FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED 2024-2030 WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

September 28, 2023

World Bank Group Office, Abuja, Nigeria (G-085)

Participating organizations:

- Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA)
 - Alliances for Africa, Owerri
 - Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Nigeria
 - International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
 - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 - National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), National Assembly of Nigeria
 - Policy Innovation Centre
 - Sahel Consulting
 - UN Women
 - Young Changemakers Foundation
- **Policy arena:** There was recognition that gender advancement could significantly contribute to Nigeria's national progress and elevate its global standing. Participants suggested the need to involve religious institutions and male champions to achieve the goals of the World Bank Group gender strategy.
 - **Conceptual framework:** Participants emphasized that Nigeria could further its focus on gender equity, considering it as an important initial step toward achieving gender equality.
 - **Engaging women as leaders:** Participants pointed out that cultural norms often influence male perspectives on female leadership in Nigeria. Some also emphasized that policies may change such norms by advocating for legal changes to promote gender equality. However, they also acknowledged that norms are malleable, and the process of change is ongoing and gradual.
 - **Ownership of economic assets:** It was noted that Nigerian men and women have different land rights. Participants suggested innovative solutions to extend women's access to land. They underscored the need to identify key legal changes, working with women's groups to effectively target the right stakeholders, and promoting agriculture as a business for women. An integrated approach that accounts for cultural factors, government spending, and budget impacts was proposed.
 - **Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR):** Participants highlighted that the strategy could enhance its focus on SRHR. They highlighted that allocating additional financing and democratizing SRHR could mitigate gender-based violence (GBV) and positively affect education, job prospects, entrepreneurship, and political engagement for women and girls.