

PROMOTING
**GENDER
EQUALITY**
TO IMPROVE
DEVELOPMENT
RESULTS



Gender Action Plan 2011–2013



SUMMARY REPORT

The IDB's Gender Action Plan

Embedding gender at the heart of the IDB's work



Gender Action Plan 2011–2013

In 2010 the IDB approved the *Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development* which has three main directives:

- **Mainstreaming:** promoting attention to gender equality in Bank projects and analytical work
- **Direct Investment:** financing projects that directly encourage gender equality or women's empowerment

“Investing in women and girls works

Women reinvest up to 90% of their income in families and communities, spending more earned income on food, care, home improvement and schooling”

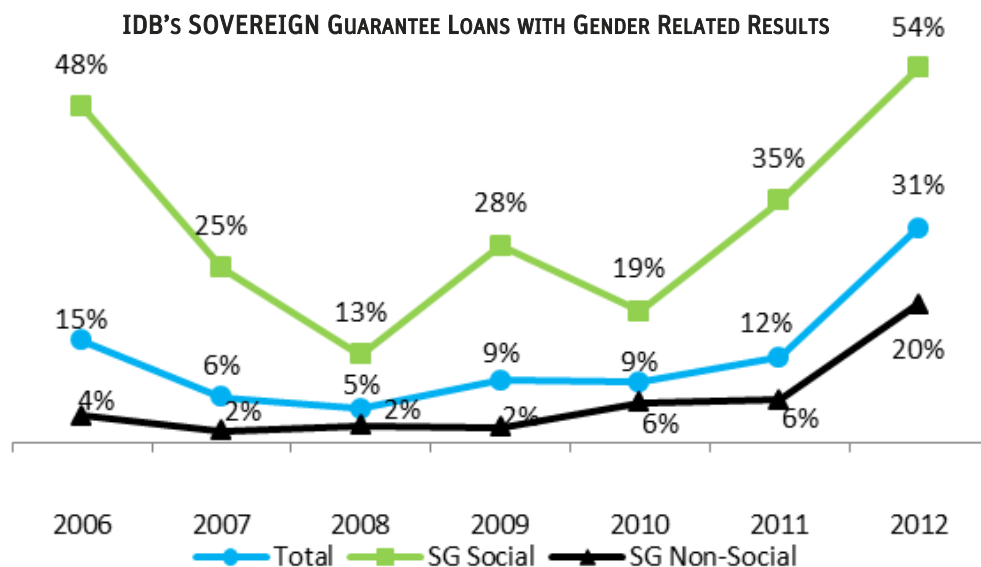
THE RESULTS OF THE GAP, BY THE NUMBERS

x3 IDB loans with gender-related results have increased threefold in the last two years

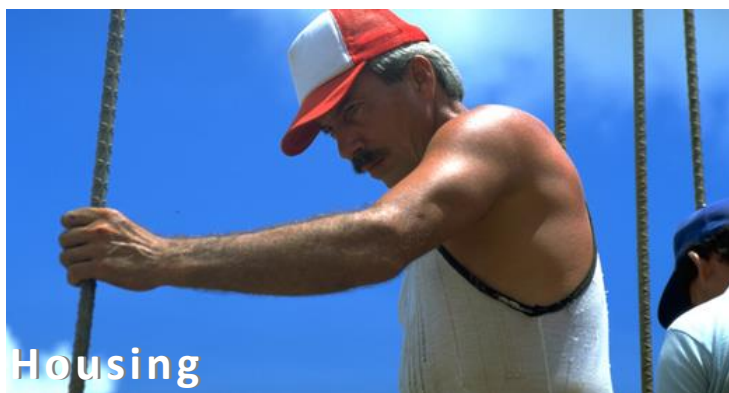
31% of IDB loans to regional governments include at least one gender-related result.

54% in social sector projects
20% in non-social projects (a 233% increase since 2010)

Moving forward, the IDB will seek to consolidate these gains and improve the quality of these results.



MAINSTREAMING: PROMISING EXAMPLES



Housing

The IDB is supporting a project in Nicaragua that seeks to improve housing for low-income families. During project design, it became clear that **women had less access to housing and land titles than men**. Hence, the project team designed specific mechanisms to promote equality:

- Guarantee that at least 50% of housing grants and accompanying property titles are given to female-headed households.
- Increase the participation of women in decision-making and project monitoring through their participation in planning committees.

“The broad inclusion of women in the labor market has contributed to a 17.5% reduction in poverty over the last decade”

A project in Costa Rica that aims to build human capital in the science, technology and engineering (STEM) sectors identified a number of gender gaps. **Women received 30% less than men in scholarships**, and they were more frequently rejected from government scholarships.

To address this disparity, the project outlines measures to ensure equal opportunities in scholarships. Women's candidacies are promoted (e.g., raising the age limit for female applicants) and the project includes gender-related targets to further promote women in these fields. These include:

- A 35% target for women receiving postgraduate scholarships



Human capital



Water

Women in rural communities bear a greater burden when it comes to inadequate water and sanitation services, as **they do most of the housework and carrying of water**.

The IDB designed a project in Bolivia with gender-relevant components, including activities to increase women's participation in water management committees and community trainings on the use of water and proper hygiene.

SAFEGUARDS

1 The IDB is the first multilateral Bank to include gender as part of its safeguards review

Activities to date include:

- Screening of 259 projects for gender-based risks and preparation of recommended mitigation measures

Quality, integrated services for women

Ciudad Mujer, El Salvador

\$20m loan to deliver key services for women's empowerment in El Salvador.

Five one-stop-shop centers across the country offer comprehensive health services, police and legal support for women survivors of violence, job placement services, vocational training and business development services for women entrepreneurs. The centers have registered over 127,000 users in just two years.

Centros Emergencia Mujer (Emergency Women's Centers or CEM), Peru

A pilot project to expand the range of services offered to women survivors of violence.

By including services to promote women's economic independence, the Ministry of



Helping women owned businesses develop and grow

women entrepreneurshipBanking (weB)

Promoting women's economic empowerment in the private sector.

In 2012, the IDB and the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) launched a \$55m initiative to help financial institutions imple-



“Millions of women in LAC suffer from violence

Prevalence varies widely among countries, but between 17% and 53% of women in the region have been physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives”

Pilot-testing interventions to prevent VAW and support its victims

Using Microfinance as a Tool to Prevent Violence Against Women (VAW), Peru

This project will link microfinance services with training that promotes equality gender. It will replicate the strikingly successful IMAGE project from South Africa, which led to a reduction of 55% in intimate partner violence.

Community Outreach Model for the Prevention of Gender Violence, El Salvador

This project targets young men and women aged 13 to 18, community leaders and local public officials to change attitudes, behaviors, social norms and stereotypes linked to



\$12M

directly invested in gender projects through Technical Cooperations & Multilateral Investment Fund projects in 2012

