

**PPP FORUM - GENEVA**

***WOMEN EMPOWERMENT  
IN  
PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS***

**DIALA EL CHAAR  
HIGHER COUNCIL FOR PRIVATIZATION**

**MARCH, 2016**

# Outline

- Gender mainstreaming concept
- Impact of poor Infrastructure on women
- Does it make business sense to link Gender to PPPs?
- What has been done so far regarding gender mainstreaming?
- Gender mainstreaming methods
- Examples of infrastructure projects involving Gender Mainstreaming
- Gender Mainstreaming challenges in PPPs
- How to make PPPs more gender responsive
- References

# Gender mainstreaming concept

- Infrastructure when considered to be gender neutral will reinforce gender inequalities.
- “Gender Mainstreaming”: the need to assess the implications on women and men of any action across all policy areas.
- Gender equality stands as a key development goal under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and recently the SDGs.
- Now there is global consensus about the need to include a gender perspective throughout the different stages of PPP projects.

# Impact of poor Infrastructure on women

- Time constraints
  - Domestic chores
  - Elderly care responsibilities



# Impact of poor Infrastructure on women

- Economic development
  - Poverty
  - Lack of access to assets and opportunities



# Impact of poor Infrastructure on women

- Health and Safety issues:
  - HIV/Aids and others
  - Smoky cook stoves
  - Lack of street lights



# Impact of poor Infrastructure on women

- Lack of women participation in infrastructure decision making



# Does it make business sense to link Gender to PPPs?

- **Profitability and Sustainability:** Tailoring services to the needs of all social groups in an infrastructure project is a prerequisite.
- **Access to cheaper funds:** Most PPP projects need funding from IFI or large private sector banks, both having gender requirements.  
  
70% of International Project finance debt in emerging markets is provided by financial institutions adopting the **The Equator Principles** which is a risk management framework for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk in projects.
- **Social Responsibility:** Private companies are increasingly adopting corporate social responsibility policies.

## What has been done so far?

- **Lots of materials and guidelines** have been developed by international organizations, governments, and NGOs to include a gender perspective in infrastructure projects for all sectors.
- There are **growing initiatives** to address gender issues in infrastructure.
- But there is **limited evidence about actual impacts** because in the absence of sex-disaggregated data there is no ability to neither set targets nor to assess, evaluate and monitor gender outputs

# Gender mainstreaming methods

- Using Gender Action plans
- Undertaking Gender Analysis
- Ensuring Gender involvement and consultations
- Capacity Building and gender mainstreaming skills of the staff involved in project development and implementation
- Supporting wider activity of women across project lifecycle: support complementary measures
- Including income generating opportunities
- Contractual mechanisms through KPIs

## Gender mainstreaming methods – cont.

- Allocating a budget for gender mainstreaming activities
- Delivering accessible services to women
- Monitoring and evaluating against gender impacts

# Examples of Infrastructure Projects involving gender mainstreaming

# Peru

# Water Sector

- Project: National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project
- Gender method used: Involving women in project planning, construction and maintenance
- Results:
  - women outperformed men in the construction and pumps maintenance activities.
  - Women helped in mobilizing the community to carry out maintenance tasks and pushing contractors to keep projects on schedule.
  - Women became vocal supporters and influenced their community's participation.
  - Women enhanced their skills and financial capacity.

# Bangladesh

# Energy Sector

- Project: rural electrification and renewable energy development for a grid system and off-grid program.
- Gender method used is mainly targeted activities: 1- Training for both men and women as technicians 2- Reserve certain jobs (billing, collection, accounting) to women 3- a microfinance system is used for the off-grid component mostly solar 4- Energy program targeted to household energy (clean cooking solutions, electricity for lighting).
- Results:
  - High demand and high repayment rate for the solar home systems
  - Thousands of village women got employed in the energy sector and newly established industries

# Nepal Water and sanitation Sector

- Project: Extend water supply and sanitation to > 800,000 people
- Gender methods used: 1- Involving women in project planning, implementation and management 2- Gender analysis in the design phase 3- consultations 4- Targeted activities: access to credit, business development support, school enrollment for girls, informal education 5- A budget (\$0.4M out of total \$25.3M) dedicated for the gender activities.
- Results:
  - Women empowerment helped in the sustainability of the services
  - >49,000 women participated in 1366 microcredit groups
  - Many women have assumed new leadership positions in their villages

# Yemen

# Transport

- Project: Rural roads and transport
- Gender methods used: 1- Training local women to serve as facilitators 2- Consultations with women.
- Results: Identifications of the following needs that were not brought up from consultations with men:
  - The need for safety features – speed signs and speed bumps near schools.
  - The idea of small reservoirs to collect run-off water from roads for agriculture.

## Bolivia

## Urban development

- Project: upgrade infrastructure in the poorest neighborhoods of La Paz through modernizing public transport and expanding sewage coverage.
- Gender methods : 1- Gender analysis 2- Gender Consultations
- Results that improved women's conditions:
  - Investments in sidewalks eased foot travel of women, the elderly and children.
  - Building daycare facilities and community centers (freed up women to engage in income generating activities).
  - Improved lighting and sanitation facility within homes (increased women's safety)
  - Including women's names on the land titles (gave them access to credit and employment)

# Liaoning, China

# Transport

- Project: Urban transport project
- Gender methods used: Consultations and user surveys
- Results :
  - Major redesign from a focus on large ring roads for vehicles to more attention to pedestrian needs
  - Including safety measures - improved street lighting, crosswalks (women are usually accompanied by children) - and reduced waiting times at bus stops.

# Gender mainstreaming Challenges

- Time constraints: addressing social and gender issues increases the complexity of already complicated projects.
- Extra commercial costs to PPP projects.
- Financial constraints: Limited funding for social and gender analysis.
- The specificity of infrastructure projects and the variety of countries.
- Expertise constraints: Limited gender expertise.
- Gender and infrastructure is a “hard sell”: decision makers lack gender awareness.
- Social-cultural constraints sometimes may require sensitivity in dealing with gender issues.

# How to make PPP more gender responsive

- Review laws, policies and regulations that are apparently gender neutral but unintentionally disadvantage women
- Increase Gender Budgets
- Introduce rewards for innovative gender work
- Increase awareness of the benefits of gender responsive projects. More research is needed to identify further commercial gains.

## References

- African Development Bank (2014): 'Checklist for gender mainstreaming in the infrastructure sector'
- Asian Development Bank (2009): 'Guidelines and checklists for gender in Public-Private Partnerships in LAO PDR'
- ILO (2010): Women in infrastructure works: 'Boosting gender equality and rural development!'
- Mott MacDonald (Nov 2012): 'Gender Impact of Public Private partnerships: Literature review synthesis report'
- World Bank (2010): 'Making infrastructure work for women and men: A review of World Bank Infrastructure projects (1995-2009)'
- World Bank Institute (2004): 'PPP, Gender and poverty in Infrastructure'

**Thank you**