
UNIT: 6 INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES – THE WORLD BANK

Structure

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Objectives
- 6.3 The World Bank's Response
- 6.4 Opportunities for Gender Mainstreaming in the Bank
- 6.5 World Bank Operational Policy 4.20: The Gender Dimension of Development
- 6.6 The Basic Process
- 6.7 How the Bank is Positioned Vis-À-Vis Other Donors and Service Providers
- 6.8 Partnerships
- 6.9 Internal Bank Group Synergies: The International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- 6.10 Summing Up
- 6.11 Glossary
- 6.12 Answers to Check Your Progress Exercises
- 6.13 References
- 6.14 Questions for Reflection and Practice

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This Unit presents a strategy for mainstreaming gender responsive actions into the development assistance work of the World Bank. The strategy was developed in recognition of the desirability of finding more effective ways to integrate gender-responsive actions into the World Bank's development assistance. The Bank's Gender and Development Board (a Bank-wide body composed of representatives from the main operational units in the Bank) took the lead in developing the strategy. In this Unit the initiative taken by the World Bank is examined in detail.

6.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this Unit, you should be able to:

- Explain the measures taken by the World Bank to mainstream gender;
- Examine the World Bank's gender action plan; and

- Analyze the drawbacks of the World Bank’s gender mainstreaming activity.

6.3 THE WORLD BANK’S RESPONSE

Several major World Bank reports provide strong empirical evidence that the gender-based division of labor and the inequalities to which it gives rise tend to slow development, economic growth, and poverty reduction. Gender inequalities often lower the productivity of labor, in both the short term and the long term, and create inefficiencies in labor allocation in households and the general economy. They also contribute to poverty and reduce human well-being. These findings make clear that gender issues are an important dimension of the fight against poverty. Gender issues are also central to the commitments made by the World Bank’s member countries at the United Nations Millennium Summit and at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Box 6.1: Water and the Moon

In South Africa, an estimated 16 million people have no operating water supply, with their source of water an average of 1 km away. If the average household is 5 persons, that makes 3.2 million households. If two trips to fetch water are made each day at a round-trip distance of, conservatively, 2 kms each, that makes a distance of 12.8 million km walked each day, day after day, by South African women, just to fetch water. If the average distance to the moon is 384,400 km, South African women walk a distance equivalent to the moon and back 16 times a day just to fetch water (or 319 times around the Earth’s equator). If each trip takes an average of 1 hour to walk to the place, wait in a queue, collect the water, and walk back, 6.4 million trips take 6.4 million hours a day—at 8 hours a day, 21 working days a month, 11 months a year, this represents nearly 3,500 working years each day fetching water. This is just South Africa. If you think of the rest of Africa, it is staggering— and this for only about 10 litres of water each, which is usually of suspect quality.

Source: www.thewaterpage.com cited in Integrating Gender into the World Bank’s Work: A Strategy for Action, The World Bank, January, 2002

Although the nature and importance of gender issues for poverty reduction and growth vary from country to country, significant gender disparities are found in all regions of the world (including in the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development—

OECD). These disparities tend to be greater in low-income than in higher-income countries, and, within countries, tend to be greater among the poor than the more affluent. The incorporation of gender issues into development actions needs to be sensitive to the specific conditions in each country.

Since the 1980s, the Bank has made progress in integrating gender issues into country work and lending, particularly in education and health. For example, between 1995 and 2000 the Bank lent more than \$3.4 billion for girls' education programmes, and was also the single largest lender in the world for health, nutrition, and population projects, three-quarters of which contained gender-responsive actions. Attention to gender issues in World Bank Country Assistance Strategies (CASs) also increased during this period. Several organizational changes designed to facilitate greater attention to gender and development issues were also made, including issuing an Operational Policy on the gender dimension of development in 1994, and creating a Gender and Development Board and placing it within the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network in 1997.

The strategy is intended to establish an enabling environment that will foster country-led, country-specific strategies for changing the gender patterns that are costly to growth, poverty reduction, and human well-being. The strategy rests on a basic process that involves working with countries to:

- prepare periodic, multi-sectoral Country Gender Assessments (CGAs) that analyze the gender dimensions of development across sectors and identify gender-responsive actions important for poverty reduction, economic growth, human well-being, and development effectiveness, and which inform the Bank's country assistance programme;
- develop and implement, as part of the Bank's country assistance programme, priority policy and operational interventions that respond to the assessment; and
- monitor the implementation and results of these policy and operational interventions.

Box 6.2: Overview of the institutional context

The Bank's governance structure has a number of distinct features. Although formally a specialized agency of the United Nations, the Bank is not accountable to ECOSOC. In theory all powers are vested in the Board of Governors that meets annually, one governor representing

each member country. The powers of this board are in turn delegated to the Board of Executive Directors that meets on a regular basis. According to the Bank's Charter, the five largest shareholders of the Bank each appoint their own director, while the remaining directors represent several countries each. Voting power is determined by the capital contributions that support non-concessional lending operations -- an arrangement that contrasts with the one-country one-vote system of other specialized agencies. While the Bank's management often claims that the practice of weighted voting is rarely exercised, according to many observers the Group of Seven (G-7) countries nevertheless have more voice than developing country members within the Board of Executive Directors. The Bank is more likely to respond to new issues if its major shareholders recommend that it pay attention to them. The United States, with its relatively large capital subscription, is in a particularly favourable position, reinforced by the fact that the Bank president has always been a United States national. Referring back to the second question posed above, while the United States has lobbied the World Bank on environmental issues, it has been less willing to do so on WID/gender, for reasons that have to do with the strength of domestic lobbies in the United States.

Source: Shahra Razavi and Carol Miller, *Gender Mainstreaming: A Study of Efforts by the UNDP, the World Bank and the ILO to Institutionalize Gender Issues*, UNRISD, 1995.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1:

Note: a) Use the space given below to answer the questions.

b) Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this unit.

1) Explain the early initiative the World Bank to mainstream gender.

6.4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE BANK

The Bank's gender and development policy, Operational Policy 4.20, states that the Bank integrates gender issues into country programmes. Although attention to gender issues in the

Bank's work has increased since the policy was issued, room for improvement remains. There are three important opportunities for enhancing the Bank's development effectiveness through strategic mainstreaming of gender issues into its work:

- Making Bank interventions responsive to country conditions and commitments. In the context of the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) and the PRSPs, development strategies are led by countries. This—together with the evidence that the gender conditions important for growth, poverty reduction, and well-being vary across countries—suggests that the Bank's gender-related efforts need to be country led and country specific. Almost all of the Bank's member countries have made public commitments to the Millennium Declaration and its development goals, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Beijing+5 declaration and resolution, each of which is centrally concerned with gender relations. Working with countries to identify the gender issues important for poverty reduction and growth will thus enable the Bank to help countries fulfill their international commitments and country-specific gender plans of action.
- Making Bank interventions more strategic. Because the Bank considers gender issues in the context of poverty reduction, its effectiveness in fulfilling its mission can be enhanced by an understanding of the gender issues that are particularly important for poverty reduction, economic growth, and well-being. This strategic approach will enhance effectiveness without escalating the costs of doing business.
- Improving the alignment of Bank policies, processes, and resources to support strategic gender mainstreaming. This will enhance progress in implementation and improve quality.

In summary, the World Bank recognizes that its effectiveness in helping member countries achieve their development goals and reduce poverty can be enhanced by assisting them to take strategic actions designed to overcome the liabilities that gender inequalities represent for development and well-being.

Box 6.3: The World Bank's Gender Action Plan

The Bank's four-year, \$63 million Gender Action Plan (GAP), *Gender equality as smart economics*, was produced in 2007 to "improve women's economic opportunity [through] access

to jobs, land rights, financial services, agricultural inputs and infrastructure”. Bank commitments to gender integration in economic and sector work (ESW) were prioritised under the Action Plan. ESW is primarily in-country information and statistics gathering about existing infrastructure needs, governance practices and economic and social policy. About half of GAP’s budget went to ESW; this sum amounts to less than 7 per cent of total Bank-wide spending on ESW between 2003 to 2006, the most recent four year period for which statistics are available for comparison. The GAP relied upon quantitative performance indicators to measure progress in gender mainstreaming, such as “increase in the amount of available credit for women in focus countries” and “increase in the number of ESW in infrastructure subsectors that conduct gender-based analysis”.

In 2010, a 2011 to 2013 post-GAP transition plan was given a \$68 million budget. Included in this is \$2 million for the 2012 *World Development Report*, which the Bank has devoted to gender equality. The report is expected to maintain the Bank’s controversial market-oriented approach to gender mainstreaming. The post-GAP plan maintains the GAP’s focus on promoting gender equality through women’s economic empowerment, but was expanded to include investment in education and reproductive health as additional objectives. It also mentions vulnerable men and boys while the GAP focused wholly on women and girls. “ESW and operations”, “knowledge creation and sharing”, “capacity building to strengthen gender mainstreaming”, and “engaging civil society” are the transition plan’s four specified action areas for gender work. Like the GAP, the post-GAP plan’s performance indicators are measurements of the quantity of gender-related analysis in country strategies and statistics.

Source: <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/art-567919>

6.5 WORLD BANK OPERATIONAL POLICY 4.20: THE GENDER DIMENSION OF DEVELOPMENT

The Bank aims to reduce gender disparities and enhance women’s participation in the economic development of their countries by integrating gender considerations in its country assistance programme. To this end, the Bank assists its member countries to:

- Design gender-sensitive policies and programmes to ensure that overall development efforts are directed to attain impacts that are equitably beneficial for both men and

women. The Bank helps governments (i) identify barriers—including men’s attitudes—that prevent women from participating in and benefiting from public policies and programmes, (ii) assess the costs and benefits of specific actions to remove these barriers, (iii) ensure effective programme delivery, and (iv) establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure progress.

- Review and modify legal and regulatory frameworks to improve women’s access to assets and services, and take institutional measures to ensure that legal changes are implemented in actual practice, with due regard to cultural sensitivity.
- Strengthen the database for, and train country officials in, gender analysis, particularly in countries with inadequate gender-disaggregated data.
- Obtain financing, if necessary, to meet the resource demands of programme changes. Bank lending supports the expansion of women’s access to services and assets, and the Bank helps to (i) mobilize additional multilateral and bilateral financing, and (ii) organize Consultative Group meetings for specific countries. The Bank also promotes collaboration with international, national, and local non-governmental agencies in implementing Bank-financed projects.

To analyze gender issues in each country, the Bank uses country poverty assessments, public expenditure reviews, other economic and sector work, and country dialogue. The analysis and strategies are incorporated into the Country Assistance Strategy. Objectives and interventions for carrying out country gender strategies are reflected in the lending programme and the design of lending operations. Implementation is monitored as a part of country implementation review. The Gender and Development Group in the Bank’s Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network reports to the Board periodically on the Bank’s progress in integrating gender in its operations.

Box 6.4: Gender Mainstreaming in FY09—Principal Findings

Country Diagnostics and Economic and Sector Work—integration of gender issues in Country Assistance Strategies (CASs) increased in FY09 but has yet to comply with the 100% requirement under the Bank’s gender policy. CASs continued to outperform Economic and Sector Work (ESW) in including gender issues.

- Gender was mentioned in all 23 CASs in FY09, and 19 CASs (83%) were considered

gender-aware.

- In Africa (AFR), 5 of 6 CASs included gender analysis and covered three or more sectors. In Eastern and Central Europe (ECA) and South Asia (SAR), all CASs had gender related actions in at least two sectors.
- A companion to this report summarizes regional plans to comply with the gender policy with respect to CASs.
- All 8 Poverty Assessments (PA) in FY09 had sex-disaggregated data or qualitative information, but only 5 analyzed this data.
- Country Economic Memoranda (CEM) and Public Expenditure Reviews (PER) for FY09 improved their coverage of gender issues. A review of country-level gender diagnostics from 2002 to 2009 shows that out of 107 active countries, 73 countries (68%) completed Country Gender Assessments (CGA) or CGA-equivalent documents.

Challenge: Raising the coverage and quality of gender analysis in country diagnostics and economic and sector work. Improving analysis of outcomes in terms of the distributional impact of policies on men and women.

Lending—using the QAG methodology, PRMGE found that the level of gender-informed lending (in design) increased from 35 percent in FY06 to 38 percent in FY09. However, following a simpler PRMGE methodology that may be a better fit for policy lending, FY08 stands out as the best year in terms of gender-informed lending in design. In FY09, lending with gender-informed design decreased somewhat compared to FY08.

- AFR made the most progress with the highest level of attention to gender issues in lending. Most other regions made some progress from FY06 to FY09.
- Between FY06 and FY09, IDA projects saw an increase in the level of gender-informed coverage in the social and economic sectors. Gender coverage in IBRD lending increased for social sectors but stayed about the same for the economic sectors.
- Early results of QALP-2, suggest improvement in gender integration in project supervision/monitoring.

Challenge: Sustaining gender-informed lending in the social sectors and taking further steps to integrate gender into economic sector projects, and infrastructure projects in particular. The task of reporting on gender informed lending is made complex by annual fluctuations in lending

which are driven by portfolio composition.

PRMGE is working to develop a more reliable methodology to track progress in gender integration which captures relevant project and portfolio characteristics. Additionally, there needs to be a shift in focus to evaluating quality of gender-informed lending of projects at the supervision stage.

The Gender Action Plan demand for GAP funding remains high.

- As of January 2010, the GAP had allocated US\$48.4 million.
- Over 260 gender mainstreaming activities have been funded in 78 countries.
- Challenge: In this final year of the GAP, PREM presented a GAP Transition Plan to the Bank's Board (on June 15).

Challenges include implementing this three-year Transition Plan, including integrating lessons learned from the GAP into mainstream Bank operations.

The World Bank Group President's commitments to gender—on target.

- IFC exceeded its target and committed (between FY08 and FY09) US\$390 million to women through microfinance institutions, and an additional US\$22 million through commercial banks, specifically targeted to women-owned small- and medium-size enterprises..
- The Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) is underway in Afghanistan, Liberia, Nepal, Rwanda, and S. Sudan. Jordan and Lao PDR are joining this initiative in 2010.
- Gender equality is a special theme in the IDA16 replenishment.

Challenge: Implementing regional action plans that have identified priorities and propose tracking indicators in IDA countries for the IDA 16 replenishment.

Source: Implementing the Bank's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: FY09 Annual Monitoring Report, June 2010

Check Your Progress Exercise 2:

Note: a) Use the space given below to answer the questions.

b) Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this unit.

1) How the World Bank analyzes gender issues in each countries?

6.6 THE BASIC PROCESS

The Bank's gender policy is to support governments in identifying key gender issues for poverty reduction in their country, and assist them in taking action on these issues. Gender is thus treated as a crosscutting issue potentially relevant in all countries and sectors, rather than as a distinct sector or an issue relevant only to some countries.

Box 6.5: Good Practice Country Assistance Strategies

The Country Assistance Strategy for Yemen (IDA) is a best practice for clarity and in-depth analysis of gender issues, actions, sex-disaggregated progress indicators, outcomes and instruments. The CAS recognizes that empowering the "other half" of Yemen is critical to the country's development in the medium-term. This issue is expected to be reflected in the design of specific interventions in most CAS priority areas. In addition, the Bank Group will: (i) contribute to the national debate by analyzing critical obstacles to gender equality; (ii) help raise awareness of the importance of gender empowerment in achieving MDGs by sharing experience from similar countries that have reformed their legal frameworks; (iii) help promote female entrepreneurship; and (iv) strengthen capacity of gender-focused civil society organizations. Proposed instruments include: (i) IDA analytical work (Gender Assessment Update); (ii) IDA technical assistance (national gender dialogue); (iii) IFC Business Edge training for women; and (iv) IFC investments for SME-support targeting women.

The Country Assistance Strategy for the Philippines (IBRD), one of two CAS best practice examples for FY09, has analysis, actions and a monitoring framework. The CAS reflects the findings of the 2008 Philippines Joint Country Gender Assessment, which identified the following major challenges/agenda: (i) policy support for alternative social protection mechanisms/services; (ii) increased investment for more inclusive education; (iii) passage of policies and increased services on reproductive health; (iv) coordinated response to address gender-based violence; and (v) sharpening gender lens of disaster management. The CAS lists specific IBRD projects that will be started or continued under the CAS that responds to these

challenges. It requires that development partner projects report annually on gender. The CAS proposes actions in multiple sectors and includes gender targets and actions in the results framework.

Source: Implementing the Bank's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: FY09 Annual Monitoring Report, June 2010

6.7 HOW THE BANK IS POSITIONED VIS-À-VIS OTHER DONORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

There are two distinct approaches to defining the comparative advantage of the World Bank vis-à-vis other donor organizations: in terms of the sectors in which the Bank has a particularly strong track record or a particularly high level of technical expertise, and in terms of the processes in which the Bank has particular strength. As the chart depicting corporate priorities for the World Bank (Figure 5.1) suggests, the Bank's sectoral strengths are unusually broad. There are very few sectors or crosscutting themes in which the Bank has no expertise, and many in which its expertise is rich. Obviously, the Bank's strength is not uniform across all sectors; economic policy expertise is especially strong, for example. But it is probably fair to say that the breadth of its sectoral and thematic expertise, along with its global knowledge, is one of the Bank's key advantages.

The breadth of the Bank's expertise fits well with a mainstreaming approach to gender issues. Were the Bank capable of working in only two or three sectors, an approach to reducing gender disparities involving gender-responsive actions and investments in those sectors would make sense. However, an organization that is capable of working across a broad range of development issues can strengthen its effectiveness by taking a comprehensive approach to gender and development issues.

In terms of process, one of the Bank's most important comparative advantages lies in analytical work and dialogue with client countries about economic and sectoral policies, based on its global expertise. Indeed, the Bank's importance as a lender and its extensive on-the-ground experience, together with its formal analytical capacity, lends weight to its advice about economic policy. Another area of comparative advantage is capacity building through formal training provided by

the World Bank Institute. The strategy described in this paper builds on these strengths. In summary, the Bank's gender and development policy fits well with its areas of comparative advantage: with its unusual breadth of expertise, on the one hand, and its particular strength in analytical work and country dialogue (aided by capacity building), on the other. The strategic mainstreaming approach embodied in the Bank's policy is indeed suited to an organization with these particular strengths.

The changing global context in which the Bank works, moreover, makes clear how important implementation of the Bank's gender and development policy is becoming, particularly if the Bank is to continue its leadership in key areas of development policy and action.

Box 6.6: The review of gender mainstreaming in policy dialogue during FY02 suggests the following:

- Regional variation in the coverage of gender issues in CASs and PRSPs was small. Other indicators show that the legal, policy and institutional framework in most countries is becoming more conducive for gender-responsive development programmes.
- The FY02 experience both reconfirms the strategy's assumption that country specific gender analysis is key to identifying priority sectors for Bank interventions and suggests that the earlier the integration of gender issues in the preparation of analytical, policy and lending work, the greater will be the extent to which gender issues are reflected in the Bank's strategy for a particular country.
- For example, early integration of gender issues into the preparation process for IPRSPs and PRSPs, especially through training and awareness-raising workshops, can significantly increase the extent to which gender issues are recognized in the final product. Relatively small amounts of funding for conducting such workshops can have an impact beyond the integration of a gender dimension in the poverty reduction strategies, for example, by increasing the demand for gender analysis across sectors.
- For both PRSPs and CASs, the availability of country-specific gender analysis, through sectoral research or a CGA, is a key factor in recognizing priority sectors for intervention. Addressing gender issues in a wide range of sectors is more likely when CGAs and other analysis identify areas for priority intervention.

Source: Implementation Of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: First Annual Monitoring

6.8 PARTNERSHIPS

As the Bank has moved to implement the Comprehensive Development Framework, partnerships with governments, civil society, donors, and international organizations have become increasingly important. Partnerships with governments and with civil society in the area of gender and development help the Bank to better understand and serve the needs of clients. Recent Bank actions to create gender-and-development focused partnerships with governments and civil society include:

- Creating external consultative groups that meet regularly with World Bank staff to advise on gender issues and provide feedback on the Bank's work. These groups include the External Gender Consultative Group, which provides advice on gender issues throughout the Bank; a Consultative Council on Gender for the Middle East and North Africa region; and country-level consultative groups. The former NGO-World Bank Committee, whose objective was to involve NGOs in Bank activities, also addressed gender issues as part of its mandate, in liaison with the External Gender Consultative Group.
- Supporting government and civil society groups working on gender issues. As noted earlier, in Morocco, the Bank supported a group from civil society in developing a comprehensive National Plan for Women for the government. In Africa, the Bank has supported programmes on gender and law that have brought together government ministers, senior judges, women jurists, legal policymakers, and representatives from academia and NGOs to discuss gender issues in legal reforms.
- Consulting with civil society and community groups on gender-focused development actions. Consultations with approximately 60,000 poor women and men in 60 countries during the late 1990s generated consistent and strong messages about women's lack of voice in household and community decision-making and the pervasiveness of gender violence. In 1999 and 2000, the Bank sponsored regional consultations with civil society in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to solicit views on actions the Bank should be taking to promote gender equality. Similar consultations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East

and North Africa were held in 2001. Partnerships with international and regional development groups and other donors facilitate the sharing of information on approaches to integrating gender into development, and thereby help the Bank to strengthen its work in this area. Such partnerships also help to leverage funding to support particular actions. The Bank regularly collaborates with United Nations agencies on gender issues, and participates in the gender-focused committees and working parties of the United Nations system and other international organizations.

Participation in these groups allows the Bank to collaborate with other donors and international agencies at the corporate level in exploring new approaches to gender and development work—for example, through sector-wide approaches—and ensures that the international donor community is aware of the Bank’s concerns. In addition, in client countries, local representatives of the Bank

and other international organizations often form partnerships to finance development activities, such as conducting studies on important gender issues. Many of these partnerships are highly effective in generating knowledge and action on country-specific gender issues. The Bank also forms partnerships with donor countries. Like partnerships with international organizations, these partnerships help strengthen the Bank’s focus on gender equality by promoting the incorporation of gender issues into new areas of Bank lending and facilitating the exchange of knowledge about gender issues. They also assist the Bank in conducting research on gender and development, evaluating the impact of its gender policies, and organizing international conferences on gender issues.

6.9 INTERNAL BANK GROUP SYNERGIES: THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)

The IFC’s due diligence process takes impacts on women into account. Its approach is incorporated into an overall strategy of systematically looking at and integrating social development issues into the project review process. All IFC projects must comply with applicable IFC environmental, social, and disclosure policies designed to ensure that the businesses in which the IFC invests are implemented in an environmentally, socially, and financially responsible manner. The IFC manual on public consultation explicitly states that

gender sensitivity and consultations with women are key components of a successful consultation programme. Currently, a small working group is assessing the IFC's approach to this issue. A number of IFC-financed projects have had positive impacts on women. The IFC sees this as a benefit to economic and social development, as evidenced by:

- increased job creation for females working in industry and small-to-medium enterprises;
- access to credit for poor and low-income women;
- increased access to affordable education for poor and middle income females; and
- increased opportunities, advice, and financing for female entrepreneurs.

Because private sector development will, in the long run, be one of the most important engines of economic growth in the Bank's client countries, collaboration between IBRD/IDA and the IFC can help strengthen the effectiveness of the entire Bank Group. Although the proposed strategy is of limited relevance to the way the IFC conducts its business—it does not, for example, regularly conduct the same kind of country-level analytical studies that the IBRD and IDA conduct—the Gender and Development Board has identified private sector development as an important area for gender mainstreaming, and will endeavor to maximize collaboration with the IFC. One possible focus for collaboration is working on the problems of women's entrepreneurship and women-owned businesses.

6.10 SUMMING UP

Despite the progress to date in gender mainstreaming, the Bank's effectiveness can be improved by paying more systematic and widespread attention to gender issues in the context of its poverty reduction mandate. The opportunities for improving the development impact of the Bank's work through gender mainstreaming include making Bank interventions more responsive to country gender conditions and commitments; making these interventions more strategic; and improving the alignment of Bank policies, processes, and resources to support such interventions.

6.11 GLOSSARY

Country Assistance Strategy: The World Bank prepares a Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for active borrowers from the International Development Association (IDA) and the International

Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The CAS takes as its starting point the country's own vision for its development, as defined in a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or other country-owned process. Oriented toward results, the CAS is developed in consultation with country authorities, civil society organizations, development partners, and other stakeholders. The purpose of the CAS is to set out a selective programme of Bank Group support linked to the country's development strategy and based on the Bank Group's comparative advantage in the context of other donor activities. CASs are designed to promote collaboration and coordination among development partners in a country.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs): Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers were introduced in 1999 by the World Bank and the IMF as a new framework to enhance domestic accountability for poverty reduction reform efforts; a means to enhance the coordination of development assistance between governments and development partners.

6.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

Check Your Progress Exercise 1:

Since the 1980s, the Bank has made progress in integrating gender issues into country work and lending, particularly in education and health. For example, between 1995 and 2000 the Bank lent more than \$3.4 billion for girls' education programs, and was also the single largest lender in the world for health, nutrition, and population projects, three-quarters of which contained gender-responsive actions. Attention to gender issues in World Bank Country Assistance Strategies (CASs) also increased during this period. Several organizational changes designed to facilitate greater attention to gender and development issues were also made, including issuing an Operational Policy on the gender dimension of development in 1994, and creating a Gender and Development Board and placing it within the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network in 1997.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2:

To analyze gender issues in each country, the Bank uses country poverty assessments, public expenditure reviews, other economic and sector work, and country dialogue. The analysis and strategies are incorporated into the Country Assistance Strategy. Objectives and interventions for carrying out country gender strategies are reflected in the lending programme and the design of lending operations. Implementation is monitored as a part of country implementation review.

The Gender and Development Group in the Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network reports to the Board periodically on the Bank's progress in integrating gender in its operations.

6.13 REFERENCES

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Implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy: First Annual Monitoring Report, FY02, 2003

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6.14 QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND PRACTICE

1. Explain the World Bank's operational policy on gender dimension of development.
2. Analyze the relationship between the World Bank and other service providing agencies.
3. Describe the role of International Finance Corporation in the process of gender mainstreaming.