

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



Draft Concept Note

Getting the Framework Right: Policies and Regulations for Inclusive Infrastructure

Inclusive Infrastructure Summit 9-10 June 2016

Date: 9 June 2016 Time: 8:30-10:00

Overview

The Office of the Special Envoy on Gender of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) in partnership with Infrastructure Africa, is organizing the 2016 Inclusive Infrastructure Summit. The Summit will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 9-10 June 2016. Alongside the Summit, a panel discussion hosted by the AfDB will take place on Friday, 10 June with a focus on: **'Getting the Framework right: Policies and Regulations for Inclusive Infrastructure'**.

Opportunities for Inclusive Infrastructure Using Policies and Regulations

Africa faces a huge infrastructure deficit, which in turn has an adverse effect on the continent's growth and economic development. This inhibits the continent's ability to fully harness its productive potential, due to limited access to infrastructure services by businesses and households. Africa lags far behind other regions of the developing world in terms of infrastructure density – the African Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD) found that the infrastructure need of Sub-Saharan Africa annually exceeds USD93 billion. The poor state of infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa – its electricity, roads, water, and information and communications technology (ICT) – annually cuts national economic growth by two percentage points, and productivity is reduced by as much as 40 percent. This is compounded by research which indicates that overcoming gender inequality and gender-related legal restrictions would increase annual GDP growth in sub-Saharan Africa by 0.75%.

The chronic deficit of basic infrastructure on the continent has a negative impact on the growth and social empowerment of all within society, women and men, but

disproportionately on women and girls. Limited or poor access to infrastructure, especially for women and girls in spatially remote areas will be a challenge to the continent in achieving the recently agreed UN Sustainable Development Goals. This is particularly so for Goal 9; which requires the development of quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all. The delivery of other development objectives for the continent, such as agricultural development, universal access to energy, trade, regional integration, and food security will also be challenging. Inclusive infrastructure would ensure that women, men, girls, and boys would equally benefit from, and contribute to infrastructure investments and services.

Infrastructure projects have traditionally failed to acknowledge the gendered nature of the end users, the assumption, too often, is that infrastructure is gender neutral, and that women, men, girls and boys will equally benefit. But there is a crucial need to address gender gaps and inequalities in access to infrastructure, through its planning, financing and implementation to ensure that no one is left behind.

Women and girls are disadvantaged in mobility and access to transport infrastructure, and means of transport. It was found that in Africa, 87 percent of transport takes place on foot, and women contribute up to 62 percent of the household's travel time to meet their reproductive and productive roles, particularly in rural areas, which requires small scale infrastructure for local journeys. However, there remains an overwhelming focus on investing major regional highways with little evidence that the benefits from such significant investments are shared equitably, whilst more local infrastructure is starved of resources.

Enterprises headed by women tend to face more barriers in accessing electricity from the grid compared to their male counterparts. A UNDP study conducted in Kenya, Ghana, and Zambia found that women entrepreneurs face greater discrimination in the form of delays in obtaining electrical connections, and the expectation that they will pay bribes to get them. Such inequalities in how infrastructure is implemented need to be factored into the policy choices we make to deliver universal access to energy across the continent.

On the continent, the infrastructure sector has one of the highest economic footprints – institutions, ministries, regulatory agencies, public and private entities – therefore the opportunities are vast to empower women, men, girls and boys equitably, through who is employed in the sector, as well as by what infrastructure is delivered, how, and to whom.

Policies and regulations therefore need to be more enabling and supportive of equitable growth - at the macro level, policy makers have to be sensitized and governments have to be supported in institutionalizing gender equality and inclusion within infrastructure policy. Policies and regulations have to ensure that the voices of all beneficiaries are heard, and that their infrastructure needs are addressed and responded to with appropriate resources. The sector can also make a huge impact on inclusion through skills development, establishing income-generating programs, improving access to finance, and enhancing the quality of employment opportunities for women.

Objectives

Bringing together relevant stakeholders from government, civil society, and the private sector working on policy and regulatory frameworks for inclusive infrastructure in Africa. This will provide an opportunity for best practice sharing, awareness raising, and a move toward a consensus of action on increasingly reforming, creating, and implementing policies and regulations to ensure that everybody can benefit from and contribute to infrastructure.

Discussion Points

1. Provide an overview of the gender differences and other inequalities in the infrastructure sector in Africa and the need for inclusive infrastructure policy;
2. Making a business case for the social and economic potential of inclusive infrastructure policies;
3. Ensuring that women's inputs are considered and their needs met when creating policies, resource budgets and regulations – demand side approach;
4. Best practices and lessons learned from countries, and other relevant stakeholders that have begun to reform policies and regulations;
5. Ways to avoid the potential for failure – a lot of resources have been put into this sector, with limited evidence that the resulting benefits will be equitable or inclusive ;
6. Potential for policy and regulatory options, and measures for public and private stakeholders to maximize economic value;

Expected Outcomes

- Forge new partnerships and inform the AfDB's work in ensuring the empowerment effect of inclusive infrastructure in Bank operations with Regional Member Countries – especially for women and youth;
- Raised awareness of possible policies, measures and solutions that can be taken at national and regional levels;
- Enhanced consensus on steps for action.

Target Audience

- Relevant stakeholders in the infrastructure sector such as government, civil society, and the private sector.