

# World Bank Group Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality

The Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE) was established in 2012 to strengthen awareness, knowledge, and capacity for gender-informed policy making and programs. It provides a single vehicle through which World Bank trust fund resources for gender equality are now channeled, enabling increased consolidation of fundraising, management and reporting for gender trust funds.

## Strategic Alignment and Results Focus

<b>Value-added</b>	The UFGE seeks to maximize returns on investments in gender. It serves as a catalyst for innovation and explores the frontiers of the gender equality agenda where evidence and data on what works is lagging. It complements, but does not fund the Bank's gender mainstreaming activities.
<b>Strategic alignment</b>	The UFGE is aligned with the World Bank Group's gender mainstreaming strategy and supports priorities laid out in <i>World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development</i> and Regional Gender Action Plans. The IDA17 gender commitments will push us to deepen gender integration in projects and strategies and to do better at measuring impacts and results. The activities funded by the UFGE will help us accomplish this by equipping us with better data, knowledge, and evidence.
<b>Results</b>	The UFGE is anchored in the Bank's three-tiered Results Framework, as laid out in the Corporate Scorecard (CSC) and IDA Results Measurement Systems. Intermediate outcomes will be monitored through a UFGE-specific results framework.

## The UFGE Invests in Priority Areas

The UFGE recognizes the critical need for addressing knowledge and data gaps. In order to learn what works and what doesn't, rigorous evidence is critical. While these activities require significant investment, they have large externalities. Knowledge management is a cornerstone in order to systematically capture and translate data and evidence into lessons for wider use in policies and programs. Activities are funded under three priority areas:

- 1) **Increasing availability of gender-relevant data and evidence** by serving as a catalyst for innovation and investment in frontier issues (e.g. voice and agency) and in areas with persistent gaps, like low earnings.
- 2) **Road testing evidence** at the country level, to strengthen and expand successful approaches (e.g. applying knowledge gained from piloting and impact evaluations) and generating operationally relevant lessons on how to effectively translate new evidence into results on the ground.
- 3) **Leveraging partnerships to help advance gender equality** through new ways of engaging development partners, research institutions, statistics bureaus, and civil society organizations around the world.

## How the UFGE Works

### Regional Block Grants

Multi-year block grants to regions provide critical funding for activities aligned with the World Bank's strategy for gender equality and regional priorities. These activities are supporting innovative, evidence-based solutions at the country level and bolstering global knowledge around frontier issues and persistent gaps. For instance:

We are supporting a regional Knowledge Hub on gender-based violence in South Asia to raise awareness, share knowledge, and forge partnerships with civil society, donors, and governments. In Brazil, select train stations are being equipped with electronic kiosks to help women access legal and social services on topics such as violence.

Funds are helping provide concrete recommendations on using agency-enhancing interventions to improve development outcomes by, for instance, learning if improved mobility through infrastructure investments can enhance agency and how male out-migration affect women left behind on the farm.

### Strategic Grants

Strategic allocations provide targeted funding for activities where there is an identified opportunity and associated financing to advance the aims of the UFGE. Some examples include:

The *Africa Gender Innovation Lab* which builds rigorous evidence, through impact evaluations, on what works and what doesn't to close gender gaps in earnings, productivity, assets, and agency.

Scaling up the *Adolescent Girls Initiative* (AGI) in Liberia (EPAG), adapting and expanding the successful pilot model to increase coverage into rural areas and contribute to lessons for future youth projects.

*Increasing Women's Access to Economic Opportunities in Turkey* builds a platform for evidence-based policy making—strengthening the knowledge base, supporting pilots, and south-south knowledge sharing on improving job and entrepreneurship opportunities.

### Governance

The World Bank Group's Gender and Development Board comprises manager-level representatives from all of the Bank's regions, global practices and the IFC. It is the main decision making body for the UFGE

The UFGE Partnership Council provides upstream strategic guidance on the implementation of the UFGE, plays an important role in the World Bank's efforts to harmonize funding for gender equality, and constitutes a forum for collaboration among the donor community. All UFGE donors are represented on the Council.

### Resources

To-date, pledges from twelve donors amount to US\$ 45.4 million. These are Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE) is a five-year (2012-2017) multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank's Gender Group. It supports World Bank and IFC activities.