

Gender and Infrastructure in the EBRD region

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Infrastructure Projects

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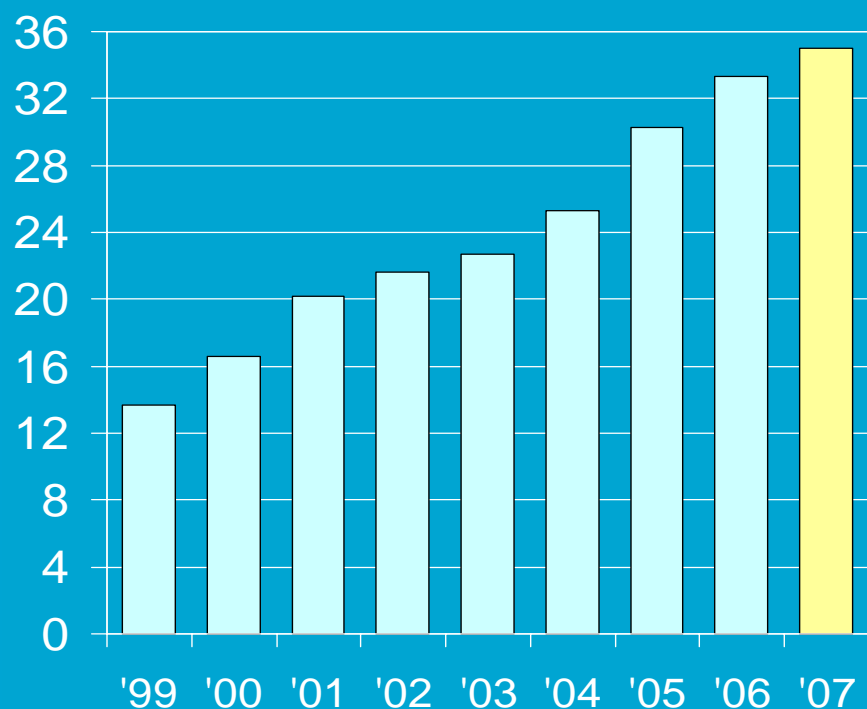
*Moderated Panel: Where do we Stand Now? Taking Stock
of Institutional Experience*

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What is the EBRD?



*Cumulative commitments
€35 billion*

- International financial institution, promotes transition to market economies in 30 countries from central Europe to central Asia
- Owned by 61 countries and two inter-governmental institutions
- Capital base of €20 billion



What are the EBRD's objectives?

- To promote transition to market economies by investing mainly in the private sector
- To mobilise significant foreign direct investment
- To support privatisation, restructuring and better municipal services to improve people's lives
- To encourage environmentally sound and sustainable development



Gender and EBRD

- Gender equality is an important component of the development and transition process
- Part of the Millennium Development Goals
- EBRD is committed to expanding opportunities for women and promoting gender equality
- Impact of transition on women has varied by country and by issue



Gender and EBRD (2)

- To date EBRD has not actively promoted gender equality – presuming the market would take care of it
- Through some of its municipal projects it has had some positive effects, e.g improvement in services related to water, power, heating and sanitation.
- As part of its Environment Policy (2003) EBRD has looked at gender issues in the labour context, with respect to non-discrimination and with respect to the social safeguards – especially involuntary resettlement.



Impact of Transition : Labour market “separation”

Under socialism, high female development indicators, participation in the labour force and in politics.

However since the transition :

- Women’s employment declined at the start of the transition, but has since recovered
- Women now have lower unemployment rates than men, except in CIS & Mongolia
- Women are more in favour of state involvement, particularly in the social arena
- Women tend to be less satisfied with their lives



Impact of transition: Labour market "separation"

Change in percentage points



Source: World Development Indicators 2006



Impact of transition: Wage equality has diminished

- Less wage inequality in less advanced transition countries
- Wage differentials between men and women have increased
- Differences cannot be easily explained by job type or productivity
- Gender discrimination is evident from quantitative and qualitative studies



Impact of transition: Quality of employment has changed

- Women have moved into unpaid caring professions
- More women are in white collar than blue collar professions
- Many women have become self-employed, partly out of necessity
- There are still fewer female than male entrepreneurs



Impact of Transition on Health

- In EBRD's countries of operation, life expectancy has decreased due to reduction and costs of medical services, deterioration in infrastructure providing clean water etc.
- Gender gap in life expectancy increased dramatically – 59 yrs for men and 72 yrs for women
 - Due to multitude of factors including : men suffering greater levels of stress; loss of job security undermining the role of breadwinner in patriarchal society; alcoholism and violence
 - Women suffering from greater degrees of anxiety and depression, especially for women with higher levels of education who perceive a decline in social status and have increased caring roles.



Impact of Transition on Infrastructure

- Infrastructure that functioned well deteriorated considerably. Collective farms used to provide/maintain rural water infrastructure but have now been closed down/broken up in many ECCCA countries
 - Moldova : 90% rural water supplies in need of capital repairs
 - Tajikistan : more than 60% water system is not working/meeting sanitary requirements.
 - In Kyrgyzstan approx 10% rural population loss access to sustainable water supplies between 2000-2003
- Collapse of communist era financing system for maintenance of infrastructure developed since the forties, due to cessation of subsidisation, impoverishment of population not accustomed to payment and non rational use

- ➡ ***Disproportionate adverse impact on women***
- ➡ ***e.g. in Khujand in Tajikistan 27 days a year spent by women collecting water (functioned well 15 years ago)***



Objective of EBRD Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure Policy

" To promote greater efficiency and higher quality in the provision of local authority services through investment and the promotion of independent, well-managed and financially sustainable operations provided on commercial principles and in a market-oriented institutional and regulatory framework"



Examples of Selected Infrastructure Interventions (1)

- Feb 2005: water systems fail in Kutaisi, the second largest city in Georgia
- 185,000 inhabitants left without water for 5 days
- Outbreaks of diarrhoea and hepatitis A
- April 2006: ERBD provides a €3 million loan to cover costs of repairs and install water meters



Examples of Selected Infrastructure Interventions (2)

- Participation in surveys of needs (e.g. family health aspects, ensuring water pressure sufficient to deliver water to all floors in apartment buildings), monitoring of implementation (water user committees)

Eg. Khujand Water Supply, and S. Tajikistan Water Rehabilitation Project in Cities of Kurgan and Dangar
- Water Companies and other Municipal Providers
- Requirements related to labour practices in terms of non-discrimination, in employment and labour policies and practices E.g. Kyiv City Metro Company



Examples of Selected Infrastructure Interventions (3)

- Extractive Industry Projects which may require associated infrastructure or large numbers of migrant workers
 - Equal opportunities relating to labour
 - Requiring client to address associated and disproportionately increased risks of STDs and other social impacts on women and men E.g. BTC and Sakhalin



Looking Forward

- **New ESD Policy**

- Paragraph B-7 :

*Particular attention will be given to projects which include elements that focus upon priority environmental and social issues facing the region and which promote implementation of relevant EU strategies, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation energy and resource efficiency ... promotion of decent work, reducing social exclusion, access to basic services, **gender equality**, transparency*

- Increase awareness of Bank Staff (Gender Action Plan)
- Facilitating increased decision making in Project design
- Monitoring of Work-Place Policies and Procedures : Monitor wages, turn over of staff and employment by gender and flexible working practices.
- Monitoring of Service Provision : Collection of data related to gender preferences, impact on working days, employment etc.

