

TECHNICAL COOPERATION (TC) ABSTRACT

I. Basic project data

▪ Country/Region:	Regional
▪ TC Name:	Gender Disaggregated Data for Financial Inclusion
▪ TC Number:	RG-T2583
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Sylvia Gabriela Andrade (IFD/CMF), Team Leader; Gloria (IFD/CMF); Luis Marquez (MIF/MIF), Luana Ozemela (SCL/GDI) and Stephanie Suber (IFD/CMF).
▪ Operation Type	Client Support
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	March 20, 2015
▪ Beneficiary:	Latin America and Caribbean countries (LAC)
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through IFD/CMF
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	\$230,000
▪ Disbursement period	36 months
▪ Required start date:	April 15, 2015
▪ Types of consultants:	Firms and individual consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/CMF
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	IFD/CMF
▪ Included in Country Strategy or CPD:	No
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Growth and Social Equity

II. Objective and Justification

- 1.1 The growing recognition of the importance of adopting appropriate measures in support of Financial Inclusion (“FI”) and the need to adopt evidence-based policies have driven several efforts to improve data collection and analyses at both the global and national level¹. Data collection frameworks in this regard can be classified as (i) supply-side, reflecting data from financial service providers through financial institution surveys and regulator surveys; and (ii) demand-side, reflecting data stemming from the users through household or other special demand surveys. Although several countries have started to increasingly measure and monitor FI indicators from both the supply and demand, a major data and analysis gap that has been identified across the world is related to women. This lack of gender disaggregated data entails an important challenge to the objective of FI as women represent 40% of the world’s workforce and 50% of the population.
- 1.2 The importance of gender disaggregated data for FI is also reflected at a high level in the global agenda of reforms. The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) by the G-20 made specific recommendations, notably: (i) that “gender-disaggregated data on access to finance should be collected at the national level, in collaboration with financial authorities, commercial banks, and other financial institutions by differentiating among the types of financial services”, and (ii) that “gender disaggregated questions on access to finance and ownership of assets should be included in demand-side surveys conducted by national authorities”. Similarly, other stake-holders are stepping-up efforts to tackle the gender data gap. In this context, the IDB/MIF, together with the Global Banking Alliance for Women (GBA), partnered in 2014 with the “Data2X” initiative, created by Secretary Hillary

¹ The first database of financial inclusion indicators (Findex) comparable across countries was created in 2012.

Clinton, to develop a multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach to incentivize the widespread collection and reporting of gender-disaggregated data by banks.

- 1.3 LAC shows a systematic lack of gender disaggregated data at the public and private sector level. Most of the surveys implemented to better understand demand for financial services do not differentiate data by gender or do so poorly. Similarly, according to a MIF/Felaban survey in 2013, 51% of the banks in LAC do not compile gender disaggregated information, and among those that do, less than 30% use it for business intelligence. This lack of data prevents an adequate or complete diagnosis of the demand and supply constraints affecting women, while it also limits the design of policies and reforms, the evaluation of public interventions and the measure of progress. Importantly, this lack of information also prevents the development of financial products and processes especially suitable for women, which further undermines inclusion efforts.
- 1.4 The objective of this operation is to enhance the capacity to generate gender-based data and intelligence to foster FI in LAC by supporting efforts to incorporate gender aspects in both supply and demand side initiatives led by the public sector. This objective would be achieved via: (i) analyzing and defining a set of key gender-disaggregated indicators that financial regulators should collect and monitor, with the aim of generating supply-side information to inform policy design and that will be comparable at the regional level; (ii) providing guidelines and technical assistance for better incorporating gender aspects in the design of demand-side data initiatives; (iii) supporting at least two countries in the implementation of the recommendations; and (iv) actively disseminating the knowledge generated. By supporting the objective of expanding access to financial services to underserved women, this TC supports the Growth and Social Equity GCI-9 Priority. This operation will also be crucial for the Bank's efforts for the "Data2x" initiative, for the FI Support Program by IFD/CMF, and to the objective of improving the implementation of institutional and policy reforms in public sector management of the Institutional Capacity Strengthening Thematic Fund.

II. Description of activities and outputs

- 2.1 **Component 1. Defining a set of key gender-disaggregated supply-side indicators for financial regulators.** This component will include two activities: (i) a Recommendations Paper, including and analysis of existing and upcoming efforts and trends in the collection, monitoring, analysis and use of supply-side gender-disaggregated data by financial regulators at the global level and in LAC, and the development of a proposal for a set of key gender-disaggregated indicators for financial regulators in LAC, and (ii) consultation and outreach with relevant actors, including FMK, MIF, private financial institutions and the GBA. This component will result in specific recommendations to improve the way financial regulators measure and tackle supply-side constraints affecting women's FI, and will set the basis for building a database of indicators that will be harmonized and comparable across LAC countries which, in turn, will be instrumental to monitor and compare progress and the impact of interventions, and to inform policy design and/or reforms.
- 2.2 **Component 2. Guidelines for incorporating gender aspects in demand-side initiatives.** This component will only include one activity: the design of guidelines to adequately incorporate gender aspects in the design and implementation of special surveys and other public initiatives aimed at identifying and measuring demand-side limitations in the access and use of financial services, including a set of examples of questions with an without a gender approach. This component will result in a tool to improve the design of public interventions with a gender focus.

2.3 **Component 3. Support to the implementation in two countries.** This component will provide technical assistance to (i) develop a diagnostic and recommendations to better incorporate gender aspects in public sector FI initiatives; and (ii) support the implementation of the recommendations. Depending on demand, the support could be for one or for both supply and demand-side initiatives. This component will result in two clear interventions aimed at improving the financial regulator's ability to measure and design of public policies and other initiatives to foster women's financial inclusion. Thus far, two countries (Mexico and El Salvador) have expressed interest in technical assistance for this purpose.

2.4 **Component 4. Dissemination.** Dissemination material will be produced to transmit the main recommendations during dialogue with authorities, in conferences, and online (including relevant blogs). The knowledge generated will also be actively presented and/or disseminated at key conferences and events, especially those involving policy makers and regulators, and those with private financial institutions and other international organizations (including GBA and data 2x).

III. Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	Description	IDB Funding
Component 1		45,000
Recommendations paper	Preparation	30,000
Consultation & outreach	Dialogue and consultation activities	15,000
Component 2		30,000
Guidelines paper	Preparation	30,000
Component 3		130,000
Support to 2 countries	Diagnostic & support to implementation	130,000
Component 4		25,000
Dissemination	Production, distribution, events	25,000
TOTAL		230,000

IV. Executing agency and execution structure

4.1 The IDB will be the executing agency, through IFD/CMF, a division with experience executing similar types of programs. For the third component, a public sector entity involved in financial inclusion will be the counterpart and will be expected to organize and coordinate the participation of other relevant public sector entities. While all contracting will be conducted by the Bank, the counterpart will provide information on the execution of Bank-supported activities.

V. Project Risks and issues

5.1 The main risk foreseen relates to the countries' demand for participation. Nonetheless, as part of the policy dialogue by CMF during 2014, different policy makers have stated the need of support to better incorporate gender in their data collection efforts.

VI. Environmental and Social Classification

6.1 There are no environmental or social risks associated with the activities outlined in this TC. Therefore its environmental classification according to the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy (OP-703) is "C". Ver [Safeguard Policy Filter Report \(SPF\)](#), and [Safeguard Screening Form \(SSF\)](#).