

Women's Voice, Agency and Participation

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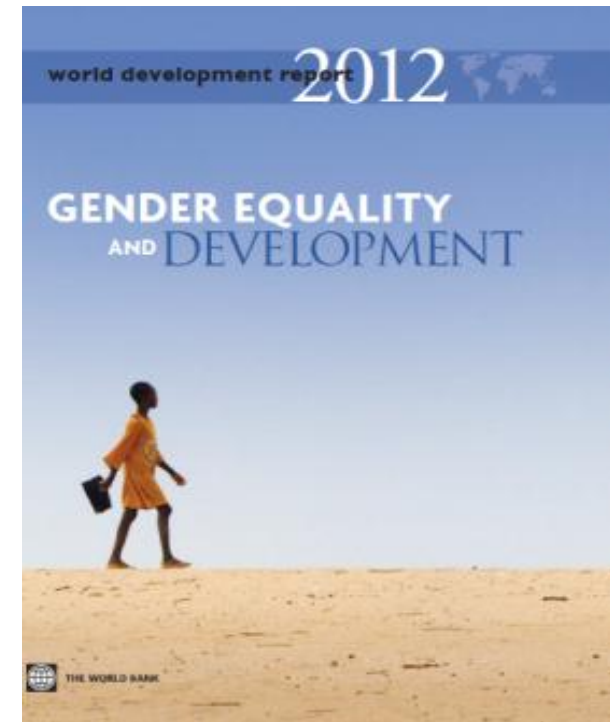
Progress

- Gender gaps in primary schools have closed in many countries, and globally more women are at university than men
- Women have lived longer than men in all parts of the world since 1980
- In the past 30 years, over half a billion women have joined the workforce

BUT

Persistent gender inequalities

- No region is on track to meet MDG5, to cut maternal mortality by 3/4
- Nearly 4 million 'missing' women, annually
- Gender segregation in work, including wage gaps of 20% on average, and very low labor force participation in some regions and countries
- 510 million women will be abused by their partner in their lifetime
- Differences in voice and participation in households and society



Why voice and agency?

- A **key dimension of gender equality** alongside endowments and opportunities
 - Progress in women's voice & agency is lagging
 - Deep-seated structural and institutional disparities and norms
 - Significant knowledge gaps
- **Intrinsic value**
 - Ability to make effective choices and exercise control over one's life is a consistent dimension of well-being
- **Instrumental value**
 - Wellbeing of women and their families, communities and countries

Agency: the ability to make and act on choices one values

Objectives of the report

1. Deepen WDR2012 evidence base

- National and cross-country analyses of data (e.g., Gallup, World Values Surveys, DHS, IMAGES)
- Extracting lessons from systematic evaluations
- Selected case studies

2. Deliver policy relevant conclusions

- Key lessons about what works, what does not, and promising directions

3. Inform WBG operations and modalities

- Explore options to better integrate into Bank analysis, dialogue, operations and monitoring

Focus: five 'expressions' of agency...

- Freedom from the **risk of violence** (GBV)
- Access to and control over **property** (land)
- Freedom of **movement** (localized & migration)
- Decision-making over **family formation** (family planning, marriage & divorce, children)
- Ability to have **voice in society and influence policy** (political and community participation)

Freedom from violence

Proposed value added

- Insights into GBV as development issue *and* human rights violation
- Greater understanding of how to cost GBV in developing settings
- Promising policy and programmatic options
- Multi-sectoral toolkit to guide GBV mainstreaming in operations

Approach – building on 2013 Commission on the Status of Women

1. Complementary analytical work:
 - State of the evidence review of interventions to prevent and address GBV
 - Review and advance knowledge of costs and consequences of GBV
 - Review and plan for increasing data and monitoring
 - Evaluate international conventions, national laws, and implementation issues
2. Case studies, including connections between political mobilizations and programmatic responses to GBV in India
3. Empirical work on attitudes towards GBV, and on patterns, correlates and effects of GBV exposure

Partners

- Social Development Network; UN Women; ODI (case studies on GBV); GWU Global Women's Institute; Oxfam India (and expanding!)

Access to and control over land

Proposed value added

- Assess potentially transformative impacts of land
- Explore reforms that boost women's access and control (titling and beyond) in urban and rural settings
- Identify promising approaches to tackle discriminatory norms
- Guidance on indicators and data (what *ought* to be collected)

Approach

1. Background papers on land – rural and urban – including review of experience of interventions
2. Empirical analysis on patterns of ownership and linkages to other wellbeing outcomes

Partners

- WB Agriculture and Rural Development Department, Africa Gender Innovation Lab, IFC work on improved access to resources and markets
- Potentially: AGRA, FAO, Global Land Tools Network, Huairou Commission, IFAD, IFPRI, Landesa

Freedom of movement

Proposed value added

- Identify variations in freedom of movement – highlighting regional and country differences – and key barriers
- Promising directions to enable local mobility
- Explore policy options for protecting rights of low-skilled migrants

Approach

1. Background papers on constraints to local mobility and migration, respectively.
2. Empirical analysis of patterns, correlates and impact of inability to move freely

Partners (TBC) - KNOMAD, Sustainable Development Network

Decision making over family formation

Proposed value added

- Systematic review of evidence of benefits of investments in reproductive health for agency
- Identify promising interventions to improve reproductive health outcomes (agency, service delivery, accountability)
- Understand processes of norm change in high fertility countries
- Provide operational guidance on policies and interventions to bolster agency of girls and women with respect to family formation

Approach

1. Background paper: *“Closing the Deadly Gap Between What We Know and What We Do”* (Women Deliver conference, May 27-29)
2. Case study: Niger – qualitative survey re. HH decision making
3. Empirical analysis of constraints to decision-making and impacts

Partners - Women Deliver, Girl Hub Ethiopia and International Center for Research on Women – Fertility Empowerment Network

Voice in society and Influence policy

Proposed value added

- Advance knowledge of benefits of increasing women's voice – for themselves, their families and communities
- Review implications for Bank operations and M&E

Approach

1. Background papers by National Democratic Institute on national level participation of women, and on local level participation (*TBD*)
2. Link to work on social accountability, building on insights from Community Driven Development
3. Case study: Indonesia, determinants of women's political participation (including why quotas haven't had intended effects)
4. Empirical work on levels and trends in decision-making, including at household level.

Partners - Social Development Network; World Bank Institute (?)
- NDI, ODI, "I Know Politics", Equal Futures Partnership

Cross-cutting issues: Diagnostics

- Inter-relations between structures, politics and agency
- Interactions of agency with endowments and economic opportunities
 - Overlapping disadvantage (*gender, age, health, income poverty, place of residence, ethnicity*)
- Importance of social and cultural norms
- Conflict and state fragility

Cross-cutting issues: Policies

- Legal systems and institutions
(government, religious, media, private sector)
- Collective action
- Potential of new technologies

Cross-cutting issues: Monitoring

- Paucity of gender-relevant data on agency (e.g., on decision-making, intra-household allocation of resources, GBV surveillance, local participation)
- Need for comparable data and tools

Build on recent progress:

- UN Inter-agency and Expert Group identified 52 core gender indicators, several on voice
- UN guidance on collecting statistics on GBV

The report will:

- Take stock of data sources on agency, ongoing efforts and key gaps
- Recommend typology of indicators on voice and agency and associated determinants for country monitoring and Bank operations

Expected timeline and selected milestones

WBG & other key dates

WBG Law, Justice and Development Week

UN/MDG – Meeting of high-level panel on Post-2015

WBG SDN Week

WBG Spring Meetings

UN/MDG – Launch report of high-level panel on Post-2015

UN GA - MDG summit

WBG Annual Meetings

WBG Spring Meetings

2012

2013

2014



Advisory Council Meeting, Stockholm

Conference on Gender and Land, Utrecht

UN CSW Consultation and GBV costing side events

1st meeting of Technical Advisory Group

Advisory Council Meeting

Equal Futures High Level Event

WBG Annual Land Conference consultation

Women Deliver Conference consultation

Exiting Fragility Conference (WBG) consultation

GENDERNET OECD-DAC consultation

ODI/OECD consultation on girls and social norms

Jobs Day – gender panel

SAR region-wide event on GBV, Nepal

HDCA Nicaragua consultation

Clinton Global Initiative consultation

Joint Symposium with GWU on GBV

2nd meeting of Technical Advisory Group

VAP report – key dates

Launch VAP report

Ongoing: regional/country consultations (online discussions, workshops etc)