

Gender Impact of PPIAF Assistance

PPIAF's technical assistance to governments improves access to and the quality of infrastructure services. PPIAF's work has an inherent gender dimension because women carry a greater burden of poor infrastructure services. According to the World Bank, socio-cultural and economic factors, such as heavy domestic workloads, cause women to be more adversely affected by poor access to infrastructure. Conversely, projects that target women have a positive multiplier effect on development because women spend a larger portion of their income than men on family welfare and education.

Women in rural and peri-urban areas often benefit the most from improvements, as poor infrastructure limits their ability to undertake income-generating activities outside the home. As part of its Work Program, PPIAF is targeting underserved populations in rural and urban areas through its Universal Access and Urbanization pillars. By helping governments address the infrastructure needs of rapid urbanization, PPIAF activities also deal with concerns such as women's safety, e.g., through improvements in public lighting and transportation. Finally, activities that improve conditions in sectors where women and children are a significant portion of the labor force also have a positive impact on their welfare.

Water and Sanitation

Women receive greater benefit from increased access to water than men because they are the main providers of water and are responsible for household hygiene. Water collection in rural areas often requires large amounts of women's time and energy. Improvements to water infrastructure reduces the domestic workload of women and girls, giving them time to pursue income-generating activities and schooling. PPIAF experience in this sector includes:

- Assisting small-scale water providers in **Kenya** access financing to expand their services in peri-urban areas. The new household and yard connections significantly reduced the amount of time women spend collecting water, allowing them to pursue other activities. The PPIAF project was expanded through support from other multilateral donors and has reached over 165,000 beneficiaries in 55 communities.
- Helping the government of **Senegal** to partner with small private operators to maintain rural water systems, enhancing the quality of water services available to the rural poor, including women.
- Funding a water connectivity pilot project in **Vietnam**. Household connections increased significantly in the two participating towns and the private operators reported that women were driving the increase in water consumption. Local services also benefited, providing additional welfare improvements for women and children. PPIAF's assistance mobilized support from other donors, which led to the establishment of a fund for investments in household sanitation facilities.
- Supporting the government of **Cambodia's** output based aid project to increase access to water by subsidizing small local operators that for connecting poor rural households. Women were heavily involved in the identification of households that qualified for the program.

Transportation

Limited means of transportation restricts economic opportunities and access to social services for the poor. Households headed by women are particularly affected because they are more likely to be located in underserved neighborhoods. Women are also limited from economic opportunities by personal safety concerns that arise when using public transportation. PPIAF has supported several projects to increase access to transportation under its strategic themes of Universal Access and Urbanization, including:

- Funding the **Accra Urban Transport** case study, which recognized that personal safety is one of women's primary concerns when using transport services. By highlighting these issues and improving the quality of services offered, PPIAF transportation activities can have a positive impact on women's welfare.

- Supporting the concept study for the **Cebu Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor** which assessed the transportation needs of potential users by working with several focus groups, including two for women, and implementing the findings in its recommendations.
- Supporting the Kampala BRT project. According to the project's conceptual design study, public transit is the mode of transportation most frequently used by women. Improvements to the public transportation system are expected to have a positive impact on the welfare of the female population.

Solid Waste Management

Women and children, along with other vulnerable groups, are a significant portion of the labor force for informal waste picking. A PPIAF Gridline publication examines efforts to organize and support waste pickers, which increases their income and has a greater impact on poverty reduction. The report discusses a number of ways to improve working conditions for waste pickers, including organizing informal workers into cooperatives and building support with local governments. PPIAF has funded several projects in this sector including:

- Assessing municipal solid waste management in **Egypt**. The introduction of private sector companies displaced the large informal sector and reduced waste pickers' income. The report recommends organizing waste pickers and integrating informal collection into future waste management plans.
- Supporting a solid waste management project in **Djibouti's Quartier 7** to improve the lives of informal waste collectors. The project is organizing informal waste pickers into micro-enterprises to address the poor quality of solid waste management service in the neighborhood. In addition to improving waste collection services, the project will also increase the income generated by waste collectors.
- Funding a toolkit for public-private partnerships in solid waste management in **India**. The report emphasizes integrating informal collectors into waste management frameworks. Recommendations include registering waste pickers to ensure their rights are protected and the preferential awarding of collection contracts to waste picker collectives.

Energy

Increased access to electricity allows rural communities to produce value-added agriculture products, permits shops to remain open longer, and encourages studying at night. As many small businesses are run by women, greater access to electricity increases their welfare. Improvements to public lighting also reduce safety concerns that may prevent women from working and studying outside the home. Examples of PPIAF's work in this sector include:

- Supporting the **Lighting Africa** initiative, which seeks to deliver low cost, high quality lights for poor households. In Rwanda the project targets women, including many with HIV/AIDS, for employment opportunities selling and recharging the lights. By employing women, the project ensures the income generated is spent on improving family welfare and provides an opportunity for women to earn money while caring for their children.
- Assessing options for off-grid electrification in rural **Nicaragua**. The study analyzed options to increase access to energy in poor, remote areas, as part of a broader poverty reduction strategy. The activity focused on establishing a continuous and reliable energy supply that would allow communities to pursue value-added production opportunities. This is particularly beneficial for women, who often run small businesses or are employed at home.