Consultation on Women’s Voice, Agency and Participation

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Women Deliver
Kuala Lumpur

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Outline

- World Development Report 2012
- Objectives
- Scope
  - Focus on five expressions
  - Cross-cutting issues
  - Monitoring
- Timeline
Progress over the past 30 years

- Gender gaps in primary schools have closed in many countries, and globally more women are at university than men
- Women are living longer than men
- Over half a billion women 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
- Men’s landholdings are almost three times the size of women’s
- Wage gaps of 20% on average, and very low labor force participation in some regions and countries

**AND** Least progress in expanding women’s voice and agency

- 510 million women will be abused by their partner in their lifetime
- The share of women parliamentarians is still only 1/5
Concepts of agency

Capability approach
- the ability to pursue goals that one values and has reason to value (Sen 1990); an agent is “someone who acts and brings about change” (Sen 1999).

WDR2012
- the ability to use endowments to take advantage of opportunities to achieve desired outcomes

→ Voice, agency & participation
- Concern is with both processes (intrinsic) and outcomes (instrumental)
- Given operational focus, our interest is in ‘expressions’ of agency with the most policy and programmatic value
1. Deepen WDR2012 evidence base
   • National and cross-country analyses of unexploited data
   • 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 and partners’ operations and modalities
   • Explore options to better integrate into Bank analysis, dialogue, operations and monitoring
   • Identify how WBG can support other development partners in areas of strategic advantage
1. ‘Overlapping disadvantage’ and multiple agency deprivations in Demographic Health Survey data for 50+ countries

2. Agency and outcomes among boys and girls (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Young Lives) for 20+ countries.

3. Male and female perceptions, and perceptions of women’s status, Gallup World Poll for 130+ countries
Some preliminary snapshots

Large shares of women lack agency in key areas  Improvements in share of women deprived in all four areas of agency in most countries...

Share of married women (%)

Low Middle Income Countries  Low Income Countries
Focus: five ‘expressions’ of agency...

- Freedom from the risk of violence (GBV)
- Access to and control over property (land)
- Freedom of movement (localized)
- 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
   - Evaluate international conventions, national laws, and implementation issues

2. Case studies, including connections between political mobilization and programmatic responses to GBV in India

3. Empirical work on attitudes towards GBV, and on patterns, correlates and effects of GBV exposure

Partners
- 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

- Potentially: AGRA, FAO, Global Land Tools Network, Huairou Commission, IFAD, IFPRI, Landesa
Proposed value added

- Explore determinants of freedom of movement – highlighting regional and country differences – and key barriers
- Promising directions to enable local mobility

Approach

1. Country case study on constraints to local mobility. – Afghanistan.
2. Empirical analysis of patterns, correlates and impact of inability to move freely

Partners KNOMAD

20/06/2013
Decision making over family formation

Proposed value added

- Review of evidence on sexual and reproductive health services as entry point for GBV prevention, and of the health costs and consequences of GBV

- Systematic review of benefits of investing in reproductive health for agency

- Identify promising interventions to improve reproductive health outcomes (agency, service delivery, accountability)

- Provide operational guidance on policies and interventions to bolster agency of girls and women with respect to family formation
Decision making over family formation

Approach

1. Background papers:
   a) Closing the deadly gap between what we know and what we do: Investing in women’s reproductive health.
   b) Review of operations and policies to build agency via reproductive health channels

2. Case studies:
   a) Niger – qualitative survey re. household decision making
   b) Chad – analysis of previously un-explored data set on women’s and men’s agency, including linkages with reproductive health and family formation

3. Empirical analysis of constraints to household decision-making

Partners - Women Deliver
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
2. Link to work on social accountability, building on insights from Community Driven Development
3. Case studies:
   1. India, link between women’s political participation and GBV
   2. 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
In several countries, people feel young men have more to contribute to progress than young women...
Cross-cutting issues: Institutions and technology

- Legal systems and institutions (government, religious, private sector)
- Collective action (women’s movements, civil society)
- Potential of new technologies (social media and ICTs)
Cross-cutting issues: Indicators and monitoring

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

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

20/06/2013
Expected timeline and selected milestones

- **2012**
  - Dec: Advisory Council Meeting, Stockholm
  - Jan: Conference on Gender and Land, Utrecht
  - Feb: UN CSW Consultation and GBV costing side events
  - Mar: 1st meeting of Technical Advisory Group
  - Apr: UN/MDG – Meeting of high-level panel on Post-2015
  - WBG SDN Week
  - WBG Spring Meetings

- **2013**
  - Jan: WBG Law, Justice and Development Week
  - Apr: Advisory Council Meeting
  - May: Women Deliver Conference consultation
  - Jun: South Asia region-wide event on violence, Nepal
  - July: 1st Online consultation via AlertNet
  - Aug: HDCA Nicaragua consultation
  - Sep: Clinton Global Initiative consultation
  - Oct: 2nd Online consultation via AlertNet

- **2014**
  - Jan: UN/MDG – Launch report of high-level panel on Post-2015
  - WBG Annual Meetings
  - WBG Spring Meetings
  - Apr: Joint Symposium with GWU on GBV
  - 2nd meeting of Technical Advisory Group
  - LAUNCH REPORT

**VAP report – key dates**

- Report consultations are in **GREEN**
Questions for Discussion

- Critical knowledge gaps?
- Value-added?
- Interesting case studies or evidence?

FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.worldbank.org/gender/agency