



HOW TO INTEGRATE A GENDER APPROACH IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR?

Bénédicte de Waziers & Olga Morales

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INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT

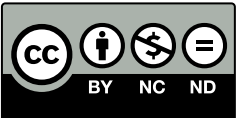
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY OF THE IDB

The purpose of these case studies is for INE to share its work in the region, the problems and challenges encountered, and the lessons learned. **How to integrate a gender approach in the Infrastructure Sector?**, the second special report in the series, was written by Bénédicte de Waziers, independent consultant, and Olga Morales, Infrastructure and Energy Sector.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sufficient availability of infrastructure services is a basic pillar of sustainable development: it reduces poverty, spurs economic growth, fosters social inclusion, and improves quality of life. These are compelling arguments for taking a gender perspective when designing infrastructure services, a strategy that increases the social return on those investments. However, gaps in infrastructure access and usage have unequal effects on men, women, boys, girls, and vulnerable groups.

Infrastructure services provide many benefits, but gender dimensions lag behind when it comes to LAC's infrastructure agenda. This report explores the effects that a gender approach to infrastructure could have on Latin American economies and societies. It will also show the reader how to incorporate this perspective into infrastructure projects.

In order to achieve this, we first explore the relation that exists between infrastructure and needs related to gender, to continue on how this has an impact in women's quality of life. Secondly we describe the current situation and future landscape of the inclusion of a gender approach in five specific sectors: Water and Sanitation; Energy; Extractive industries; Transportation and Social Infrastructure. Finally, we analyze infrastructure projects financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under four axis:

1. **Equal opportunities in the professional sphere**
2. **Institutional strengthening with a gender approach**
3. **Creation of equal opportunities for productive development**
4. **Access to infrastructure for gender equality**

HOW TO INTEGRATE A GENDER APPROACH IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR?

by Bénédicte de Waziers & Olga Morales

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS IN THE CASE STUDY SERIES:
“INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT”

	Title	Sector				
1	How to innovate in rural Bolivia*	Agriculture and rural development				
	How to turn on the lights in Haiti*	Energy				
	How to improve waste management in Belize*	Water and sanitation				
	How to mobilize San Salvador*	Transport				
2	How to clean up the energy mix in Ecuador*	Energy				
	How to improve water management in Haiti*	Water and sanitation				
	How to generate renewable energy in Costa Rica*	Energy				
	How to clean up the Bay of Montevideo*	Water and sanitation				
3	How to modernize the rail system in Buenos Aires	Transport				
	How to improve the road network in Jamaica	Transport				
	How to electrify rural Ecuador*	Energy				
	How to expand water and sanitation to keep up with urban growth in Lima	Water and sanitation				
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SPECIAL	Learning from operations: Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean					
	How to integrate a gender approach in the Infrastructure Sector?					
	What is the impact of acquisitions in the infrastructure sector?*					

* only available in Spanish

ACRONYMS



AFD	French Development Agency [Agence française de développement]	IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
AMP	Panama City Metropolitan Area	JASS	Sanitation Service Administrative Boards
ARCONEL	Agency for Electricity Regulation and Control	JS	Sanitation boards
BRT	Bus rapid transit	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
CABA	Autonomous City of Buenos Aires	MEER	Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America	MinMinas	Ministry of Mining and Energy
CANEF	Canadian Extractive Sector Facility	MMayA	Ministry of the Environment and Water
CETRAM	Mexico City Transport Centers	MOPC	Ministry of Public Works and Communications
CFE	Federal Electricity Commission	MOPT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
CRJD	Juan Diaz River watershed	MPD	Ministry of Development Planning
CRP	Project committees	MT	Ministry of Transport
CS	Sanitation Commissions	MTI	Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
EBS	Energie Bedrijven Suriname	MUPA	Municipio of Panama
ENDE	National Electricity Company	MVCS	Ministry of Housing, Construction, and Sanitation
EPSA	Water and Sanitation Service Providers	OLADE	Latin American Energy Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
FECASALC	Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean	PAYSRI	Water and Sanitation Program for Rural and Indigenous Communities
FERUM	Program for Rural and Marginal-Urban Electrification	RMBA	Buenos Aires Metropolitan Region
FPS	National Productive and Social Investment Fund	RVC	Cantonal Road Network
GAP	Gender Action Plan	RVN	National Road Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SENASA	National Environmental Sanitation Service
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank.	SENASBA	National Service for Basic Sanitation Sustainability
ILO	International Labour Organization	SMS	Text message
INE	Infrastructure and Energy Sector	STEM	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
INEEL	National Institute for Electricity and Clean Energy	TGL	Transport Gender Lab
INVEST-H	Strategic Investment-Honduras	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
		WHO	World Health Organization
		WSA	Water and sanitation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
How to integrate a gender approach in the Infrastructure Sector?	3
Acronyms	6
Introduction	9
Women and economic growth	12
Closing the infrastructure gender gap benefits entire communities—not just women and girls	14
This report	15
Gender in Infrastructure by the Numbers	16
Gender in five sectors of infrastructure in LAC	18
Gender in the Water and Sanitation Sector: A Priority for Development	18
Gender in the Energy Sector: The Revolution We Need	20
Gender in the Mining and Energy Sector: Taking a Comprehensive View of Equality	22
Gender in the Transport Sector: A Long Road Ahead	24
Gender in Social Infrastructure: What is the Potential of Incorporating a Gender Approach?	26
Incorporating gender-specific targets into project design	28
Axis 1: Equal opportunities in the professional sphere	32
Axis 2: Institutional strengthening with a gender approach	40
Axis 3: Creation of equal opportunities for productive development	48
Axis 4: Access to infrastructure for gender equality	56
Axis 1: Equal opportunities in the professional sphere	32
Empowered women for a quality water and sanitation service	32
Empowering the wind industry and developing equitable opportunities	34
Emerging female leaders in the mining-energy sector	36
Increasing female participation in the road sector value chain	38
Axis 2: Institutional strengthening with a gender approach	40
Incorporating women in water and sanitation management	40
Benefits of integrating a gender approach in the energy sector	42
Promoting the inclusion of women and vulnerable populations in the extractive sector governance	44
A network of cities committed with gender equality in the transportation sector	46
Axis 3: Creation of equal opportunities for productive development	48
Promoting entrepreneurship and empowerment of women through access to water and sanitation	48
Electricity and entrepreneurship of men and women	50
Economic opportunities in mining communities	52
Road infrastructure as a vehicle to generate economic opportunities in local populations	54
Axis 4: Access to infrastructure for gender equality	56
The more access to water and sanitation, the better quality of life	56
Energy: a virtuous circle of inclusion	58
Secure mobility for everyone	60



“Without gender equality, sustainable development is neither development nor sustainable”

Alicia Bárcena

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure is a collection of facilities and projects designed to meet the needs of communities by providing essential, everyday services to homes, businesses, and industry—services such as energy, transport, telecommunications, potable water, sanitation, safe waste disposal, hospitals, and schools. Sufficient availability of infrastructure services is a basic pillar of [sustainable development](#): reduces poverty, spurs economic growth, fosters social inclusion, and improves quality of life.

As infrastructure is built and economies grow, communities demand more and better services, creating a virtuous social and economic cycle. Thanks to these services, people have uninterrupted access to clean water and electricity, well-lit and well-maintained streets, safe and fast transportation, and access to unpolluted parks, rivers, or bays. Simply put, they have a better quality of life. Infrastructure also creates jobs and boosts competitiveness and productivity, leading to increased engagement in the global economy.

As Latin America and the Caribbean has grown demographically and economically, so has the demand for quality, equitable, environmentally friendly infrastructure. But this infrastructure has to address the region’s current challenges and needs: accelerated urbanization; rapid technological shifts; lack of universal access to basic water, electricity, and sanitation services; inadequate roads in rural areas; regional and global integration; and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Additionally, gaps in infrastructure access and usage have unequal effects on men, women, boys, girls, and vulnerable groups. Several factors contribute to these disparities, including economic and social inequality, lack

of investment and planning capacity, and political instability. But designing, building, and operating infrastructure using traditional “one size fits all” solutions only widens these gaps, weakening it as a force for inclusive, sustainable development.

Infrastructure services provide many benefits, but LAC has been slow to fully incorporate gender dimensions into its infrastructure agenda. Gender must be part of development conversations. Women and vulnerable populations need to be equally involved in “setting priorities in the design and operation of infrastructure if it is to have the [desired development impact](#).”



Box 1: Important Definitions

Gender — Gender refers to socially constructed roles, characteristics, and opportunities considered appropriate for men, women, boys, girls, and non-binary individuals. Gender is also a product of relationships between individuals and may reflect how power is distributed between them. Gender is not static; it can change with time and place. When individuals or groups do not “fit” established gender norms (including ideas about masculinity and femininity), or gender-related roles, responsibilities, and relationships, they often face stigma, discriminatory practices or social exclusion—all of which adversely affect health. Gender interacts with, but is different from, the concept of biological sex.¹

Gender equity — Gender equality means that everyone has equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities, regardless of the gender with which they identify. Disparities between genders can hold back development, especially when opportunities or resources are reserved for a certain gender, leading to discrimination and disparities.²

Gender equity — Providing the same conditions, treatment, and opportunities to women and men, but adapted for particular characteristics or situations (sex, gender, class, ethnicity, age, religion) of different groups in ways that ensure access.³

Gender perspective — Away of seeing or analyzing which looks at the impact of gender on people's opportunities, social roles, and interactions. This way of seeing is what enables us to carry out gender analysis and subsequently to mainstream a gender perspective into any proposed program, policy, or organization.⁴

Empowerment — A process of transforming power relations so that those who lack it can expand their aspirations, strengthen their voice, and exercise more choice.⁵

Diversity — The idea of a diversity approach to gender equality means recognizing that women and men do not constitute homogeneous groups. Women's and men's diversity with respect to age, socioeconomic status, education, ethnicity and culture, sexual orientation, ability, and geographical location must be taken into account whenever issues of gender and health are addressed.⁶

¹ Definition from the World Health Organization (WHO): <https://www.who.int/es/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/gender>

² Definition from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): <https://www.unicef.org/argentina/informes/guia-de-atención-con-enfoque-de-género>

³ Definition from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): <http://www.fao.org/3/x0220s/x0220s01.htm>

⁴ Definition from the UN Women Training Centre Glossary: <https://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/>

⁵ Definition from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/BMGF_EmpowermentModel.pdf

⁶ Definition from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2680:gender-equality-policy&Itemid=0&lang=es



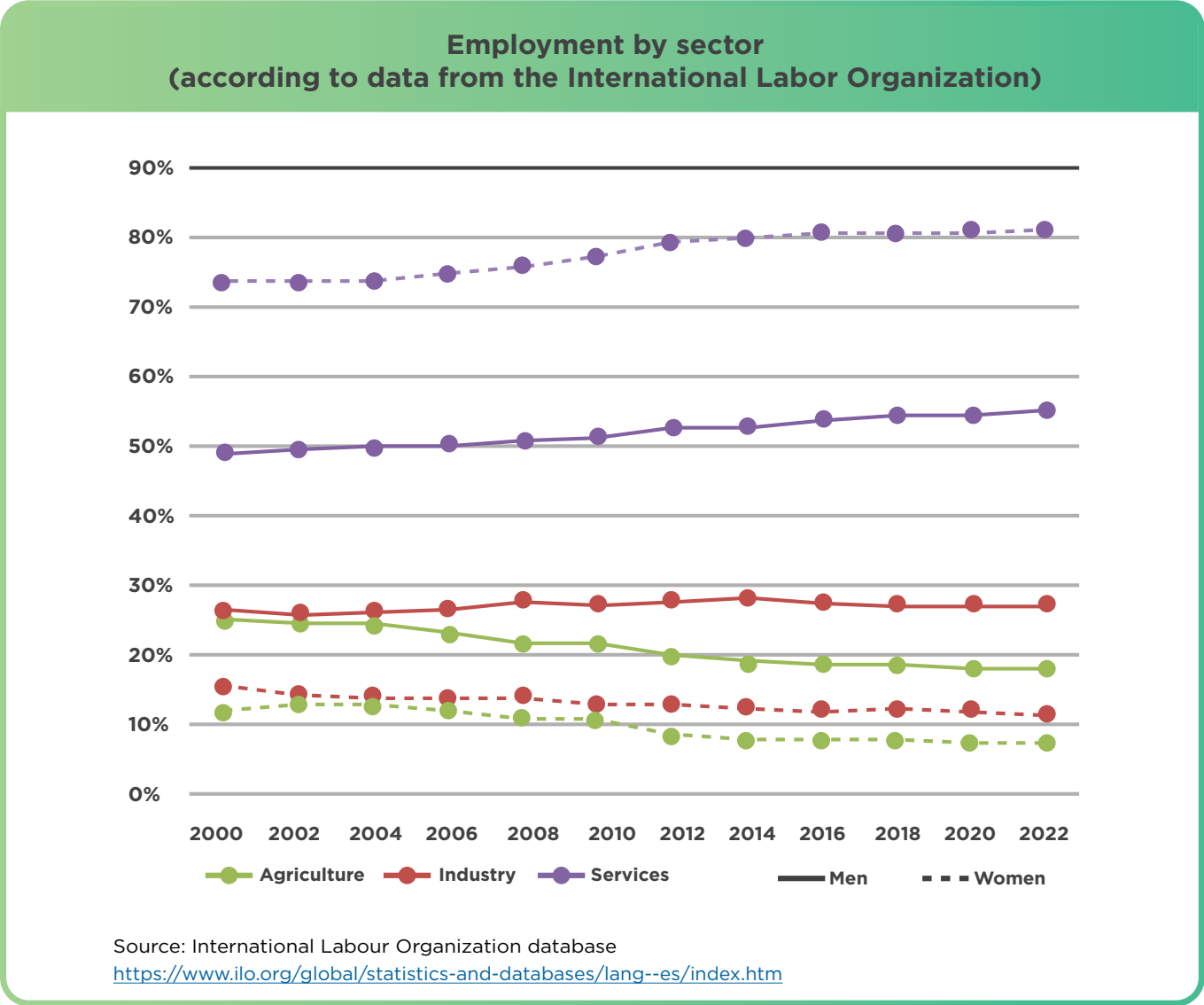
Women and economic growth

Over the last few decades, information and experience from the field have overwhelmingly shown that women play a key role in economic growth, poverty reduction, and inclusive and sustainable development. These outcomes are mainly due to [increased economic participation](#) in their communities and [attainment of gender parity in basic education](#).

One study found that [the global economy could grow by 28 trillion dollars by 2025](#) if women and men played an “identical role in labor markets.” In LAC alone, [30% of poverty reduction was due to women’s increased income and labor market participation](#). This contrasts with 39% from men’s income and 31% from public and private transfers

(remittances, cash transfer programs, etc.). [Women also invest up to 90% of their income in their families](#) (in food, education, and health). For example, households where women contribute more than 75% of total household income have [preschool and secondary school enrollment rates up to 25% higher](#) than similar households that are more dependent on men’s income.

Despite the known importance of women’s economic participation and [higher educational attainment, women are more likely to work in less productive sectors](#) or sectors that require less education compared to men. Employment rates disaggregated by gender and economic sectors (agriculture, industry, and services)



confirm that women are underrepresented in the region’s industries. The graph below also indicates a downward trend.

Women’s economic and labor empowerment is a boon to organizations. Companies see their profits rise markedly when they increase the number of women in leadership positions. A recent study revealed that companies with more gender diversity on their executive boards are over [20% more likely to earn higher than average profits](#). Companies with greater gender equality are also [more innovative](#), which affects their growth and revenue.

All of this provides clear economic justification for women’s inclusion. Persistent inequalities are a huge burden with [enormous economic](#)

[and social costs](#). They prevent our communities from growing in a lasting and sustainable way. Increasing the number of women in the labor market has a higher return than increasing the number of men in the labor market by the same amount. This is not about substituting women for men, but rather building a workforce that is more inclusive, competitive, robust, and productive, with healthy, resilient communities and dynamic, innovative economies.

Whether because of cultural reasons or prejudices, women’s underrepresentation in various sectors makes it harder to incorporate a gender approach—one that could make services more beneficial and sustainable and lead to greater wellbeing and economic growth globally.

Closing the infrastructure gender gap benefits entire communities—not just women and girls

Many regions, including LAC, have a thick glass ceiling¹ standing in the way of gender equality. Infrastructure and infrastructure services are a key part of closing the remaining gender equality gaps in LAC. Here are some examples:

- [School enrollment among girls can increase as much as 15%](#) when communities have potable water and bathrooms and [up to 7% \(for primary school\)](#) when local roads are maintained, which reduces travel times^{2,3}
- When communities have electricity in the home, [women’s incomes increase by 42% on average](#) and employment and school enrollment increase by 15% and 12%, respectively.⁴
- Public lighting [reduces the incidence of several types of violence and sexual assaults](#) against women.⁵
- Investments in public mass transit systems make it 7.6% more likely that [women living near transit routes will find a job](#).⁶

Infrastructure projects can benefit greatly from women’s participation and skills. In the private sector, having senior management where women and men “bring different perspectives to their work” and “play complementary roles in the production process” is linked to higher productivity. Companies [performed notably better when upper management was composed of more than 30% women](#). In the public sector, having more women in leadership positions increases the likelihood that women’s interests and needs will be [represented](#), both within the institution and in its programming. Women’s participation goes hand-in-hand with a gender perspective. Both are key to achieving gender equality and advancing development efforts in our region.

A gender perspective is necessary to optimize infrastructure’s returns even further.



¹ The “glass ceiling” metaphor represents the obstacles that keep people from advancing in the workplace or growing in general. Other gender-related workplace concepts include “sticky floors”, “broken ladders”, and “leaky pipelines.” To read about these in more detail: 2019. [Potential with barriers: women’s participation in science and technology in Argentina](#). IDB.

² 2017. [The secret of super women: feminine hygiene](#). IDB.

³ McSweeney and Remy, 2008. [Building roads to democracy: the contribution of the Peru rural roads program to participation and civic engagement in rural Peru](#). World Bank.

⁴ Snyder et al., 2018. [Gender and Energy: The Balance of Power](#). IDB.

⁵ Gishler et al., 2016. [How to Turn on the Lights in Haiti](#). Infrastructure for Development. IDB.

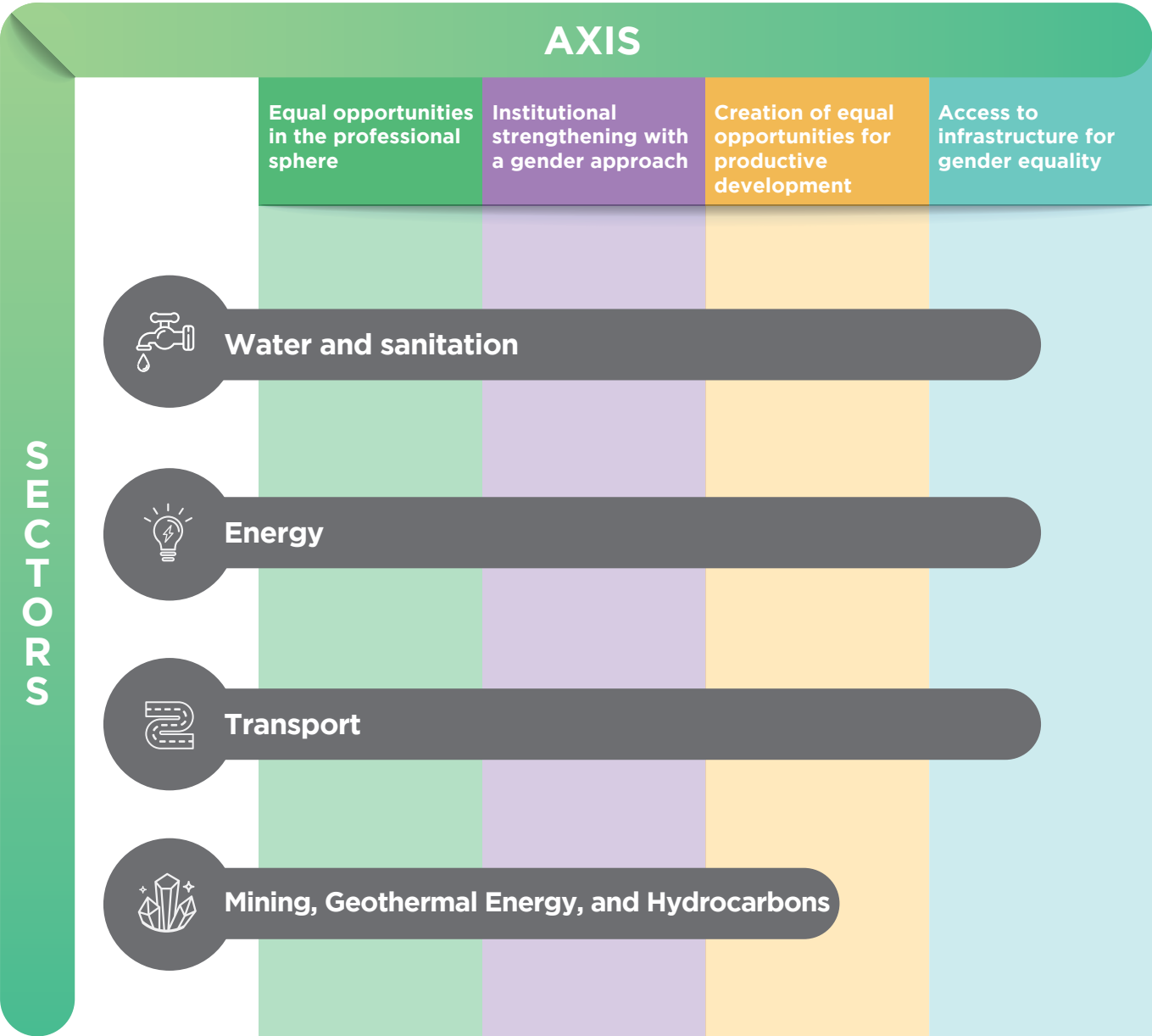
⁶ Martinez et al., 2018. [Connecting to Economic Opportunity? The Role of Public Transport in Promoting Women’s Employment in Lima](#). Institute of Labor Economics.

This report

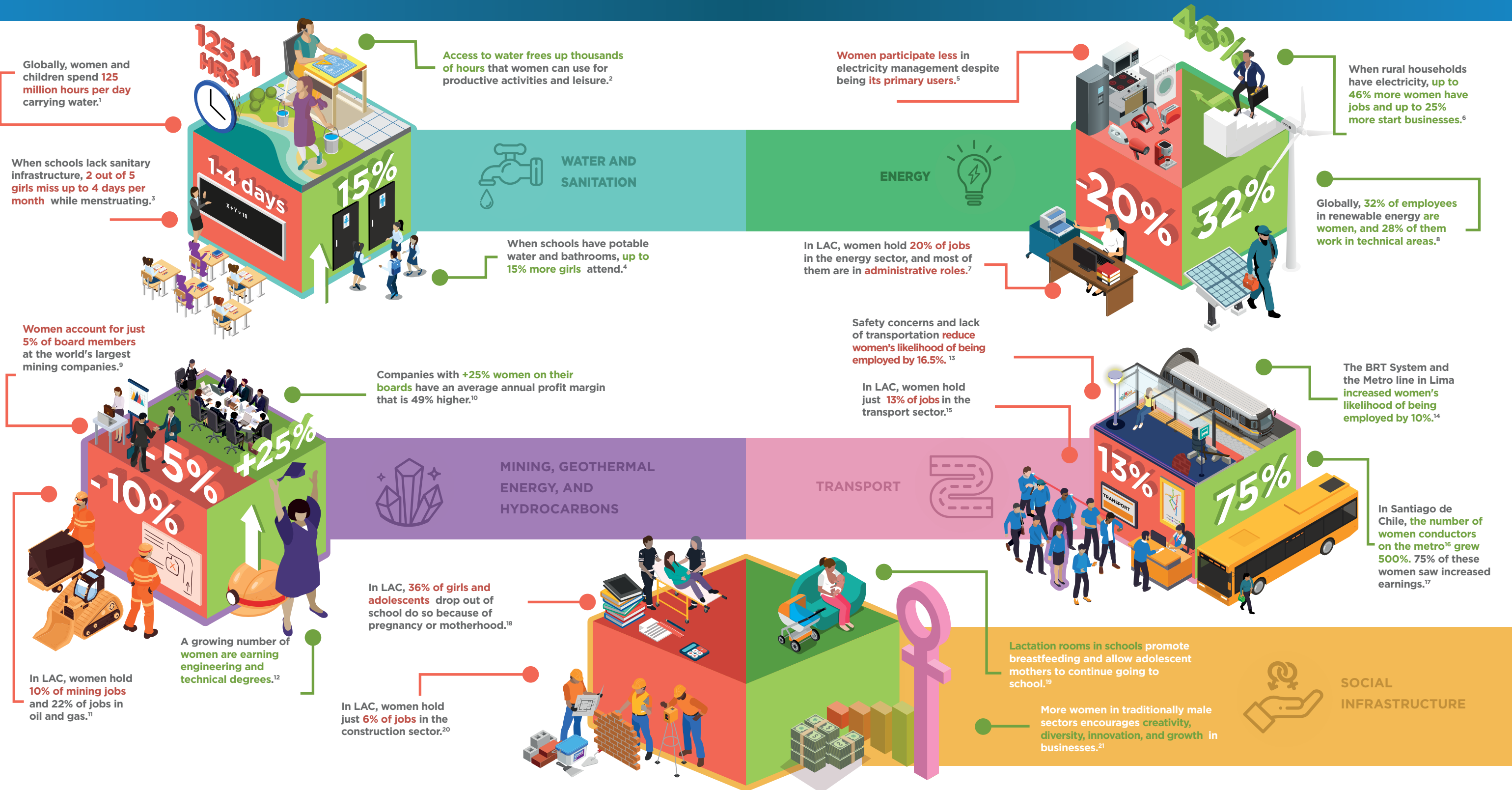
The purpose of this report is to recognize the power of providing infrastructure services with a gender approach in Latin American communities and economies. First, we explore the relationship between infrastructure and gender-related needs and how this affects quality of life for [nearly half the region’s population](#). Second, we describe

the current situation and outlook in five areas: water and sanitation, energy, extractive industries, transport, and social infrastructure. Finally, we assess IDB-financed infrastructure projects in four action areas (see image below), which will be described in more detail later in the report.

Box 2:
Sectors & Axis



GENDER IN INFRASTRUCTURE BY THE NUMBERS



1, 3, 4 2017. *The secret of super women: feminine hygiene*. IDB

2 2016. *Does water have a gender?* IDB

5 *Género y Energía*. web page. OLADE.

6 2014. *Electrification and time allocation: experimental evidence from Northern El Salvador*.

Munich Personal RePEc Archive

7 2018. *Gender and Energy: The Balance of Power*. IDB

8, 11 2019. *Renewable energy: a gender perspective*. IRENA

9, 10 2013. *Mining for talent: A study of women on boards in the mining industry*. PwC

12 2019. *Promoting gender diversity and inclusion in the oil, gas and mining extractive industries*. The Advocates for Human Rights.

13 2017. *World Employment Social Outlook*. ILO

14 2018. *Connecting to Economic Opportunity? The Role of Public Transport in Promoting Women's Employment in Lima*. IDB

15 Authors' calculations using estimates from the *ILO (2019)* on employment by sex and economic activity.

16 Metropolitan Mobility Network [Red Metropolitana de Movilidad].

17 2019. *Women's workforce inclusion in driving work on Santiago's public transit systems*. IDB

18 2018. *The high cost of leaving school in Latin America*. CAF

19 *Fostering a culture of breastfeeding in the workplace*. UNICEF

20 2015. *Women at full speed*. IDB

21 2015. *Women's economic empowerment: Good for women, good for business, and good for development*. IDB



GENDER IN FIVE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS IN LAC

Gender in the Water and Sanitation Sector: A Priority for Development



By Sisi Larrea

Gender has been a topic of discussion in the water, sanitation, and solid waste sector have been under debate since the early 1980s. At that time, it was primarily conceptualized how to increase the participation of women in projects. Today experience shows that the transformation of the gender approach and the analysis of inequality gaps in development actions are necessary throughout the project cycle, but above all in comprehensive water management and decision-making.⁷

The strong link between women and the provision of water, sanitation, and waste disposal services is associated with the private family sphere. However, there is insufficient presence of women in decision-making processes in management instances. In most countries, women are the ones who are responsible for domestic work. This means they understand the problems and needs and are in the best position to state their preferences and the services they need. Given the nature of their tasks, it is deduced that the inclusion of women in the processes of consulting, planning, training, and decision-making processes contributes to the sustainability of the projects and their response to the needs of women.

When access to water is limited, it is women who have the greatest responsibility of supplying their households, which increases the excessive workload of their traditional roles and new risks for their health and quality of life. When it comes to watershed management, floods and population displacement affect women and men differently. Because women are chiefly responsible for their families' food security, care work, and domestic chores in the home, they experience climate impacts and lack of services directly. They are vulnerable to changes in living conditions, such as losing their homes or productive resources. They are ignored when it comes to project management or direct participation in project benefits, even though they are directly affected by the problem.⁸

Women in LAC make up 60% of the work force in the service sector, but only account for 19.7% of the water sector.⁹ They are also underrepresented in water companies and decision-making roles within those companies. Several institutions are attempting to document the benefits of using a gender approach for projects that include supplying and managing water and sanitation services.

⁷ Niño de Guzmán & Zevallos, 2002. *Building Gender Equity: Methodology and Instruments for its inclusion in Water and Sanitation Projects*. PAS

⁸ Granados Martinez, 2017. *Vulnerabilidad social por género: riesgos potenciales ante el cambio climático en México*. LetrasVerdes

⁹ 2016. *¿Tiene género el agua?*. IDB.

The IDB is committed to promoting gender equality because investing in women and girls brings great benefits to the development process. This commitment began in 1987 when the IDB approved the Operational Policy on Women in Development (OP-761), which recognizes the progress of women as a priority in development goals. Two decades later, the Operational Policy was updated and replaced by the Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development to strengthen the response that the Bank gives to the objectives and commitments of its member countries to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.¹⁰

Specifically, the IDB's Water and Sanitation Division is following the Gender Action Plan (GAP) to address inclusion of a gender approach as a cross-cutting issue in its project design and implementation. These are the four priorities:

¹⁰ 2016 *The Relationship Between Gender and Transport* IDB



In 2017, just 27% of operations had concrete actions, indicators, and budgets for gender, but thanks to a sustained and committed effort by the Division, today (2019) that number has reached 86%.



Sisi Larrea

Sisi is Ecuadorian and an expert in gender. She has a degree in anthropology and a master's degree in Gender and Development. She is currently a gender consultant for the IDB's infrastructure sector, supporting the [incorporation of a gender perspective in water, sanitation, transport, and energy projects](#). Previously, she worked at OLADE as a gender advisor and coordinator of the project "Gender Mainstreaming in the Energy Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean." She worked at UNWOMEN as coordinator of the Area of Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights of the Andean Region. She has more than 20 years of work experience in gender related to rural development, the environment, climate change, public policy, and other areas.

- 1. Equal opportunities:** encourage men as well as women to take advantage of opportunities created by projects, i.e. employment or service-related;
- 2. Behavior change:** promote new hygiene and consumption habits by involving all members of the family; menstrual hygiene for girls and women.
- 3. Governance:** strengthen the gender approach in water and sanitation companies and women's active participation in sector decisions.
- 4. Productive local development:** integrate activities for women and young people's economic empowerment related to the productive uses of water; promote productive activities in the project's area of intervention to promote economic empowerment.



Gender in the Energy Sector: The Revolution We Need



By Virginia Snyder

LAC's energy sector offers enormous opportunities to promote gender equality and women's empowerment throughout its activities and operations. New digital technologies are making electrical systems more connected, efficient, reliable, sustainable, and smart. This revolution is expected to outstrip all previous economic transformations in scale, scope, and complexity. This represents a huge opportunity for the sector. However, despite this incredible progress, we are still behind in one very human and simple concept: diversity and gender equality.

The reality of this gender gap might seem disheartening. A systematic diversity and gender approach is needed to successfully transition to cleaner and more advanced energy and drive innovative and inclusive solutions. Both the public and private sectors must be fully committed to the economic, technological, and social transformation of our region to ensure that men and women are equally represented throughout the sector's value chain.

Despite some progress in closing the gender gap, much remains to be done. [Women represent well under half of the workforce](#) in the energy sector as a whole and they continue to be underrepresented in leadership positions both in the public and private sectors. The benefits of gender inclusion and diversity are plain to see

for many companies and organizations around the world; however, the energy industry remains one of the least gender-diverse sectors in the economy. Women in our region face significant cultural and economic obstacles to reaching their potential. Some lack access to electricity. Others can't get work in the sector because they aren't considered capable, which is an idea often rooted in cultural themes. For example, from the beginning the search for personnel for operational work in the substation and / or transmission lines is thought and carried out under the belief that the work is hard for women, who will have no one to leave their children with, or that they do not have the necessary physical condition, among many other excuses. This means that women are underrepresented in the sector's management, operation and decision-making processes. As a result, they benefit less from economic growth and face more poverty-related challenges.

Gender equality can drive investment in more effective clean energy. Women often play an important role in driving innovative and inclusive solutions. As such, greater participation of women in the energy sector as consumers, generators and policy makers, is needed for a successful transition to a more sustainable sector. We need to work together on issues ranging from all levels of education and the labor market to wage equality.

But what would happen if we included specific activities and actions for gender equality and women's empowerment in every activity, every technical cooperation project, and every investment? What would happen if we dedicated at least some of the significant financial and human resources to take action and help more women and girls in LAC gain equal opportunities to fully participate in their local economies, and, at the same time, benefit from greater growth, development, and prosperity?

What can we do? Here are some ideas:

- Involve men in actions to promote gender equality and work on implicit biases. Achieving equality is a matter for all members of society.
- Educate senior executives, board members, and shareholders about the value of hiring and promoting more women.
- A first step for ministries, public and private companies is to develop inclusive and gender-sensitive strategies, along with a clear, measurable and responsible action plan to carry it out.
- Integrate all sectors to maximize efforts and take advantage of the synergies that each sector has to offer.
- More research and investment is needed to attract and retain women.
- Review, update and modernize recruitment processes and transparency when choosing the best candidate for a position. Specifically, the job description should not indicate whether a man or a woman is required, the number of resumes that are pre-selected must have a good balance between men and women, the panels for the interviews must be integrated by women and men, among other actions.
- Establish precise and transparent objectives for the inclusion of women in all levels and fields of the workforce.
- Include gender indicators in the monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure projects.
- Increase women's participation in manual work, professional, technical and physical tasks traditionally dominated by men.
- Encourage women to remain in the workforce, which includes adjustments to infrastructure, for example, providing lactation rooms, sponsorship programs, trainings, flexible schedules, enable and promote telework, improving the work-family life balance for all employees, granting maternity and paternity leaves.
- Carry out campaigns in primary and secondary educational centres and institutions and in universities to encourage more women to pursue careers related to the sector. And when the companies go out to the labor market to hire, they will find more women with the academic and professional training required in the sector.

Without women's participation in the sector, development and successful energy transitions will be impossible. Acknowledging women's participation as energy providers and consumers, without excluding men, promotes gender equality in LAC.



Virginia Snyder

Virginia is a senior specialist at the energy division of the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. She joined the IDB in 2012, and since then works in the development and supervision of generation, transmission, distribution, rural electrification, and renewable energy projects in several countries in the region. She is the focal point for innovation and digitalization, as well as gender and diversity issues in the IDB's energy division.

Prior to her work at the IDB, she worked for the California Center for Sustainable Energy, where she was the Associate

Program Manager for the California Solar Initiative (the largest in the US). She also worked for the US Department of Energy (DOE). She collaborated with the team members of DOE's Solar Technologies Program working on the Solar America Cities program. Through this project, 25 American cities worked to accelerate the adoption of solar energy technologies for a clean and more secure energy future. Virginia earned an MBA from the University of San Diego in California.



Gender in the Mining and Energy Sector: Taking a Comprehensive View of Equality



By María Dolores Vallenilla

LAC is the world's main source of minerals and metals, a key producer of natural resources that are critical for the global economy, including copper, lithium, iron ore, gold, silver, zinc, and more. The mining and hydrocarbon sector represents 3% of regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the largest source of foreign currency income from trade, and a significant source of tax revenue for several countries. Ensuring that these benefits lead to greater socioeconomic development and reduced poverty for resource-rich countries requires a strategy that affords men and women the same opportunities and standards.

It is well documented that men benefit more from the mining and energy sector—employment is one example. Also, that women are more vulnerable to experience the sector's risks, for example, violence.¹¹

Which creates wider gender-equality gaps in the communities impacted by mining and energy projects.¹² Therefore, establishing policies and implementing actions that seek to create an equal

footing and protect women from the negative externalities of the sector is becoming essential for LAC countries.¹³

Women represent less than 15% of the region's mining and energy work force, even though their involvement is especially beneficial to the sector. Mining companies with boards of directors that are at least 25% women have a net profit margin that is 49% higher than the average¹⁴. But they are the exception. A gender-diverse work force reduces turnover and improves innovation, communication, and health and safety.¹⁵ At the local level, employing women improves the company's community outreach, promotes information exchange, and ensures broader local support for projects.

But mining and energy companies can equally distribute their benefits in ways besides hiring more women directly. For a sector with low direct employment, it's important to look beyond direct hiring. Expanding the sector's benefits to more women in surrounding communities means

examining how we can apply a gender approach to indirect employment—the sector's value chain through procurement.

Women still lack equal access to economic opportunities in local supply chains. Procurement from women-owned businesses makes up only 1% of all contracts globally.¹⁶ The obstacles to creating a diverse supply chain in any sector are, in part, the challenge of identifying and supporting women-owned businesses and the limited access of those businesses to financing and capacity development.¹⁷ Local women-owned businesses also tend to be small and are often concentrated in just a few productive sectors. The percentage of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is very low¹⁸, where there are opportunities for innovation that can make the mining and energy sector more sustainable, competitive, and resilient. Adding a gender approach to procurement can help the industry as well as community development.

When it comes to adding this kind of approach, there are several practical guides available. The Inter-American Development Bank Group, for example, has developed a guide on how to identify and integrate women-owned businesses into competitive bidding processes, and also offers its clients consulting services on adding a gender approach to their value chains. The World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation recently published a set of tools for the integration of gender perspective and diversity specifically for the mining and energy sector.¹⁹

However, very few businesses and institutions have chosen this option. There is a long way to go, and greater diversity and integration requires an ecosystem with incentives that are appropriate,

sustained, and adapted to local conditions in order to obtain results that are of greater diversity and integration.

The mining and energy sector is motivated to pursue gender equality, especially in LAC, but strategies are varied, and initiatives are too few and far between to have a sustained impact. Understanding its role in exacerbating inequality—through its impact on communities and on direct and indirect employment—will lead to better policies and programs that mitigate the sector's risks and maximize its benefits. Helping the industry and the public sector to take a comprehensive view of how to operationalize gender equality—with a clear goal and a broad vision—can lead to better and broader sectoral integration. Adding a gender approach to procurement is a good example and just one of the tools available to reduce gaps while also increasing the real economic benefits of diversity.



María Dolores Vallenilla

María Dolores is a graduate of Andrés Bello Catholic University and holds a master's degree in International Development from George Washington University. She has been a gender and M&E consultant for the Mining, Geothermal Energy, and Hydrocarbons Cluster of the IDB's Infrastructure and Energy Sector since 2016.

¹¹ Eftimie, Adriana et al. 2009. [Gender Dimensions of the Extractive Industries: Mining for Equity](#). World Bank.

¹² Antofagasta, Chile, known as the copper region, is a regional example of the limited economic opportunities for women. Antofagasta has the country's lowest level of female participation in the work force (33% compared to the national average of 41%). In despite women in Antofagasta have a higher percentage of tertiary education than men and earn incomes that are on average 53% lower than men's. This is attributable to the sector for being the major employer within this region. Women's lack of involvement in the region's largest and most lucrative industry has increased inequality in mining areas. [Boletín No. 6 Observatorio Laboral Antofagasta](#); August 2018.

¹³ Such as the [Mining and Energy Sector Human Rights Policy](#) enacted by the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia in August 2018 and the [Mining Commandments](#) developed in Chile in 2018 as part of a public-private partnership to bring women into the sector.

¹⁴ 2013. [Mining for Talent: A Study of Women on Boards in the Mining Industry](#). Fiscal year 2011. PwC

¹⁵ Gallego, 2018. [An integrated analysis of the impact of gender diversity on innovation and productivity in manufacturing firms](#). IDB

¹⁶ Vazquez & Frankel. 2017. [The Business Case for Global Supplier Diversity and Inclusion: The Critical Contributions of Women and Other Underutilized Suppliers to Corporate Value Chains](#). WeConnect International

¹⁷ In LAC, there are approximately 1.2 - 1.4 million women-owned micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); women manage between 25% and 43% of micro and small businesses, and between 26% and 29% of medium businesses. However, as business size increases, the percentage of women business owners decreases in all LAC countries. Harper, August 2018. [Toolkit: Gender-sensitive Public Procurement](#). IDB

¹⁸ López-Bassols et al. 2018. [Resultados de una recolección piloto y propuesta metodológica para la medición](#). IDB

¹⁹ 2019. [Tool Suite 2: Women-Owned Businesses and the Supply Chain](#) IFC



Gender in the Transport Sector: A Long Road Ahead



By Lauren Montes Calero

According to the International Labour Organization, the average for women's participation in the work force in LAC was 51,7% in 2018, while the average for men was 77%. This is not the only evidence of gender inequality in the region's labor market. Women and men are concentrated in different occupations; women are underrepresented in non-traditional sectors²⁰, such as construction and transport and overrepresented in "traditionally feminine" labours like business and social services. For example, on average, women of the region make up less than 10% of the work force in construction and less than 15% in transport.

Gender gaps in the labor market aside, transport services are not gender neutral. Women and men have different mobility needs and patterns: women make more trips, generally shorter and accompanied, but with a greater aggregate distance, and in more dispersed schedules during the day. Depending on the setting, women rely more on public transport and are more likely to walk more and use less a particular automobile²¹. Although more than 50% of our public transport systems' users are women, their mobility patterns and diverse travel needs have not been evaluated in a systematic way²². Public transport services

often do not meet the standards of quality, safety, and comfort required by different users, including women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and children. Examined from a gender approach, safety is another key concern, one that disproportionately affects women, who are victims of sexual harassment. Studies of the region show that six of every ten women in our cities have been the victim of sexual violence, either physical or verbal, on public transport.

Mainstreaming a gender approach throughout the transport value chain is necessary to achieve development goals related to increased productivity, poverty reduction, and social inequality. The Inter-American Development Bank's Transport Division has set two big goals: i) promote greater participation of women in non-traditional jobs linked to the construction of transport infrastructure and the operation of transport services; and ii) promote the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies that incorporate women's needs into the planning and operation of transport systems. We also work in a cross-cutting way to strengthen institutional capacity in the transport sector so that it can improve the development, implementation, and monitoring of transport projects using a gender

approach. Our goal is to help provide efficient and safe mobility services with equal access and equal employment opportunities for women and men, resulting in better transport services for all users.

A great deal of work has been done through the [Transport Gender Lab](#) (TGL), a Regional Public Good that studies gender and transport to promote collective solutions for the shared challenges of incorporating a gender approach into the transport sector. The TGL is a network of 12 cities in Latin America that implement transport policy with a gender approach in two areas: women as users of public transport and women as part of the sector's labor market. The TGL is mainly focused on public transport, creating the first knowledge repository and online platform with exceptional information about the design and implementation of policies that promote gender equality and inclusion in public transport systems.

We have also launched several pilot programs in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay to train women to operate heavy machinery. These are making good progress and have inspired other countries and even other development agencies. Increased participation by women in non-traditional jobs like these will help increase their income, promote their professional development,

improve their quality of life and that of their families, in addition to reducing gender gaps and positively impacting women's self-esteem and empowerment. Women reaching their potential will have significant effects on these sectors' productivity and the region's economies—especially considering the boom in the construction of transport infrastructure sector.

Five years after launching our first strategy to mainstream gender in the transport sector, we celebrate the progress made toward fostering a more diverse workforce and promoting gender-aware transport policies to improve women's access and mobility. Still, we recognize that we have a long way to go and we continue to reinvent ourselves so that we can propose innovative solutions that will help reduce the sector's gender gaps. There is very little sector data on gender and transport in Latin America and the Caribbean and we see an opportunity to generate this data and spread knowledge about the topic.

I invite you to explore the main action areas in gender and transport: equal opportunities in the labor market, equitable access to transport services, institutional development with a gender approach, and equal opportunities for productive development.



Lauren Montes Calero

Lauren is a specialist in the IDB's Transport Division. She has worked on cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and economic integration in transport projects for Latin America and the Caribbean since 2015. She currently works in knowledge management within the Transport Division and leads the Transport Gender Lab, a network of cities working to adapt their public transport systems to women's needs. She has a degree in applied economics from Central American University - Managua and a master's degree in Globalization and Development from the University of Antwerp Institute of Development Policy in Belgium. She previously worked on economic integration and trade policy for Nicaragua's Ministry of Development, Industry, and Trade.

²⁰ The US Department of Labor defines a non-traditional job for women as one where women make up 25% or less of the total work force.

²¹ 2019. [Stylized Urban Transportation Facts in Latin America and the Caribbean](#). IDB

²² Sánchez de Madariaga, 2013. [Mobility of Care](#). UN Habitat



Gender in Social Infrastructure: What is the Potential of Incorporating a Gender Approach?



By Wilhelm Dalaison

If you were to ask yourself how a gender approach fits into health and education infrastructure projects, the first thing that comes to one's mind might be the most obvious: women are the users and beneficiaries. Women make up the vast majority of teaching staff in schools, and some countries have made great strides in improving girls' access to education. For the past several decades, maternal and child health, including better delivery conditions and gynecological care, have benefitted from large project and investments. Other social infrastructure projects, like early childhood care, also have a direct link to women since, according to gender roles, they are who are usually responsible for upbringing and care of children. Not to mention the construction of [Integrated Services for Women's Empowerment centers](#)—designed exclusively to improve women's living and development conditions—in several Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Quality infrastructure is directly linked to better education, health, personal development, and living conditions. According to some studies, [three of every four people working in health and education are women](#): professors, teachers, nurses, cooks, administrators, and more. Investment in quality social infrastructure is directly tied to sustainable development and gender equality because it improves the lives of women consumers and affects their working conditions.

But women can be more than beneficiaries or consumers of infrastructure. They can participate in other ways throughout the project cycle and make substantial contributions that lead to better outcomes. For example:

- Incorporating women's opinions during community or beneficiary consultations can be enlightening for the project and even improve services. In some cases, this has led to the inclusion of lactation rooms so that mothers can return to work or school more quickly. In other cases, play spaces or childcare were added so that children could receive care while mothers attended doctor's appointments.
- Women can participate in project management on equal footing with men, taking on various decision-making roles during planning and implementation. This fosters creativity, problem solving, and the inclusion of different perspectives during a project. In fact, a high percentage of projects working on health and education have women occupying the higher decision charges.
- Gradually, women are engaging in infrastructure during the construction phase, working side by side with men in jobs that were traditionally reserved for the latter. There is still a lot to do, such as creating dignified, well-paid, and discrimination-free working conditions and increasing technical and university training to bring more women into the field. The [Chilean Chamber of Construction](#) recognizes that women's involvement has a positive impact on factors such as "responsibility (including thoroughness and organization), flexibility (being more open to change), or simply the ability to accept different work styles. This helps them do exceptional work." Certain taboos remain and some cultural aspects will need to be addressed, but initiatives are moving forward step by step and women are gaining space in the sector.
- Just as in construction, including women in operation and maintenance can lead to better care and preservation of infrastructure. Nowadays, cleaning is a job mostly done by women, often invisible, underappreciated, and generally underpaid. But cleaning is an essential part of infrastructure maintenance and is directly tied to its upkeep and the quality of service it provides. There is still a lot of room for women to increase their involvement in other areas, such as preventive and corrective maintenance activities and management of physical facilities. These jobs are more and more professionalized and require technical staff, and many women are trained for these roles.

Women's role in infrastructure projects must be recognized and their presence in the sector must increase. This will not only contribute to gender equality, but to more inclusive, better quality infrastructure.



Wilhelm Dalaison

Wilhelm is a social infrastructure consultant for the IDB's Infrastructure and Energy Sector, where he supports the development and implementation of social sector programs in various countries of the region, such as El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Dominican Republic. He also works on sustainable infrastructure and green procurement, as well as the systematization of best practices for project implementation using tools to improve site selection processes, design creation, and public services provision, especially in remote areas. He was previously a health infrastructure technical coordinator at UNOPS for projects in Colombia and El Salvador and taught and researched physical health resources planning at the University of Buenos Aires. He has worked on health infrastructure projects in Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay. Wilhelm has a degree in architecture from the University of the Republic (Uruguay) and a specialization in physical health resources planning from the University of Buenos Aires.



INCORPORATING GENDER-SPECIFIC TARGETS INTO PROJECT DESIGN

Infrastructure and infrastructure services play a fundamental role in communities’ social and economic development. They improve users’ quality of life in numerous ways, including access to public services (health centers, schools, libraries, parks), greater connectivity to work and markets (metro systems, streets, highways), access to residential services (water, sanitation, electricity, telecommunications), and more opportunities for rest and recreation. Infrastructure services are a key public policy tool for achieving LAC’s social inclusion and sustainable development targets and reducing poverty and inequality. These considerable social impacts make a compelling argument for using a gender perspective when designing infrastructure services, a strategy that will increase social return on these investments.

Although each project is different, and every country or region comes with its own challenges, field experience in the region shows that infrastructure projects can help narrow the gender gap, from increasing access to inclusive public services and reducing gender-based violence, to promoting women’s voices and leadership and encouraging higher rates of workforce participation and entrepreneurship.

Using infrastructure projects with identifiable gender components—in water and sanitation, energy, transport, and extractives—the Bank defined the four main action areas that are assessed in this report. They are:

1. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PROFESSIONAL SPHERE	3. CREATION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT
2. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING WITH A GENDER APPROACH	4. ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Each will be described in detail and include examples of infrastructure projects financed by the Bank.



Box 3: How is the IDB addressing gender issues?

Institutional commitment to gender equality

The IDB is committed to gender equality as an essential component of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bank’s key policies and strategies underline this commitment:

- The [Second Update to the Institutional Strategy](#) (current institutional strategy 2020-2023), the document that establishes the Bank’s vision as an institution, names “gender equality and diversity” as one of three cross-cutting issues and “social exclusion and inequality” as one of three development challenges to transforming LAC in a sustainable way.
- The [Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development](#) (Gender Policy) aims to strengthen the Bank’s support for member countries’ targets and commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment.
- The [Gender Action Plan](#) (GAP), first launched in 2010 and updated every three years, consolidates strategic gender-related action items from all IDB sectors and ensures that the Gender Policy is implemented. Adding a gender perspective to IDB operations is one of the highest priorities in the current [GAP 2017-2019](#). The Bank has done a great deal to incorporate a gender approach into its work during this period.
- Finally, the [Gender and Diversity Sector Framework](#), updated every three years, identifies effective interventions for gender equality, development with identity, and social inclusion; it assesses the region’s main challenges and highlights which evidence-based actions the Bank will take to face them.

The IDB Infrastructure and Energy Sector will continue to use its operations to foster economic opportunities for women by adapting infrastructure and infrastructure services to meet gender-specific needs and support women’s leadership and participation within its different divisions.

Gender and Infrastructure Platform: an online tool

The IDB is continually working toward equal and equitable access to resources and benefits from infrastructure services for women, men, boys, and girls. This is crucial for sustainable development and better quality of life in our communities. The Bank promotes gender mainstreaming in its projects and initiatives in the areas of water and sanitation, energy, extractives, and transport.

The [IDB Infrastructure and Energy Sector](#) developed an online tool to help incorporate a gender perspective into its projects and initiatives. It provides access to indicators for infrastructure operations design, estimated budgets, a menu of more than 150 gender-sensitive activities, and more than 80 practical examples from each sector. This guide also allows other institutions and specialists from LAC to add their own suggested activities, indicators, or best practices.

Using this tool, the IDB hopes to support the generation of gender-disaggregated data and empirical evidence in infrastructure sectors that design and implement innovative initiatives, public policies, and projects to promote gender equality and women’s economic empowerment. It also aims to strengthen the sector overall.

To learn more, visit: <https://generoeninfraestructura.iadb.org/>

AXIS 1: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PROFESSIONAL SPHERE

These projects will give women the same job opportunities as men in infrastructure sectors by designing and implementing gender strategies in public and private agencies. These are some of the proposed activities in this action area:

- Promote continuing technical and professional training for women (e.g. classes, workshops, courses) along with internships to improve their performance, eliminate or reduce disadvantages, and equalize their prospects for professional development and growth.
- Establish hiring guidelines that encourage gender equality for semi-skilled, skilled, and leadership roles.
- Generar culturas organizacionales inclusivas que promuevan la creación de condiciones de trabajo dignas, bien remuneradas y libres de discriminación.

Create inclusive organizational cultures that foster the creation of dignified, well-paid, discrimination-free work (e.g. use of inclusive language in the hiring process, guidelines for work-life balance, sensitization seminars/training on gender in the workplace).

Findings in this action area:

- Infrastructure projects where women actively participate in design, construction, and operations are often more effective at meeting the needs of women and children. This makes the projects more sustainable (**Empowered women for quality water and sanitation services**).
- Equal access to professional opportunities in infrastructure sectors, including leadership roles, has two effects:
 - It utilizes more of the skills, both technical and soft, that are necessary in infrastructure sectors (**Empowering the wind industry and developing equitable opportunities**).
 - It is a starting point for collaboration and advancing gender equality in the public and private sector (**Emerging female leaders in the mining-energy sector**).
- Increasing the number of women in infrastructure value chains challenges deeply rooted social norms by promoting positive social change and women's empowerment (**Increasing female participation in the road sector value chain**).

01

AXIS 2: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING WITH A GENDER APPROACH

02

These projects will incorporate a sector-wide gender approach to increase public and private agencies' understanding of the gender gap in infrastructure sectors and the benefits of incorporating this understanding into investments. These are some of the proposed activities in this action area:

- Collect gender-disaggregated data (e.g. infrastructure-use habits) and assess gender aspects in programs/projects/initiatives (e.g. impact assessments) to generate useful knowledge and guide design and decision-making processes.
- Incorporate a gender approach in sector policy design and project operations.
- Implement educational campaigns for primary and secondary schools and higher education to encourage women to pursue careers in infrastructure.

Findings in this action area:

- Because infrastructure is so central to quality of life for men, women, and children, it is vital that women take part in decisions about how it gets managed. However, women often play a secondary role (**Incorporating women in water and sanitation management**).
- More involvement from women and vulnerable groups at various levels of the institutional hierarchy allows a gender approach to permeate sector governance, operating guidelines, decision making, and infrastructure design, increasing returns and benefits for all users (**Benefits of integrating a gender approach in the energy sector** and **Promoting the inclusion of women and vulnerable populations in the extractive sector governance**).
- Shared experiences about designing and implementing policies to facilitate gender equality are available to the region's governments (**A network of cities committed with gender equality in the transportation sector**).

AXIS 3: CREATION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT

These projects will improve women's access to productive resources (e.g. capital, credit, training), cultivate their capacity for action and decision making, and drive sustainable productive development to increase their economic participation. These are some of the proposed activities in this action area:

- Help beneficiaries to identify possible economic activities using an inclusive approach and access to quality infrastructure.
- Provide gender-differentiated support (e.g. technical, financial, technological, legal, etc.) to motivate productive or business-related usage through access to infrastructure.

Findings in this action area:

- Economic development opportunities that arise from increased availability of quality services help create jobs and businesses and contribute to the economic independence of women and vulnerable populations (**Promoting women's entrepreneurship and empowerment through access to water and sanitation**, **Electricity and entrepreneurship in men and women** and **Road infrastructure as a vehicle to generate economic opportunities in local populations**).
- Economic diversification among women and vulnerable groups is an opportunity to ensure greater inclusion by energizing local economies, which has medium and long-term benefits (**Economic opportunities in mining communities**).

03

04

AXIS 4: INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

These projects will improve men and women's quality of life through access to sustainable and inclusive infrastructure that takes their different needs into account. These are some of the proposed activities in this action area:

- Collect gender-disaggregated data (e.g. infrastructure-use habits) and ensure that gender-specific needs are considered during the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects.
- Promote active participation and decision making by men and women in key aspects of the project (e.g. public consultations).
- Incorporate a gender-safety approach into infrastructure design (e.g. public transportation, street lighting).
- Conduct ex-post impact assessments to measure the socioeconomic outcome of including gender issues in infrastructure projects and to guide the design and decision-making process.

Findings in this action area:

- Greater access to services improves quality of life for all groups (men, women, children, and vulnerable populations) by increasing their economic and social participation in their communities, which affects their education, income, and safety. This has tangible benefits in the short, medium, and long term, leading to a virtuous cycle of inclusion (**The more access to water and sanitation, the better quality of life** and **Energy: a virtuous circle of inclusion**).
- Urban transport services should include measures to increase safety on transportation, in stations, and in surrounding areas to ensure that everyone has equal access and mobility (**Secure mobility for everyone**).

EMPOWERED WOMEN FOR A QUALITY WATER AND SANITATION SERVICE

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site:

Small communities (under 2,000 residents) and small and medium-sized cities (between 2,000 and 20,000 residents) in Bolivia.

Sector:

Water and Sanitation

Project Name:

- Small Community Water Program ([BO-L1013](#))
- Water and Sanitation Program for Small and Medium-Sized Cities ([BO-L1184](#))
- Water and Sanitation Program for Small Localities and Rural Communities in Bolivia ([BO-L1065/BO-G1002](#))

Amount:

- BO-L1013: US\$24,500,000
- BO-L1184: US\$79,000,000

- BO-L1065/BO-G1002: US\$40,000,000 (50% donation: Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean - [FECASALC](#))

Approval Date:

- BO-L1013: August 2008
- BO-L1184: November 2018
- BO-L1065/BO-G1002: June 2011

Status:

- BO-L1013: Closed
- BO-L1184: Pending eligibility
- BO-L1065/BO-G1002: Closed

Executing Agencies:

- Ministry of the Environment and Water ([MMAyA](#))
- Ministry of Development Planning ([MPD](#))
- National Service for Basic Sanitation Sustainability ([SENASBA](#))
- National Productive and Social Investment Fund ([FPS](#))

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

In 2012, [80,8% of Bolivia's population had potable water](#), while 52,7% had access to sanitation. Small communities and small and medium-sized cities had larger gaps than the national average, mainly due to lack of infrastructure and the significant capacity and sustainability challenges faced by Water and Sanitation Service Providers (EPSAs). These include the recovery of operation and maintenance costs and implementation of effective sanitation solutions.

Objective:

Improve access to potable water and basics sanitation (W&S) access in rural communities (BO-L1013; BO-L1065/BO-G1002) and small and medium-sized cities (BO-L1184) through public works (increase the number of connections) to improve the population's health and surroundings. Strengthen community control over water and sanitation services through training for local organizations and providers. The programs set a goal to connect 32,400 homes to potable water and 29,700 to sewer systems. Thousands of homes will benefit from new and refurbished W&S networks.

Gender in the program:

There are large gender gaps in Bolivia's small cities and rural communities. Women account for 77% of persons over 18 with no schooling, and women's average monthly income is 37% lower than men's. These gaps are among the main causes of the low active participation of women in W&S projects in their communities. Women make up just 10.56% of EPSA members and 0% of their technical staff. They hold fewer leadership positions in bodies such as project responsible committees. [Studies](#) have shown that when women take an active role in the design and operation of W&S projects, these projects are more sustainable and effective. When sanitation solutions are not adapted for women and girls, their acceptance and use is limited.

Activities:

Activities to promote equal professional opportunities and women's empowerment in W&S projects included: training and education for women in jobs related to service construction, operation, and maintenance; strengthening of women's participation in public spaces and decision making through community trainings on self-esteem, rights, and empowerment (through women's leadership groups); raising awareness among men, women, girls and boys in schools to improve hygiene and help reduce absenteeism among school-aged girls; and health and environmental education workshops for men and women. One program also worked to include women in leadership positions on water committees for managing services. Both men and women were included in the preparatory work (roles, rights, importance of joint decision making, and more). The project developed gender-sensitive sanitation solutions and increased women's participation in decision making as part of its community development work and institutional strengthening (selecting technical solution and acting as water committee leaders). Lastly, a study of [gender and interculturality](#) in preparation for BO-L1184 provided valuable knowledge for the program design and reaffirms the gender approach.

Expected outcomes:

The programs expect to provide technical training to at least 470 women to encourage their participation within the EPSAs' decision-making committees. It is also hoped that at least one woman will serve in a leadership role (president/vice president) within each community EPSA (BO-L1184 and BO-L1065/BO-G1002).



For more information, visit the following link:

Blog posts:

[Deciding the best way to choose](#)



EMPOWERING THE WIND INDUSTRY AND DEVELOPING EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Program Site: Juchitán, Oaxaca, Mexico	Approval Date: May 2013
Sector: Energy	Status: Implementation
Project Name: Promotion and Development of Local Wind Technologies in Mexico DETELM (ME-X1011)	Executing Agency: National Institute for Electricity and Clean Energy (INEEL)
Amount: US\$18,000,000	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Mexico has an abundance of oil and natural gas. At the start of the twenty-first century, investment in these resources fell short of what was needed to meet national demand. Fuel imports increased at the same time as domestic demand for electricity. With a need for more diverse electricity production with less dependence on fossil fuels and a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, Mexico chose to encourage the development of its substantial renewable resources. Given that Mexico has several of the world's greatest wind energy sites, the government made wind energy a priority.

Program Objective:

Facilitate the development of local capacity to design and manufacture wind turbines for distributed generation in Mexico. Consolidate the local technical skills required to design, manufacture, assemble, and install components of a 1.2 MW wind turbine prototype for special winds (Mexican Wind Machine-MEM).

Gender in the program:

Mexico is certainly fertile ground for developing wind technologies. The Federal Electricity Commission ([CFE](#)) estimates that the country's wind energy potential is greater than [5,000 MW](#). The Isthmus of Tehuantepec is a strategic area due to its [high recorded wind speeds](#). The CFE began installing wind energy capacity there a few decades ago, quickly turning Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca into a meeting place for the government and developers. Today, the Isthmus is home to about 21 wind parks belonging to 14 mostly international companies, where wind turbines are exposed to wind speeds of nearly 90 kilometers per hour.

Juchitán also has strong indigenous roots (Chontales, Huaves, Mixes, Zapotecas, and Zoques) and men and women are treated equally. Women's participation is esteemed and fully respected. The combination of an egalitarian culture, its energy capacity, and a booming industry shows the region's great potential for more equitable job growth.

Actividades:

This program funds activities focused on giving women access to the same job opportunities as men in Juchitán's wind sector. Training the men and women of Juchitán equally in the manufacture of [wind turbine blades](#) is essential. Repairing blades for the more than 1,500 wind turbines already installed in the area could provide another possible development opportunity for Juchitán and nearby communities.

Outcomes:

In addition to manufacturing blades, the program promotes local capacity building for the creation of products and services relevant to the growth of the local wind industry and facilitates distributed power generation in Mexico. For several years, INEEL has run a series of courses at regional universities on the growth of the wind industry, as well as workshops for local communities on blade manufacturing. The local women's manual dexterity in making handicrafts is useful for blade manufacturing, which involves a lot of manual labor and requires special knowledge and skills. **More than 300 people will have been trained by the end of the project, of whom 60% will be women and 40% men.**



For more information, visit the following link:

Blog posts:
[Let's empower women in Latin America, let's be innovative!](#)



EMERGING FEMALE LEADERS IN THE MINING-ENERGY SECTOR

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Regional with components in Colombia and Peru.	Amount: US\$510,000 (Donor: Canadian Extractive Sector Facility - CANEF)
Sector: Mining, Geothermal Energy, and Hydrocarbons (MGH)	Approval Date: July 2017
Project Name: CANEF - Promoting Gender Equality and Best Practices in Extractive Industries in the Andean Region (RG-T3050)	Status: Implementation
	Executing Agency: IDB

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

LAC has significant proven oil, gas, and mineral reserves, making the extractive sector a key economic player in the region. Beyond being an important source of activity and economic development, investments in mining and hydrocarbons are also associated with high social risks, economic and environmental that are usually perceived and received with differentiated impacts between men, women, indigenous people and afro-descendants.

Program Objective:

Encourage the inclusion of women and vulnerable populations in governance and opportunities associated with mining and hydrocarbon investments, while minimizing and mitigating possible risks to these groups to achieve shared impact and equitable benefits from the extractive sectors in Colombia and Peru.



For more information, visit the following links:

- Publications:
- [Extractives in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Basics](#)
- Blog posts:
- [The Extractive Sector in Peru Strengthens Its Female Talent](#)
 - [Winds of Change in the Mining Sector?](#)
 - [Women Who Flourish in the Extractive Sector: The Voice of Graciela Arrieta](#)
 - [Women Who Climb the Andes and Explore the Amazon](#)

Gender in the program:

The extractive industries create millions of jobs, but there is a significant gender gap in terms of direct [employment opportunities](#). Latin American women make up less than 10% of employees in mining and less than [22% of direct employees in the oil and gas industries](#). The numbers are even lower for management or leadership positions, which indicates that women must break down significant cultural and institutional barriers to position themselves as leaders in the extractive sector. However, gender equality is more than just direct employment, there are opportunities to bring women into supply chains and ensure that they are equally included in communities of influence affected by these sectoral projects.

Activities:

This program is financing activities to design and implement strategies for promoting gender equality in extractive sector institutions. The program plans to assess the current gender gap and develop leadership capacity in public extractive institutions to increase women's participation in leadership roles in countries that depend on these industries. For example, for the first time in 2018, the program launched [Emerging Women Leaders of the Extractive Sector](#) in Peru to enhance and show off the leadership skills of promising women and to foster effective collaboration. This six-month program trains women in both the public sector (Ministry of Mining and regulatory agencies) and the private sector (national and international mining and oil companies). By combining emerging female leaders from the private and public sectors in the extractive industry, the program seeks to serve as a platform for synergies for areas of collaboration between the public-private sectors to advance gender equality issues in the sector. In addition, the Human Rights Policy for the Mining-Energy Sector issued by the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia in September 2018 was advised and supported. For 2019, the program has the second Program for Emerging Women Leaders in Peru, as well as the accompaniment of the Policy for Gender Equity for the Mining-Energy Sector in Colombia to be published in March 2020.

Expected outcomes:

- In the public sector:
 - Increase the number of women in leadership roles and promote gender equality.
 - Create strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors.
 - Promote personal and professional growth for women in the extractive sector.
- In industry:
 - Expand economic opportunities for women.
 - Increase the number of women in leadership roles and encourage their professional development.



Videos:

- [Understanding Gender Inequality in Mining and the Extractive Sector](#)
- [Program for Emerging Women Leaders of the Extractive Sector in Peru](#)



INCREASING FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE ROAD SECTOR VALUE CHAIN

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site:

Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay

Sector:

Transport

Project Names:

- Roads Integration Program ([HO-L1121](#))
- Road Integration Program ([NI-L1092](#))
- Rural Road Improvement Program ([PR-L1084](#) & [PR-L1092](#))

Amount:

- Honduras: US\$77,250,000
- Nicaragua: US\$92,668,100
- Paraguay: US\$125,000,000 (PR-L1084, Donors: China Co-financing Fund) and US\$62,000,000 (PR-L1092)

Approval Date:

- Honduras: November 2016
- Nicaragua: November 2015
- Paraguay: November 2014 (PR-L1084) and December 2015 (PR-L1092)

Status:

Implementation

Executing Agencies:

- Honduras: Strategic Investment-Honduras ([INVEST-H](#))
- Nicaragua: Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure ([MTI](#))
- Paraguay: Ministry of Public Works and Communications ([MOPC](#))

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:

[The agricultural sectors in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay are underperforming](#). This is due, among other factors, to the low coverage, low quality, low capacity and low connectivity of the road network and its limited level of service produced by the lack of resources for proper maintenance. This situation makes the territorial connectivity of these countries difficult, increasing transportation costs and limiting the insertion of their agricultural and livestock production in global and regional value chains. Therefore, it is clear that the quality of transport infrastructure has a real impact on economic and trade performance and limits rural populations' access to basic social services such as healthcare and education. This hampers the countries' efforts to reduce their [high rates of rural poverty](#).

Objective:

Help increase productivity and domestic and regional integration of these countries by improving road quality. Reduce poverty by increasing the accessibility of rural areas and their connectedness to areas of commerce and public social services.

Gender in the program:

The construction, maintenance, and repair of road infrastructure have enormous socioeconomic benefits: increased productivity, reduced costs associated with inputs and transportation, diversification of economic activities, increased school enrollment, further access to healthcare and other services, among others. The sector offers significant employment and income-generating opportunities for LAC countries. Even though women make up 57.7% of the region's labor force, their rate of participation in the construction of transport infrastructure is [under 3%](#). This [occupational segregation](#) presents a unique opportunity to narrow the gender gap, especially in rural areas where unemployment rates are very high ([41.4% for women and 14.9% for men](#)). The labor markets offered by this sector are traditionally considered male, such as engineering and operating heavy equipment, which are demanding and better paid activities. Increasing women's participation in the road construction value chain means challenging strongly held social norms in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay.

Activities:

These programs fund activities that facilitate women's access to the road infrastructure construction labor market. These pilot programs focused on fostering women's technical and practical skills as heavy equipment operators and included internships to equalize their prospects for professional growth. They also included activities to build inclusive organizational cultures that promote dignified working conditions (e.g. adaptations on work sites, protocols for workplace interactions, awareness workshops, among others).

Outcomes:

The pilot programs for women in non-traditional jobs in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay included the design of technical training programs to include women in the supply chain as heavy equipment operators. This gives women access to new income opportunities and jobs in the sector.

Honduras Pilot Five kinds of workshops between three and five months in length: preventative maintenance for heavy equipment, basic carpentry, basic masonry, basic electrical work, and operation of heavy equipment (hydraulic excavator, backhoe and wheel loader). In the practical classes, the women learned by constructing classrooms and building tables and doors from wood. 43 women received training and graduated during the pilot program.

Nicaragua Pilot – Two-stage program: specialized theoretical training (100 hours) and field training (six continuous months on site working sixteen hours a week where each operator learns the job requirements and how to use the machinery with monitoring and evaluation of her performance). 15 women received training and graduated during the pilot. The program expanded to all IDB-funded roads in the country, reaching 117 women. 24 months after certifying operators in the country, the program has become the main offer of qualified employment in this sector and the percentage of inserted labor has reached up to 60% with ups and downs associated with the variation in the supply of jobs and work contracts.

Paraguay Pilot The program included two courses on operating heavy machinery (loader, hydraulic excavator, backhoe) and various topics such as topography, soil science, and workplace safety. Paid internships were also offered. 139 women were trained during the pilot and paid internships were granted for a period of 5 months at 32% of them (45 women). In the second semester of 2019, the labor incorporation of 9 women as contractor personnel is reported. At the same time, protocols for workplace interaction, awareness-raising courses on gender issues were implemented and adaptations in construction camps based on the needs of women (e.g. toilets for women and separate rooms) among others. These results were achieved in the operation PR-L1084 in 11 construction contracts. Currently, work is being done to replicate this experience in 5 new lots of works planned in operation PR-L1092.



For more information, visit the following links:

Publication:

- [The Relationship Between Gender and Transport](#)
- [Strategy for women's inclusion in non-traditional jobs in rural road construction in Paraguay](#)
- [Linking Gender Equality \(Goal 5\) with Decent Work and Economic Growth opportunities \(Goal 8\) through the Development of Infrastructure \(Goal 9\) in Latin America and the Caribbean \(LAC\) : Pilot Experiences in Bolivia, Paraguay and Nicaragua](#)

Blog posts:

- [Women Trained to Build Roads: A Pilot Project in Honduras](#)
- [Heavy Machinery Improves Women's Lives in Nicaragua](#)
- [Women's Work in Paraguay](#)

Videos:

- [Women Trained to Build Roads: A Pilot Project in Honduras](#)
- [1. Women Heavy Equipment Operators 2019 – Challenges](#) (Nicaragua)
- [2. Women Heavy Equipment Operators 2019 – Progress](#) (Nicaragua)
- [3. Women Heavy Equipment Operators 2019 – Transforming the culture of construction](#) (Nicaragua)
- [4. Women Heavy Equipment Operators 2019 – Changes in different actors](#) (Nicaragua)
- [Women's Work in Caaguazú, Paraguay](#)
- [Women's Work in Caazapá, Paraguay](#)



INCORPORATING WOMEN IN WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site:

Rural communities in Peru

Sector:

Water and Sanitation

Project Names:

- Program to Improve and Expand Water and Sanitation Services in Peru PROCOES ([PE-X1004](#))
- Comprehensive Rural Water and Sanitation Program PIASAR ([PE-L1226](#)).

Amount:

- PROCOES: US\$308,000,000 (Donor: Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean – [FECASALC](#))
- PIASAR: US\$126,000,000

Approval Date:

- PROCOES: March 2010
- PIASAR: November 2017

Status:

- PROCOES: Closed
- PIASAR: Implementation

Executing Agency:

IDB; Ministry of Housing, Construction, and Sanitation ([MVCS](#)).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

By late 2007, Peru had a population of approximately 28.3 million people, with 21.1 million living in urban areas and the remaining 7.2 million in rural settings. According to the [2006-2015 National Sanitation Plan](#), coverage rates for potable water (76%) and sanitation (57%) are below the World Health Organization’s estimated [regional averages of 91% and 77%](#), respectively. There is also a significant rural-urban divide: water and sanitation coverage in rural areas are 62% and 30%, respectively, compared to 81% and 68% in urban areas. This gap is partly due to the low institutional capacity of municipalities, Sanitation Service Administrative Boards (JASS), and other organizations responsible for water and sanitation in less densely populated settings (small cities and rural areas).

Objective:

Help increase the availability of potable WSA in small cities and rural areas. The project aims to: (i) increase the management capacity of sector entities who provide these services so that they can effectively do their work, including planning, providing technical assistance, and co-financing local investments; (ii) encourage new ways of partnering with local governments for integrated and sustainable management of water resources; (iii) promote appropriate use of services through health and environmental education for beneficiary families; and (iv) support the MVCS in their regulatory function, planning and technical assistance work in the area of water and sanitation.



Gender in the program:

There is a proven link between access to water and sanitation services and quality of life. The absence of these services is linked to risk of infectious disease in adults and children, while access to water and sanitation lowers the risk considerably. It also [reduces or eliminates the labor and time spent transporting water](#), a task chiefly delegated to women. The relevance of WSA in the quality of life of women makes evident their participation in the decision-making processes that involve the management of these services. However, women remain in a secondary role. A sample of 99 local entities that manage, operate, and maintain WSA services reveals that just 29% of their board members are women, and that these women are shunted into roles with less decision-making power.

Activities:

These programs aim to include women in the management and operations of rural water and sanitation programs through:

- Workshops on participation and leadership specifically intended to increase women’s involvement in water and sanitation decision-making.
- Health education activities with a gender focus that encourage women’s participation.
- Training for women on how to manage, operate, and maintain water and sanitation infrastructure.

Outcomes:

- PROCOES had as a goal of training at least 343 women to manage, operate, and maintain water and sanitation systems. The program met this goal along with several other activities, including educational activities to reinforce lessons learned, home visits, and measuring specific indicators.
- It had another goal to incorporate 343 women into the JASS. This goal was not met. However, women often play an important, if informal, role in community decision-making in accordance with local traditions.
- The PIASAR Program continues with a goal of incorporating at least two women in each JASS, as part of its objective of providing access to sustainable H&S to 100 communities.



BENEFITS OF INTEGRATING A GENDER APPROACH IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Bolivia	Amount: US\$51.600.000
Sector: Energy	Approval Date: September 2018
Project Name: Program to Strengthen the Electricity Sector (BO-L1189)	Status: Completed
	Executing Agency: Ministry of Energy

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Bolivia has experienced significant economic growth in recent years as a result of increased public investment in infrastructure. This has greatly reduced poverty and inequality. However, poverty in the Bolivian countryside is still common, as shown by rates of access to electric services; only 80% of the rural population has electricity. To increase coverage, the current government had to set a goal to extend and densify networks in urban and rural areas and use alternative energies in scattered rural areas by enabling access to solar panels in the most remote communities. Currently, 80% of Bolivia's electricity comes from fossil fuels and 20% from renewable sources. The country is trying to make significant progress toward its goal of 100% access by 2025. To close these significant gaps it is required to, strengthen institution management for this sector, develop articulated expansion plans, implement a technical, regulatory, institutional and legal framework that promotes the diversification of the electricity matrix, and reform strategic sector policies and regulations.

Objective:

Contribute to improve the sustainability of the country's electricity sector through a series of policy reforms aimed at strengthening the sector's institutionality for optimal planning and management, implement a solid regulatory framework, facilitate the diversification of the electrical matrix in a sustainable way (including the promotion of renewable energies such as geothermal, solar, and wind) and increase the level of access to electrical energy in a reliable and sustainable manner in rural areas of the country.

Gender in the program:

Bolivia's energy sector lacks the policies, plans, or strategies to incorporate a gender approach into its investments. At the National Electricity Company ([ENDE](#)), which manages all companies that generate, transmit, and distribute electricity, fewer than 20% of employees are women. This under-representation of women significantly reduces institutional insight into gender-related issues. It has been proven that promoting gender equity within the sector will provide organizational benefits. Therefore, a greater participation of women at different levels of the institutional structure allows permeating the gender approach in the governance of the sector, operational guidelines, decision-making and the design of infrastructure services. This in turn encourages increased levels of return and benefits to users.

For more information, visit the following link:

Blog posts:

- [Let's empower women in Latin America, let's be innovative!](#)

Activities:

The program will fund activities that promote the inclusion of a gender approach in the energy sector with the objective of raising awareness among public and private actors of the gender gap in infrastructure sectors and the benefits of incorporating this knowledge into investments. In the case of ENDE, a gender equality assessment was carried out to understand the low participation of women in the company, mainly in leadership and technical positions, and its consequence in the processes of design of sector policies and decision-making in projects. The assessment showed that ENDE has the willingness and commitment to work toward gender equity, and demonstrated the importance of creating a policy and action plan to address the situation. Based on the results, recommendations and guidelines were developed for the creation of a company gender policy and an action plan for the short, medium, and long term. Greater gender diversity makes institutional decision-making more representative of society and improves return on investment. Given ENDE's importance in Bolivia's electricity sector, the company is a model with the ability to shift perspectives on gender equity among its subsidiaries and other electric companies in the country, as well as in other sectors of the economy.

Expected outcomes:

- Development of an action plan to include a gender equity approach in ENDE's policies, programs, and projects (created in 2018).
- Implementation of the action plan with the support of the French Development Agency ([AFD](#)) as a strategic partner on gender issues, through a second loan to support reforms and changes to the policies governing Bolivia's energy sector.



PROMOTING THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN THE EXTRACTIVE SECTOR GOVERNANCE

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site:

Regional with components in Colombia and Peru.

Sector:

Mining, Geothermal Energy, and Hydrocarbons

Project Name:

CANEF - Promoting Gender Equality and Best Practices in Extractive Industries in the Andean Region ([RG-T3050](#))

Amount:

US\$695,000 (Donor: Canadian Extractive Sector Facility - [CANEF](#))

Approval Date:

July 2017

Status:

Implementation

Executing Agency:

IDB

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

LAC has significant proven oil, gas, and mineral reserves, making the extractive sector a key economic player in the region. Beyond being an important source of activity and economic development, investments in mining and hydrocarbons are also associated with high social risks, economic and environmental that are usually perceived and received with differentiated impacts between men, women, indigenous people and afro-descendants.

Program Objective:

Encourage the inclusion of women and vulnerable populations in governance and opportunities associated with mining and hydrocarbon investments, while minimizing and mitigating possible risks to these groups to achieve shared impact and equitable benefits from the extractive sectors in Colombia and Peru.

Gender in the program:

The extractive sector is a key player in LAC's economic growth. But many mining and energy activities are oblivious to the different impacts they have on men and women, and their interconnectedness with vulnerable populations. It is assumed that men and women automatically reap the same benefits from new infrastructure projects, and the project's differentiated effects are not properly recognized. It has been proven that gender and ethnic diversity within institutions is associated with their success because it fosters creativity, problem solving, and productivity. When diverse groups actively participate in sector planning and governance, conflict is minimized, which leads to higher returns and provides [benefits for institutions and communities](#).



For more information, visit the following links:

Publications:

- [Extractives in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Basics](#)
- [Transparent Governance in an Age of Abundance: Experiences from the Extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

Blog posts:

- [The Extractive Sector in Peru Strengthens Its Female Talent](#)

Activities:

This program is financing activities to design and implement strategies and policies for gender equality and ethnic diversity in the extractive sector. These are some of the anticipated activities:

- Assess the status and treatment of women and ethnic diversity in sector policies.
- Implement training programs for policy makers to address best practices in developing policies with a gender approach.
- Propose policy recommendations based on the assessment results and design road maps for their implementation.

Outcomes:

From July 2016 to September 2018, the IDB provided technical assistance to Colombia's [Ministry of Mining and Energy](#) (MinMinas) with the following components:

- An institutional assessment on the progress of mainstreaming gender equality in all the Ministry's management processes.
- A gender training program with a theoretical and practical approach for 30 employees of the Ministry and its regulatory agencies.
- Technical support for the socialization and incorporation of a differentiated and gender approach within the guidelines and spirit of the [Mining and Energy Sector Human Rights Policy](#).
- Design of a preliminary action plan and recommendations on gender and cultural identity that comply with the implementation of the country's [Mining and Energy Sector Gender Equity Policy](#).
- In 2019, the accompaniment and support for the implementation of the policy and the creation of the new [Mining and Energy Sector Gender Equity Policy](#) is foreseen.

- [Winds of Change in the Mining Sector?](#)

Blog posts:

- [Women Who Flourish in the Extractive Sector: The Voice of Graciela Arrieta](#)
- [Women Who Climb the Andes and Explore the Amazon](#)

Videos:

- [Understanding Gender Inequality in Mining and the Extractive Sector](#)
- [Women Who Flourish in the Extractive Sector: The Voice of Graciela Arrieta](#)



A NETWORK OF CITIES COMMITTED WITH GENDER EQUALITY IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Regional with components in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru.	Amount: US\$600.000
Sector: Transport	Approval Date: September 2016
Project Name: Transport GenderLab: Bank of Initiatives to Integrate Gender Perspective in Transport (RG-T2864)	Status: Implementation
	Executing Agency: IDB

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Gender equality is essential to sustainable and holistic development in LAC. [Recent transport sector data](#) show that LAC's transportation systems, particularly those in urban areas, do not meet women's unique needs. This directly affects [their mobility, employment opportunities, access to services, and right to freely enjoy their cities](#). Many cities in the region want to launch initiatives that help promote gender equality in the transport sector and throughout its value chain. However, in LAC we still face important obstacles that hinder this effort like:

- Lack of mobility data disaggregated by gender;
- Limited knowledge of best practices for encouraging gender equality in transport and their effectiveness; and
- Cultural barriers and gender stereotypes that stand in the way of a more proactive approach to implementing gender equality policies in the public and private sectors.

Objective:

Generate knowledge about the design, implementation, and monitoring of gender equality initiatives, activities, and studies in LAC's transport sector through collaboration and sharing experiences between member cities and in the region as a whole. This regional project is aimed at women users of urban transport systems and women who are part of the sector's value chain. The primary goal of the program is to promote the generation of knowledge and tools that support the implementation of public policies that meet women's needs. Secondly, it aims to encourage collaboration and network knowledge generation among member cities.

Gender in the program:

Data from LAC indicate that women make up more than half of public transport users: [57% in Mexico City](#), [59.7% in Bogota](#), and [51.4% in Lima](#). However, the region's transportation systems are often designed without their specific needs and perspectives in mind. As a result, women transport users end up paying more for their travel and/or taking longer to reach their destination, which limits their physical and labor mobility.

When it comes to safety, reports state that in cities like Quito, [67% of women have experienced verbal sexual aggression](#) on transportation systems. The transportation systems in Mexico City, Lima, Bogota, and Buenos Aires [are among the world's most dangerous for women](#).

For more information, visit the following links:

Blog posts:

- [An equation for adding gender equality to transport](#)

Publications:

- [Women's participation in the transport labor market](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Bogota](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Buenos Aires](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Mexico City](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Jalisco](#)

Lastly, the region's transport and infrastructure sector has a high level of occupational segregation by gender. The analysis suggests that even though the infrastructure construction sector and related services create an average of 40,000 jobs per year for every US\$1 billion invested, [the participation of women in LAC in this sector does not exceed the 15%](#).

Activities:

As part of this program, in 2016 the Bank launched the digital collaboration platform [Transport GenderLab](#), a public regional good that provides a space to promote solutions for incorporating a gender approach into the transport sector. The Transport GenderLab brings together knowledge and detailed information about the design and implementation of policies that promote gender equality and inclusion on public transport systems.

Outcomes:

The [Transport GenderLab](#) has positioned itself as the premier (and growing) network of cities committed to improving the status of women in the sector and in particular on public transportation systems. The platform's focus is to generate and share knowledge about designing and implementing gender equality initiatives, activities, and studies in the transport sector through collaboration and sharing of experiences among members. Today, twelve cities in Latin America ([Bogota](#), Cali, [Buenos Aires](#), [Mexico City](#), [Jalisco State](#), [Guatemala City](#), [Quito](#), [Santiago](#), [Santo Domingo](#), San Salvador, Hidalgo State, and Lima) are members of the network, with more than twenty sector agencies committed to this public good. Even further, other cities have also expressed their desire to join. The Transport GenderLab offers:

- A space for local governments in LAC to collaborate and share experiences, information, and best practices throughout the region;
- A systematized and easy-to-access regional point of reference with detailed descriptions of initiatives implemented by network members to promote gender equality in the public transport sector (objectives, implementation process, outcomes, costs, lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations);
- The Bank's technical and financial support to collectively develop strategic knowledge and pilot projects based on contextual requirements that add to the discussion of gender and transport in the region; and
- The opportunity for member cities to place their policies, programs, and projects in publications, articles, blogs, infographics and on social media



- [Gender and Transport: Guatemala](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Quito](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Santiago](#)
- [Gender and Transport: Santo Domingo](#)
- [The Relationship Between Gender and Transport](#)
- [Smart Transport Systems for Gender Equality](#)
- [Experiences with Gender and Transport: Findings from Guyana](#)



PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site:
Panama

Sector:
Water and Sanitation

Project Name:
Resilient Urban Watershed Program (PN-L1150)

Amount:
US\$104,700,000

Approval Date:
November 2018

Status:
Approved

Executing Agency:
Municipio of Panama (MUPA)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Panama City Metropolitan Area, home to half of the country’s residents, has seen significant changes over the last 25 years: its population has doubled to 1.9 million inhabitants and its has tripled to 33,000 hectares. This growth was rapid and unplanned with no thought to boundaries or conservation areas, which has led to insufficient access to infrastructure services.

The Juan Díaz River watershed (CRJD) is one of the most important basins that passes through the PCMA. 30% of the CRJD is now urbanized and its forest cover has been reduced to just 12%. Combined with disorderly growth, inadequate drainage systems, and the effects of climate change, this has increased the risk of flooding in the lower basin, putting residents in a vulnerable position

Objective:
The overall objective is to sustainably improve the socioenvironmental and urban living conditions of the CRJD’s inhabitants through flood prevention and mitigation, improved quality of and access to public space, and greater water and land management capacity.



Gender in the program:
Incorporating a gender approach into watershed management helps achieve equity between men and women and reduce the disadvantages that women face. Because of traditional gender roles, women are directly affected by the impact of climate change, floods, populations displacements, and lack of services. Losing their homes and productive resources makes them more vulnerable. A city’s prosperity and the sustainability of its infrastructure services is tied to equality, equity, and men and women’s participation. Past experiences show that women’s entrepreneurship significantly affects empowerment and helps close the gender gap. 2018 data from the International Labour Organization show that women’s workforce participation in Panama (51.4%) is much lower than men’s (77.3%).

Activities:
The program will improve women’s economic empowerment in the impacted communities and neighborhoods. Specifically, it will create an entrepreneurship program to boost women’s employment and autonomy through the purchase of machinery, business training, and the structuring of credit funds. The program will also promote the incorporation of women engineers into the construction, repair, and expansion of storm drainage. It will promote agroforestry practices with a gender approach and recover ancestral knowledge through systematization.

- Expected outcomes:**
- Women engineers involved in the construction, repair, and expansion of drainage (5% of staff will be women).
 - Implementation of a water and sanitation training program for MUPA with a gender approach.
 - Implementation of an entrepreneurship and ancestral knowledge program for women in two localities within the watershed area.
 - Systematization of ancestral knowledge about the watershed with gender, diversity, and generational approaches.



ELECTRICITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF MEN AND WOMEN

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Surinam	Approval Date: November 2013
Sector: Energy	Status: Implementation
Project Name: Support to Improve Sustainability of the Electric Service (SU-L1009)	Executing Agency: Energie Bedrijven Suriname (EBS)
Amount: US \$30.000.000	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Suriname is the youngest sovereign nation in South America, with an area of 163,820 km² and a [population of 576,000](#). Most of its inhabitants (66%) live in the country's narrow coastal plain. The rest live in the Amazonian interior, which comprises 80% of the country. The isolated rural settlements in Suriname's interior are mainly populated by indigenous groups and afro-descendants.

Suriname's electricity system consists of several isolated generation and supply networks. The coastal population is supplied by seven networks, six of them fed by thermal generators. The rest of the inland population is mainly provided by rural electrification services thanks to diesel generators that provide between four to six hours of electrical service a day. Fuel is transported to the most remote villages by boat or plane. The diesel supply is often limited by cost, logistics, and long wait times for repairs, leaving some communities without electricity for months or even years and affecting their services, quality of life, and economic activities. In 2016, just [69.3% of the rural population had access to electricity](#).

Objective:

Contribute to the sustainability of Suriname's electricity sector through institutional strengthening (operating procedures performance) and the electric supply of rural areas. Increase electricity coverage in rural areas by expanding the network and renewable energy systems in the interior. The project plans to benefit 600 homes in Powakka (50 km from Paramaribo, the capital) and Atjoni and Pokigron (195 km from the capital).



Gender in the program:

In Suriname, [poverty and discrimination](#) have been proven to be closely linked to gender, education level, region, access to economic opportunities, and ethnic origin. Despite their higher risk of poverty, women in Suriname's interior play a key role in the improvement of their communities and households. [Studies](#) show that most women in poor communities have no income and depend financially on other members of the household. This is due in large part to the roles and responsibilities imposed on them by society and is exacerbated in isolated communities where economic opportunities are rare and infrastructure services are intermittent. In the case of electricity, women use this resource most for managing their homes and families. The lack of this service forces women to carry out their daily tasks without any household appliance, leaving them little time to carry out additional economic or recreational activities.

Upon this situation, the [Government of Suriname has taken several steps to boost microbusinesses](#) among women in the agricultural sector, such as the establishment of microcredits and [agro-cooperatives](#). These efforts have yielded positive results, however, much remains to be done, and 24-hour access to quality electrical services is necessary to generate more productive developments for both men and women.

Activities:

This program seeks to finance activities that improve women's access to productive opportunities with the aim of increasing their economic participation. In this case, access to reliable and quality 24-hour electricity services has complemented the efforts promoted by the government in such a way that women can scale up their ventures, for example, by increasing their production. On the other hand, identify possible economic activities.

Expected outcomes:

Access to reliable 24-hour electricity service has transformed the life for many homes and small businesses in Atjoni, Pokigron, and Powakka. This allows both men and women to carry out productive activities that require electricity at all hours of the day, and increase their production, efficiency, and income. In the particular case of women, access to electricity in their homes allows them to take advantage of energy to carry out productive activities without leaving their homes, something they could not do before.

Some of the activities in these communities are:

- Sewing and tailoring (use of sewing machines)
- Baking and pastry making (use of ovens and electric appliances)
- Sale of food and drinks (use of refrigerators)
- Hospitality and ecotourism (improved facilities for tourists' comfort)

The following income-generating activities encourage women's training and inclusion in the labor market:

- Powakka: internet cafe, daycare
- Pokigron: playground, daycare, preschool, operation and maintenance of electrical infrastructure

For more information, visit the following links:

- Blog posts:
- [The first solar plant for rural communities in Suriname](#)
 - [The women lighting up rural Suriname](#)
 - [How can we empower rural women in Suriname?](#)

Blog posts:

- [Duurzaam licht voor Tepu](#)
- [Suriname power company consolidates its transition to digital and smart company](#)
- [Light for the indigenous communities of Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

Videos:

- [Improving rural electrification in Suriname](#)



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN MINING COMMUNITIES

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Brazil, Chile, and Peru	Amount: US\$5.845.210
Sector: Mining, Geothermal Energy, and Hydrocarbons	Approval Date: August 2019
Project Name: Beyond Extraction: Economic Opportunities in Mining Communities (RG-M1300)	Status: Implementation
	Executing Agency: IDB through TechnoServe Inc.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

LAC has the most important world reserves of some of the main metallic minerals such as lithium (61%), copper (39%), silver (32%), and nickel (32%). This abundance has made the extractive sector a key macroeconomic player in the region. However, most mining communities do not benefit from it. For instance, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities—business around the supply of goods or services related with these industries—are limited, specialized, and seasonal. This leaves part of the population with unmet expectations of prosperity, often leading to socio-environmental conflicts. LAC is also the region with the most mining-related conflicts.

Program Objective:

Increase socioeconomic benefits by diversifying local economies in communities near extractive projects and encourage equitable distribution of these benefits to men, women, and young people. Maximize access to jobs, productive development, and value chains through a sustainable intervention that builds capacity among local actors, both public and private. Reduce communities’ dependence on mining.



For more information, visit the following links:

- Publications:
- [Extractives in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Basics](#)
 - [Beyond extraction: economic opportunities in mining communities](#)

Gender in the program:

The extractive sector adds significantly to LAC’s GDP, making it a key creator of economic opportunities for the region. But often, the communities of influence do not see tangible benefits from its operations. Men and women in these communities experience the sector’s risks and benefits differently; for example, men benefit more from direct employment, while women are more sensitive to the sector’s impacts on water. Mines employ relatively few people directly, businesses that supply goods and services are limited, often seasonal or specialized and must meet high standards for procurement. The public agencies that manage royalties and transfer payments in the communities typically follow long and inefficient administrative cycles. In addition to the above, there are difficulties for the economic insertion of certain groups that present relative disadvantages, such as youth and women, target groups of this project. The economic diversification of these communities is an opportunity to ensure that these groups are included in an equitable manner, expanding its business market and with benefits in the medium and long term.

Activities:

- The program design is built on three central pillars (chosen for each country’s specific context): business development, labor force development, and value chain development. These are complemented by two cross-cutting approaches: the creation of inclusive and sustainable ecosystems and leverage of the mining value chain.
- In Peru, a business development model was put in place to help business owners strengthen their businesses by improving their access to markets, financial resources, and training tools. Participants are chosen based on their desire for growth and interest in learning new management tools, as well as their potential to supply the extractive sector.
 - In response to high levels of unemployment among women and young people in Brazil and Chile, the program worked with participants to improve their employability, and collaborated with businesses and actors in the economic ecosystems to create more local demand. The program implemented strategies to improve labor markets and revitalize local economies.
 - In Brazil, the cheese sector was selected as an especially promising opportunity to foster local economic growth. The program focused its efforts on developing the cheese value chain and market access for 46 artisan cheese producers.

Outcomes:

- **Business development in Peru:**
 - 25 local public-private institutions supported; 30+ local suppliers for the mining company increased their sales by more than 26% (55 companies supported, almost 100 new employees); 215 local businesses (non-suppliers) increased their sales by more than 38% (300+ new employees). 50% of supported businesses are headed by women.
- **Labor force development:**
 - Brazil: 273 graduates (60% women) with an average increase in income of 33%
 - Chile: 504 graduates (69% women), 67% with a higher income at graduation
- **Business and value chain in Brazil:**
 - 589 graduates (51% women) with an average increase in income/sales of 31%
 - 97 businesses graduated with an average sales increase of 9%

Blog posts:

- [Winds of Change in the Mining Sector?](#)

Videos:

- [Understanding Gender Inequality in Mining and the Extractive Sector](#)



ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AS A VEHICLE TO GENERATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN LOCAL POPULATIONS

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Costa Rica	Approval Date: March 2018
Sector: Transport	Status: Approved
Project Name: Cantonal Road Network Program – II (CR-L1065)	Executing Agency: Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MOPT)
Amount: US\$152.036.000 (IDB: \$144.036.00; Local: \$8.000.000)	

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Costa Rica has one of the densest road networks in LAC, with 76 km of roadway per 100 km². This is high compared to the region as a whole (30 km/100 km²), and especially so when compared with other Central American countries. The network, totaling more than 42,802 km of roadways, is divided between the National Road Network (RVN) and the Cantonal Road Network (RVC). The RVC, managed by municipalities and local governments, includes 69% of the network and is mainly made up of rural roads. However, many of these roads are not usable year-round and are only passable in the dry season. During the rains, many roads are severely damaged, which affects agricultural production and increases logistics costs. Although the RVC has been expanded, industries in these regions are unable to thrive and economic opportunities in rural areas remain limited.

Objective:

The program's objective is to improve productivity and reduce poverty in Costa Rica by helping to integrate production zones with areas of consumption and connect local populations to public and social services. The specific objective is to improve the quality of the cantonal road network through repairs and maintenance while incorporating climate change adaptations, which will reduce travel times and operating costs. The program will also strengthen the institutions responsible for roadway management. The program hopes to increase the number of cantonal roads in good condition from 53.7% to 65.6%.



For more information, visit the following links:

Blog posts:

- [Women in Boots](#)

Gender in the program:

Costa Rica has made gender equality a high priority within its [development agenda](#). However, the [country's progress](#) has been limited in terms of access to health and minimal with regard to women's economic participation. 2019 data [from the National Institute of Statistics and Census of Costa Rica](#) show that workforce participation among women (50.3%) is much lower than among men (74.4%). In fact, Costa Rica is one of the countries with the lowest workforce participation among women in the region. This gap is even larger in rural areas. Formal or quality employment options are restricted in rural areas due to [limited access](#) and gender stereotypes that still leave women with most domestic responsibilities.

Road infrastructure projects in rural areas create employment opportunities for local populations. During the [Cantonal Road Network Program – I](#) (the predecessor to this program), the MOPT launched the Road Maintenance Microenterprise Partnership (MER) pilot program, which encouraged the involvement of women-run businesses in the repair and maintenance of rural roads impacted by the project. The Cantonal Road Network Program – II seeks to continue efforts to increase job and entrepreneurial opportunities for women in the target communities.

Activities:

The program design lays out a series of activities to encourage women to apply as MER jobs candidates and facilitate their participation. The proposed activities are:

- Implement information campaigns in intervened areas, specifically aimed at women.
- Organize community informational meetings on MER jobs for women.
- Carry out recruitment processes that consider the experiences of women in unpaid jobs.



Expected outcomes:

The program expects to increase the number of women associates in the road management companies (mainly the microenterprises that maintain cantonal roads). The program's goal is 30%. The results will be documented in several ways so that best practices can be identified for the future.



THE MORE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION, THE BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site:
Paraguay

Sector:
Water and Sanitation

Project Name:
Water and Sanitation Program for Rural and Indigenous Communities PAYSRI ([PR-L1022](#))

Total amount:
US\$60,000,000 (IDB: US\$12,000,000, FECASALC²³: US\$ 40,000,000, local support: US\$ 8,000,000)

Approval Date:
November 2009

Status:
Completed

Executing Agency:
National Environmental Sanitation Service ([SENASA](#))

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Paraguay River splits the country into two large regions: the Western Region (which is part of the Chaco region) and the more-heavily populated Eastern Region. As of 2007, Paraguay had more than [6 million inhabitants, more than 2.5 million of whom live in rural areas](#). The indigenous population, Paraguay's poorest demographic, [comprises 108,000 people, or approximately 1.7% of the population](#).

That same year, 79.3% of the urban population had [access to potable water](#) through a connection to the water system, compared to 38.1% in rural areas. Just 16% of urban homes had a toilet connected to a sewage system, and only half of them received any treatment. In rural areas, sewage systems were nonexistent; 62.1% of households had common latrines and 37.5% had cesspits. Only 54% of solid waste was properly disposed of, and just 37.7% of homes, mainly urban, had waste collection services. The gap in coverage between urban and rural dwellers is especially dire considering that rural inhabitants made up 42% of the population in 2007.

Program Objective:

Increase access to potable water and sanitation services in the country's rural and indigenous communities so that families who do not have those services will get them soon and their quality of life will improve. The scope of this operation includes: the expansion of basic, sustainable potable water and sanitation systems in rural and indigenous communities that do not currently have them; the development of a pilot program for solid waste management; and the growth of SENASA's institutional capacity.



²³ Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean

For more information, visit the following links:

Publications:

- [Strategic Plan for Paraguay: Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Study on the Performance and Sustainability of Water and Sanitation Initiatives in Rural Areas: Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in Small Communities](#)

Gender in the program:

In many countries, including Paraguay, [women and children are typically the most affected](#) by lack of water and sanitation services. In households without them, women and children may walk up to three hours a day to streams or wells and carry containers that weigh up to 20 kilograms. Providing these communities with basic potable water and sanitation systems will free up thousands of hours that women can dedicate to productive activities, their families, and/or recreation. This free time can even boost women's participation in decision-making processes within their communities, including active participation in Sanitation Boards or Sanitation Commissions, incorporating the different needs of men, women, and children more effectively. For children, this free time can be used for academics or recreation. According to the [Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare](#), [children who live in homes without potable water and sanitation have between eight and ten episodes of diarrhea per year](#). This is costly in terms of health and the risk of malnutrition, which can have enormous consequences for children's futures. Access to these services significantly reduces these health problems and increases quality of life for its beneficiaries.

Activities:

The program proposes a series of activities that will improve quality of life for rural and indigenous populations through access to water and sanitation services with a gender focus. One of the project's principal objectives is to give women greater access to potable water and increase their role in decision making as active members of community Sanitation Boards or Sanitation Commissions. Some of the specific activities proposed for the program include developing and implementing the following:

- Training plans and awareness campaigns for rural and indigenous communities and Sanitation Board members on aspects of health, hygiene, rational water use, gender equity, and the protection of water sources, among other topics.
- Activities to strengthen women's role in potable water management and the process of expanding sanitation services within communities.



Outcomes:

The program achieved the following:

- Women make up 47.7% of beneficiaries of the potable water and sanitation systems installed in rural communities. In indigenous communities, that number rises to 50.8%.
- 5,696 residents of indigenous communities received training on health, hygiene, rational water use, gender equity, and protection of water sources.
- The number of women who sit on Sanitation Boards increased; there are now a total of 443 women across 226 boards. (on average, two women in each Sanitation Board).

Blogposts:

- [How Far Away Is Your Water?](#)



ENERGY: A VIRTUOUS CIRCLE OF INCLUSION

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Ecuador	Amount: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FERUM I: US \$55,000,000• FERUM II: US \$31,000,000
División: Energy	Approval Date: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FERUM I: November 2011• FERUM II: November 2013
Project Names: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrification Program for Rural and Marginal Urban Areas of Ecuador FERUM I (EC-L1087)• Electrification Program for Rural and Marginal Urban Areas of Ecuador FERUM II (EC-L1128)	Status: Closed
	Executing Agency: Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy (MEER) with the support of the Agency for Electricity Regulation and Control (ARCONEL) and the Electricity Distribution Companies

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000s, Ecuador experienced [significant economic growth](#) as a result of an ambitious public investment plan in infrastructure, health, and education. Poverty and inequality fell significantly. However, Ecuador must continue to address the structural gaps that limit its potential for growth in order to sustain its momentum. One of these is access to quality electric services for the whole population, particularly in rural and marginal urban homes. To that end, the government created the Fund for Rural and Marginal Urban Electrification (FERUM) in 1998 to develop electrification projects and increase national electricity coverage. Thanks to FERUM, Ecuador increased its coverage from 87.36% in 1998 to 93.35% in 2007, reaching more than 200,000 homes. The IDB provided funding for the program

Objective: Improve quality of life by financing projects within the FERUM framework that allow access to quality electric services in Ecuador’s rural and marginal urban homes. To achieve this outcome, the project strengthens sector institutions and companies in order to improve the process of selecting and implementing high-return electrification projects with and without extending the network (stand-alone systems).



For more information, visit the following links:
Publications:

- [Impact Assessment: Electrification Program for Rural and Marginal Urban Areas of Ecuador \(FERUM II\)](#)
- [How to Electrify Ecuador’s Countryside](#)
- [Gender and Energy: The Balance of Power](#)

Gender in the program: It has been proven that the use of energy resources in the home—from firewood and kerosene to electricity—[has different impacts](#) on men, women, and children. Among the most vulnerable groups in LAC, women and children are the principal energy users due to the nature of their domestic activities (cooking, caregiving, education). Despite this, women tend to have less participation in decision-making processes regarding energy resources, since it is considered to be an issue without impacts differentiated by gender and exclusively technical. This inequality is also reflected in the headship of households. In the rural Andean region, only 18% of women are considered heads of the family. This program included the execution of an Impact Assessment, which sought to better understand both the specific energy needs differentiated by gender, as well as to measure and evaluate the impacts that access to electricity produces for men, women and children. This information allows guiding and strengthening future design and decision-making processes for new financing for rural electrification projects.



Activities: The purpose of this program was to improve the quality of life for men, women, and children through access to quality electric services, with the resulting impact on education, income, safety, and perception of improved quality of life. The impact assessment enabled the monitoring, measurement, and evaluation of these socioeconomic impacts, some of which were disaggregated by gender. The results scientifically demonstrate the impact of FERUM.

Outcomes: The impact assessment confirmed the program’s effectiveness in order to demonstrate improved quality of life among beneficiary families through access to a quality improved electric service. The results indicated that FERUM effectively improved the quality and dependability of electric services, leading to desirable changes in behavior and attitude among beneficiaries, with significant gender implications. Women viewed the program as having a positive impact safety in the street and at home (19.5% and 7.5% more than the control group respectively). Women also spend 24 additional minutes per day watching television (rest and leisure time), increasing their access to media and important information.

Videos:

- [Productive Uses of Electricity in Ecuador IDB FERUM](#)

SECURE MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Project Site: Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (RMBA)	Amounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">AR-L1158: US\$300,000,000RG-T2667: US\$376,000
Sector: Transport	Approval Date: <ul style="list-style-type: none">AR-L1158: August 2013RG-T2667: December 2015
Project Name: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Comprehensive Improvement Project for the Roca Rail Line: Plaza Constitución-La Plata (AR-L1158)Technical Cooperation: Program to Increase Women's Citizen Security in Urban Transport - Phase II (RG-T2667)	Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none">AR-L1158: ImplementationRG-T2667: Completed
	Executing Agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none">AR-L1158: Ministry of transport (MT)RG-T2667: IDB

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The RMBA includes the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (the country's capital) and 43 municipalities with 15 million residents spread out over an area equivalent to at least 1% of the country. It is the nation's main center of production and consumption, where more than 40% of its GDP is concentrated.

Approximately 23.9 million motorized trips are made in the city every day. Of these, 10.5 million are made on one of the three available public transit systems: (i) the buses, with routes covering 35,000 km; (ii) the commuter rails, with 831 km; and (iii) the underground, with 47 km. Between 1970 and 2000, the high capacity mass transit systems (rail and underground) suffered from lack of investment, causing service quality to gradually and noticeably decline. The share of motorized travel made using mass transit fell from 67% in 1972 to 40% in 2007..

Program Objective:

Support the Government of Argentina in various efforts to restore the commuter rail, helping to improve public transit services for RMBA passengers. Specifically, assist with the renovation and electrification of the passenger rail service on the Plaza Constitución-La Plata section of the Roca line (52.6 km). This will ideally reduce travel times and accident rates, improve the service's reliability and comfort, and increase ridership.



For more information, visit the following links:
Publications:
• How to modernize the rail system in Buenos Aires
• Gender and Transport: Buenos Aires

Gender in the program:

Recent surveys reveal that 64% of users—both men and women—are concerned for their safety. In recent years, levels of insecurity on public transit systems have risen, mostly affecting women users: 89% have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment and 40% have experienced it in the past year. Most of these incidents (56%) are not reported to the authorities because of lack of trust in the available support and justice systems. These data show that insecurity, real and perceived, is limiting or influencing the transportation options of women in the RMBA. Women make up more than half of public transit users (52%), and this insecurity directly affects their mobility, opportunities to participate in economic activities, access to services, and right to enjoy the city. Urban transit systems need to take steps to increase safety on public transportation, in stations, and in surrounding areas to ensure equal access, use, and mobility for all users.

Activities:

The project included the following activities:

- Gathering disaggregated information about mobility patterns, perception of safety, and levels of victimization on certain modes of transport and setting a baseline.
- Collecting data about access and use of information and communications technology among users to understand to what extent these technologies are used in the RMBA and determine the best means of communication to implement safety information systems.
- Preparing a report that details the security situation on urban transport in both cities, emphasizing its impact on women and their needs.
- Development of pilot interventions (e.g. mobile technology, an awareness campaign or training for transport system drivers) to improve conditions of safety for female railway users

Expected outcomes:

In 2018, a survey on sexual harassment on public transportation was conducted using mobile data and text messages (SMS) from Telefónica customers (big data). The survey was given to 1,200 adult women who utilized the Plaza Constitución-La Plata section of the Roca line. The results describe (with a confidence level of 95% and an error rate less than 5%) the mobility patterns of those women, based on their perception of safety.

The results of the Movistar+ survey on possible sexual harassment scenarios against women indicate that 46% of respondents have experienced harassment while they waited for public transit and/or walked to or from a stop. The highest number of harassment cases occur at peak hours and at night. 74% cite harassment without physical contact and the rest describe harassment with physical contact. The latter is more common in the morning, while the former is more common in the afternoon. The most common response women had to harassment was changing their route. Despite the high number of women who have experienced harassment, only 6% of women say they have reported it.

This information, along with a raft of strategies launched by the Ministry of Transport, paved the way for initiatives to prevent and eradicate every kind of violence against women on transit systems. Among these are:

- 22676 (ACOSO): a reporting and support line with 20 psychology and social work professionals available to help victims 24 hours a day year-round.
- Predictive Arrival: real time information about arrivals at stops so that women can avoid potentially unsafe waits, especially at night.
- Security cameras
- Increased security
- Infrastructure improvements to rail stations and their surroundings
- “Ni loca, ni perseguida, ni histérica. El acoso existe” awareness campaign. [Not crazy, not imagining it, not hysterical. Harassment is real.]
- Training for service staff

Blog posts:
• Seven ideas to end sexual harassment of women on public transit



