

# Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Infrastructure Projects in EBRD Region

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# EBRD as a transition bank

- Promote transition to market economies by investing mainly in private sector
- 20 years on: rethinking transition and transition priorities
- Encourage environmentally sound and sustainable development across sectors
- Modernise infrastructure based on sound commercial principles, transparency and fair contracts to improve people's lives



# Impact of transition on infrastructure in EBRD region

- Infrastructure that had functioned well deteriorated considerably (collective farms used to provide/maintain rural water infrastructure; now mostly closed/broken up)
  - Moldova: 90% rural water supplies in need of capital repairs
  - Tajikistan: more than 60% water system not working/meeting sanitary requirements
  - Kyrgyzstan: approx 10% rural population lost access to sustainable water supplies between 2000-2003



# Impact of transition on infrastructure in EBRD region (2)

- Collapse of communist era financing system for maintenance of infrastructure (developed in the forties) due to:
  - cessation of subsidisation
  - impoverishment of population not accustomed to payment
  - non rational use

## **Disproportionate adverse impact on women**

e.g. in Khujand in Tajikistan 27 days a year spent by women collecting water (functioned well 15 years ago)



# Objective of EBRD Municipal and Environmental Infrastructure Policy

*“Promote greater efficiency and higher quality in the provision of local authority services through investment and the promotion of independent, well-managed and financially sustainable operations provided on commercial principles and in a market-oriented institutional and regulatory framework”*



# Gender and EBRD

- Gender equality - important component of the development and transition process
- Part of Millennium Development Goals
- EBRD's commitment to expanding opportunities for women and promoting gender equality
- Impact of transition on women has varied by country and by issue



## Gender and EBRD (2)

- Until 2009 - not actively promoting gender equality (presuming the market would take care of it)
- Some positive effects through several municipal projects, e.g. improvement in services related to water, power, heating and sanitation
- Environmental Policy (2003) – looking at gender issues in the labour context in terms of non-discrimination and social safeguards (esp. involuntary resettlement)



# Examples of selected infrastructure interventions

- Feb 2005: water systems fail in Kutaisi, second largest city in Georgia
- 185,000 inhabitants left without water for 5 days
- Outbreak of diarrhoea and hepatitis A
- Apr 2006: EBRD provides a 3 mil EUR loan to cover costs of repairs and install water meters



## Examples of selected infrastructure interventions (2)

- Participation on surveys of needs (e.g. family health aspect, ensuring water pressure sufficient to deliver water to all floors in apartment buildings), monitoring of implementation (water user committees)  
e.g. Khujand Water Supply and S. Tajikistan Water Rehabilitation project in cities of Kurgan and Dangar
- Water companies and other municipal providers
- Requirements related to labour practices in terms of non-discrimination, employment and labour policies and practices, e.g. Kyiv City Metro Company



# Next steps

- Develop projects in pilot sectors (MEI and Agribusiness)
- Implement projects in pilot countries (Georgia, Romania and Kyrgyz Republic)

