

# GDLab

**GENDER AND DIVERSITY  
KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE**



## → What is **GDLab**?

The IDB Group's **Gender and Diversity Knowledge Initiative (GDLab)**, promotes, leads, and finances high-impact research aimed at a more inclusive and equitable society in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. GDLab focuses on existing inequalities between men and **women**, as well as those faced by **indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, people with disabilities**, and **LGBTQ+ persons**.

The generation of rigorous knowledge is essential to make progress in reducing inequality of opportunities for vulnerable populations in the region and in building inclusive growth for our societies. By producing and disseminating new evidence, GDLab contributes to informing policy design and reforms in the region as well as the IDB Group's operations in the field.

## → What does **GDLab** do?

GDLab acts as a catalyst of **creative and evidence-based solutions**, promoting cross-sector collaboration within the IDB Group on crucial issues related to gender and diversity, including job creation, migration, human capital development, digital inclusion, preventing gender-based violence, and promoting sustainable development, as well as the impact of climate change on the lives of women and diverse populations, among others.

GDLab achieves this through two main activities:



## 1 Issuing calls for research proposals

To encourage innovative knowledge production, GDLab partners with the public and private sectors, universities, think tanks, and leading academic and research institutions working on gender and diversity issues in the region. It does so by issuing calls for research proposals through which it funds high-quality studies that:

- 1  Contribute to closing knowledge gaps in priority topics
- 2  Have the potential to scale and be replicated
- 3  Can be completed in 18 months or less

The studies resulting from these calls for proposals are published in the IDB's working paper series and international academic journals.

You can obtain more information about GDLab's calls for proposals [via this link](#), and the studies selected through the GDLab calls for proposals can be viewed [here](#).

## 2 Supporting the discussion on issues related to gender and diversity

To foster discussion of gender and diversity issues, GDLab has developed a far-reaching dissemination strategy aimed at ensuring that the knowledge generated has an impact in the region:

- 1  Production of **policy briefs**, aimed at all types of audiences, that synthesize relevant lessons learned from studies on different gender and diversity issues
- 2  Generation of **spaces for discussion** to enhance the knowledge and skills of policymakers, specialists from multilateral organizations, academics, and professionals in the region
- 3  Publication in the **repository** of all the analytical knowledge produced by the IDB Group on issues related to gender and diversity, cataloged by topic and population group

 [Learn more](#)

Visit the GDLab website and learn more about the studies funded through the calls for proposals, the knowledge products published by the initiative, and the repository on gender and diversity.

 [www.iadb.org/gdlab](http://www.iadb.org/gdlab)

## → Why should I contribute to GDLab?

GDLab champions and carries forward more than two decades of cutting-edge IDB Group research on gender and diversity issues in the region. Despite the progress made along this journey, the task of building equitable and inclusive societies remains a major challenge for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Women face barriers that permeate their private and public lives, preventing them from reaching their full potential. Gender gaps are thus still visible in areas such as education, labor markets, health, and access to credit. Violence against women also remains widespread in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The region also has a long history of exclusion and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and other identities, hindering the development of indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ persons. These groups tend to show higher poverty and unemployment rates and are at greater risk of abuse and violence. They also have lower educational attainment, limited access to public services, and are underrepresented in decision-making bodies.

These gaps and inequalities are barriers to the region's development and distort investments in human capital. It is, therefore, necessary to enhance all efforts to close these gaps. GDLab generates rigorous and innovative knowledge that informs IDB Group operations and country agendas. Moreover, by disseminating robust evidence, it contributes to strengthening the integration of gender and diversity issues into the IDB Group's operations.

## → How can I contribute to GDLab?

GDLab is open to collaboration with any individual or entity (governments, development agencies, multilateral organizations, universities, companies, foundations, think tanks, etc.) seeking to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable region. There are two ways to contribute:

- By supporting the dissemination of results and lessons learned
- By funding knowledge production through GDLab's calls for proposals

**Do you want to be part of our donor community or join GDLab's network of researchers?** Contact the GDLab team leaders at:

 [gdlab@iadb.org](mailto:gdlab@iadb.org)

## → Our strategic partners



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