

Mainstreaming Gender Equality
in Infrastructure Projects:

*Presentation at the South Asia
Regional Initiative for Energy
Washington DC*

Nilufar Ahmad,
Social Development Department
Sustainable Development Network
May 12, 2009





WBG Gender Policy

- Gender advisor in 1970s, BP in 1994, OP 1999, Gender Strategy 2002
- *Gender Equality as Smart Economics: Gender Action Plan (GAP FY07-FY11)*
 - **Objective:** accelerate implementation of MDG 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) by increasing women's economic opportunities through enhanced access to product, labor, land and financial markets.
 - **Budget commitment: \$36.7 million (providing seed funds)**
 - **Activities:** (a) gender integration in operations and studies/dialogues; (b) pilot results-based initiatives; ©research, impact evaluation and statistics; and (d) communications



President Zoellick's 2008 WBG 6 Commitments on Gender Equality

- Doubling gender action in Agriculture and Rural Development by 2011
- Increasing International Development Agency (IDA) commitment for gender
- IFC to provide at least \$100m in credit lines at commercial banks for women entrepreneurs
- Countries to report annually on their program on empowering girls and women economically
- work program on "young women count for economic development,
- Private Sector Leaders' Forum launched on 2008

Why is gender important for infrastructure?

- Gender differences affect infrastructure project impacts
- Poor infrastructure costs women and girls more than males in time, opportunities, and even lives
- Attention to gender-based needs and participation by women increases development effectiveness (efficiency, economic rate of return, quality and sustainability of outcomes)
- Increased access to reliable infrastructure services contributes to poverty reduction, growth, and empowerment:
 - Reduces time poverty
 - Provides access to markets (product, labor, financial and land)
 - Increases access to education, training and economic opportunities
 - Increases access to business and other information
 - Reduces maternal and child mortality
- Infrastructure constitutes a large part of the Bank Portfolio and is expected to grow.



Infrastructure is key to the success of the GAP

Infrastructure investments and services can integrate gender responsive actions for reducing gender disparity and enhancing women's economic opportunities:

- 1. Improved roads and affordable transport** save time and facilitate women's mobility, access to land, labor and product markets, schools, health centers and services etc.
- 2. ICT** provides access to market information and use, resulting increased HD and economic opportunities and income.
- 3. Potable water** saves time/energy that can be used for HD and productive activities, reduces morbidity and mortality.
- 4. Improved energy** saves time/energy, reduces morbidity (ARI) and mortality.
- 5. Improved sanitation** reduces morbidity, improves dignity.



Gender in WBG Portfolio

- Over 90% of health and education projects FY07 integrated gender.
- Nearly 56% of the Agriculture and Rural Development projects integrated gender in FY07 (Gender and Rural Development Thematic Group Portfolio Review 2005)
- 40 % of the infrastructure projects integrated gender in FY08 (Gender review of Infrastructure Portfolio, SDV, 2008).



Gender in Bank Infrastructure Strategies and Action Plans

- **Sustainable infrastructure Action Plan 2008** – includes gender actions and monitoring indicators
- **Safe, Clean, Affordable Transport for Development 2008** -includes gender differences in transport needs
- **Water Resources Sector Strategy (2004)** --women must play central role in WSS
- **Cities in Transition: World Bank Urban and Local Government Strategy (2000)** gender differences in planning services
- **Clean Energy for Development Investment Framework (2007)**Results framework includes reduction of indoor pollution (negative health effects on women).
- **Information and Communication Technologies Strategy (2002)** recommends gender sensitive community ICT portals, training for women's NGOs



Attention to gender in energy studies

- ***Nepal Proposed Power Sector Development Strategy, 2001:*** Heavy reliance on traditional fuels endangers health of women and children from indoor pollution; women read more when there is access to electric lighting
- ***India Power Sector Reform and the Poor, 2002:*** Social benefits of public lighting, such as reduced crime and more social activities, reduce vulnerability, especially among women; discusses benefits of rural electrification for women; recognizes that disruptions of power supply have a greater impact on women and children and that reform policies have different effects on different disadvantaged groups.
- ***Development of Oil & Gas Infrastructure in Afghanistan, 2005:*** Attention should be paid to women's contribution to implementing technical assistance to the energy infrastructures



Strategy for mainstreaming gender and social issues in projects.

1. Conduct a social & gender analysis of the proposed projects
2. Consultation with women and men separately to validate data
3. Develop Components and actions for reducing gender disparity within that sector and include in project design
4. Develop Gender disaggregated monitoring and evaluation
5. Allocate budget for gender implementation of gender activities
6. Operational Policy on involuntary displacement and resettlement : if possible ensure that women receive compensation directly and a title to the replaced asset. Also receive other benefits e.g. skill training, access to credit, employment etc so that their livelihood remains the same or improve.
7. Develop benefit sharing approach for the poor.



What worked : Social & gender assessments analyzed country/sectoral context and designed actions for enhancing women's Empowerment

Actions to reduce gender disparity

- **Access** (infrastructure and other services, gender-friendly facilities, security, affordability);
- **Capacity Development** (Awareness campaigns, Skills development);
- **Social Capital/Empowerment** (women's groups, cooperatives, SME, Labor contracting society, Social/community network);
- **Direct Economic Opportunities** (employment, Micro-enterprise, SHG, Savings & RLF, Self-employment)
- **"Voice" / Decision-making** (Leadership, Managerial positions)

Create enabling environment

- Internalizing gender within implementing agency, gender training, social/gender unit
- **Partnership with NGOs, women's organizations**



Quality of the Portfolio FY95 to FY08

- Previous Projects focused more on women's access, gender friendly facilities, awareness raising, capacity building
- **FY07-08:** More focus on economic opportunities and decision making
 - **Direct job creation by the project** (affirmative action)
 - **Capacity building – skill training for women, gender training for PIU**
 - **Micro-enterprise development**
 - **Muti-sectoral: HH energy, CDD type infrastructure and agriculture production & marketing activities**
 - **Social capital formation (association, representation in management committee)**
 - **Decision making – leadership training and management position**

Development Effectiveness increased through Gender Responsive Actions

- **Women's participation in design and decision making in water users' associations (WUAs) or Rural Electrification cooperatives improves governance, management, cost recovery and production** (Morocco, Karnataka, Kerala, Nepal Rural WSS and Bangladesh Rural Electrification)
- **Women's participation increases effectiveness, quality and sustainability of infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance; high economic rate of return (31%); improved work environment**, as less violence and drinking in project sites (Peru Rural Roads Project)
- **Women's participation enhanced the benefits of mining for the poorest segments and promoted the sustainability of the project** (PNG Mining Sector Strengthening). Private sector accepted and using Bank's gender guidelines



Strategic Use of Bank's OP: gender inclusion against the odds

Sierra Leone Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project FY 05

- Women's participation (at least 30%) in community consultations and Village Resettlement Committee (VRC) ensured and recorded in minutes.
- Displaced women were given joint land/asset titles with husbands
- Adult literacy, skill dev. training and savings scheme for women and men
- Despite post-conflict social trauma, innovative social assessment and process ensured women's effective participation and direct benefits.

Mumbai Urban Transport (MUTP): FY01

- Women's NGOs facilitated consultations and resettlement
- Displaced women were given joint land/asset titles with husbands
- Asset title helped women access to formal credit system and economic opportunities.



Bangladesh Coastal Women's Enterprise for Electrification FY 02: Lessons incorporated in Rural Electrification project

- A pilot project was undertaken in the coastal Bangladesh for empowering women economically. Project identified community and gender-based energy needs
- Skill development in technology for women for manufacturing and sale of energy products; seed capital and SME formation for women
- Provided Battery charged lamps and SHS to thousands of households, shops and boats. Linked to microfinance institutions so that poor HH can avail modern electrification.
- Revised gender norms and community perceptions of women's capabilities and increased women's income, asset and status
- Model for other rural low cost rural energy projects, the lessons were taken in large scale Bangladesh Rural Electrification projects, where women have decision making role in Rural Cooperatives, function as treasurers and technicians. Improved governance of the project.



Gender Commitments and Status in Sustainable Infrastructure Action Plan (SIAP) 2008

- Strengthen SDN Gender group and constitute a core resource group of gender and infrastructure experts (SDV)
- Undertake a **Gender Review of Infrastructure Portfolio** and a **Stocktaking Report on Gender & Infrastructure** (SDV),
- **Monitor GAP progress** annually (SDV)
- **Engender the ICT for Development Report-ICT4D 2008** (GICT)
- **Develop M&E indicators for WSS** (Water anchor)
- Undertake a review of the **ESMAP Portfolio** in order to engender both the ESMAP portfolio and the Bank's energy access agenda (ESMAP and Energy anchor)
- Integrate gender in **transport operations** in at least 3 regions (AFR, EAP and LCR with Transport anchor) **on-going**
- Mainstream gender into **Extractive Industry (EI)** operations, with an initial focus on 2-3 operations in Africa and LCR (COCP0) **on-going**



Plan for Gender Integration in SDN

Operational Guidelines and Monitoring

- Integrate gender using existing **Bank's operational instruments** – social and environment OPs, social and environment assessments
- Develop practical gender and infrastructure **resources and results indicators**
- **Monitor** progress annually

Learning Agenda

- **Capacity building** sessions with staff and counterparts
- **MDB (Multi-lateral Development Bank) Platform** on gender and Infrastructure, Manila Nov 2008, Peru Nov 2009 and Africa ---

Social and Gender Dimensions of Climate Change

- Develop **social/gender criteria** for climate investments