

Gender & Infrastructure at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Mainstreaming Gender Equality
in Infrastructure Projects
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*Moderated Panel: Where do we Stand Now?
Taking Stock of Institutional Experience*

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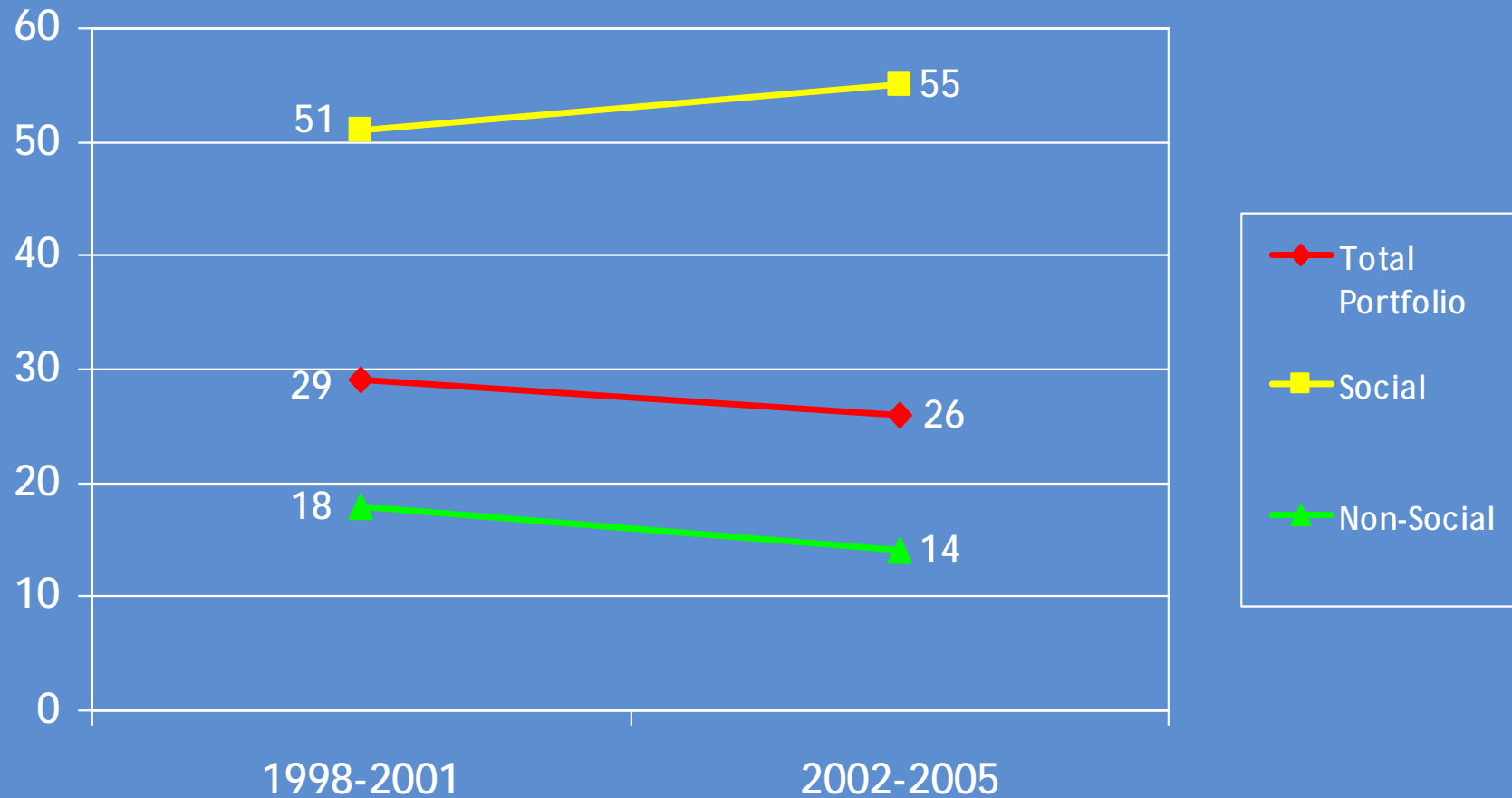
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Gender into the IDB Lending Portfolio

- The IDB has made significant advances in mainstreaming gender in social sector operations; knowledge and operational experience are solid, and over 50% of the lending has a gender perspective
- In economic growth and infrastructure operations, progress has been slow; gaps in gender knowledge, analytical work and operations are significant



Proportion of Bank loans that integrate a gender perspective (design)



Gender & Infrastructure - Social Sectors

Social Sector Investments:

- Gender good practices in this area include operations that finance construction/rehabilitation of *social and economic infrastructure in rural and peri-urban communities*
- These operations contain strong community participation components, and active participation of women at multiple levels of the process
- Examples:
 - Nicaragua Municipal Social Investment, 2005
 - Mexico Program for Addressing Urban Poverty, 2004



Gender & Infrastructure - Non social Sectors

- A growing number of good practice projects have been/are being developed across infrastructure investment areas that can be expanded upon, replicated and improved:
 - Transportation
 - Rural water and sanitation
 - Urban upgrading
 - Energy



Gender in Transportation Projects

The IDB's gender experience in this sector includes:

- 1) Enhancing women's participation in *consultation* processes with communities that will benefit from road projects
- 2) Making women the target of *income generating* opportunities associated with rural roads projects
 - "Caminos Rurales" in Peru
 - Basic Infrastructure Project in Haiti (2007-2008)
- 3) Addressing women's priority needs in *urban public transportation*
 - Integration of a gender perspective in the design of the massive transportation system in Guatemala City "Transmetro" (2008-2009)



Rural Road Program 'Rutas de Vida' in Colombia

- Drawing on the lessons learned from the 'Caminos Rurales' program in Peru, increase women's participation in the design and implementation of the 'Rutas de Vida' (2008-2009)
- **Highlights:**
 - **Gender awareness** training for transport sector staff, as this is a traditionally male dominated sector
 - Consultations with women organizations
 - Gender **quotas** in rural roads committees, maintenance microenterprises and procurement processes
 - **Peer learning activities** for women entrepreneurs from the beneficiary communities



Gender in Water and Sanitation Projects

- The IDB's experience in this sector is concentrated in rural water and sanitation
- Specific interventions have included:
 - Strengthening of women's participation and leadership in local community *water committees*
 - Inclusion of women in *capacity building* for water systems operation and maintenance
 - Promoting greater *gender balance in community sanitation and water use education* associated with the new water and sanitation system
- Examples:
 - "Mexico Water Supply and Sanitation Services for Rural Communities II, 2005
 - Haiti Rural Water and Sanitation Program, 2006



Gender in Urban Upgrading Projects

- Multi-sectoral focus includes infrastructure, social services, income generating opportunities, and violence prevention
- In general, the gender dimension in these operations has been more strongly linked to the social development and economic empowerment components
- Examples:
 - The provision of *childcare* is a feature of the Center La Paz Project (2005) that is helping to reduce women's work burdens and enhance them to participate more in income generating activities
 - In the Ecuador Rehabilitation of Cuenca (2006), there is a strong focus on *conflict resolution*, prevention of *domestic and sexual violence*, and improved social services for women *street vendors* and their children



Energy

- The Bank is supporting the integration of a gender and diversity perspective into the design of a Rural Electrification Program in the Comarca Kuna Yala in Panama (2008-2009)
- **Highlights:**
 - The project design will include a **gender analysis of the supply and demand** of electricity and its impact in the community
 - The interventions will help to improve the **sustainability** of rural energy program by:
 - a. broadening both women's and men's **participation** in the Comarca energy activities
 - b. reducing the **time of women's labor** need to meet household energy needs, and
 - c. promoting gender equity in community **decision-making** committees



Challenges

- *Cultural stereotypes* about gender roles, specifically against women working in Infrastructure projects (i.e. road construction and maintenance)
- Lack of *self-confidence* by women. Peer learning, training, and employment opportunities are key to address this challenge
- *Limited capacity* to identify gender issues by the engineers and contractors that manage infrastructure projects: demand still need to be created
- The need for continued *technical support and supervision* to translate good design into good implementation of the gender-specific elements of the project
- Difficulty finding *consultants/experts* with solid experience in both gender and infrastructure to support project teams and government executing agencies
- *Scarce documentation or dissemination* of good practices and results to help make the case for addressing gender across all infrastructure sectors



Lessons Learnt

- Gender sensitive infrastructure investments directly impact on women's empowerment in a number of fields (i.e. education, health, labor, markets), however root-causes of gender-based discrimination are tackled only by integrated and multi-disciplinary approaches
- Often infrastructure projects engage women and women's organizations in income generating activities, however their economic sustainability is granted only by ensuring linkages to territorial/municipal development plans

Lessons Learnt

- When implemented in indigenous territories, infrastructure interventions must include traditional knowledge of which women are depositary
- At the same time, infrastructure interventions must ensure transfer of new technology to rural and indigenous women

Enhancing support for gender and infrastructure in the IDB

- The IDB's new Gender and Diversity Fund will provide even greater resources to bolster IDB knowledge and experience mainstreaming gender into infrastructure projects over the next years
- The presence of specialists at the field level will expand IDB direct support to gender mainstreaming in the infrastructure sector

