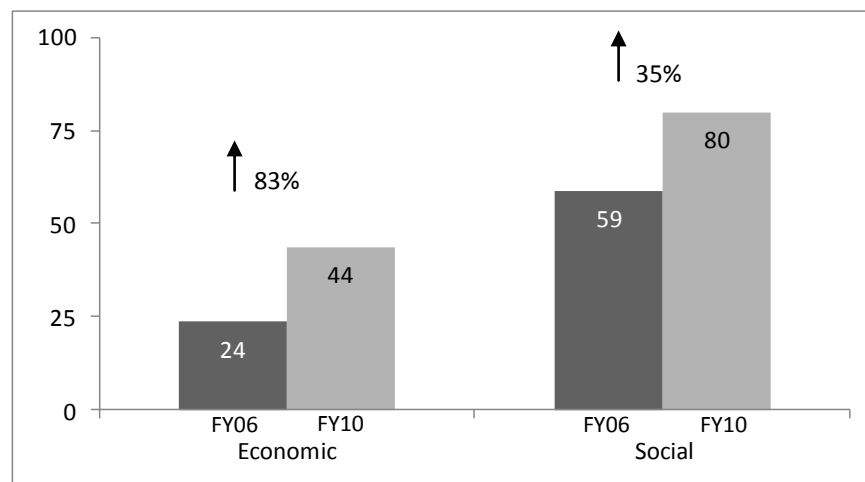


## II. CONTEXT

12. **At the outset of the GAP, the Bank’s track record in implementing policies to promote gender equality in client countries was mixed, and performance was particularly weak in the economic sectors.** The gender mainstreaming strategy that the Bank adopted in 2001 resulted in increased attention being paid to gender issues in operational and analytical work. However, the peak was short lived, and —as shown in Figure 1— concentrated in the social sectors. Thus, the logical focus of the new Bank commitment to “do more” to gender-inform its overall portfolio was to more fully utilize its comparative advantage in the economic sectors and analytical work.

13. **Over the past four years, the Bank’s operations became significantly more gender-informed, in particular in the economic sectors.** Figure 1 shows that by 2010, gender coverage has increased, both in the economic and social sectors, since the launch of the GAP, and that the percentage increase in GAP sectors exceeded that in social sectors.

**Figure 1. Gender coverage in World Bank lending operations (percent)**  
(FY06 and FY10)



*Note:* Lending operations in economic sectors fall under the following sector boards: Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Policy, Financial Management, Financial & Private Sector Development, Public Sector Governance, Transport, Urban Development, Energy and Mining, Water and Sanitation and Global Information and Communications Technology. The remaining sector board operations fall under social sectors.

*Source:* “Implementing the Bank’s Gender Mainstreaming Strategy; Fiscal Year 09/10 Annual Monitoring Report, April 2011

14. **Moreover, improvements in the economic sectors are driven by increased gender coverage in all sub-sectors —not by changes in the composition of the lending portfolio.** A decomposition of the change in gender coverage from FY06 to FY10 shows that only one percent of the 20 percentage point increase (from 22% to 44%) in the economic sectors can be attributed to changes in the portfolio of projects. In other words, the change is not explained by a shift towards the sub-sectors with a higher probability of being gender-informed. However, for

the social sectors, as much as half of the increase in gender coverage relates to changes in the portfolio composition. The more rapid progress made in GAP sectors, and the fact that progress seems to be uniform across all sub-sectors, is consistent with—but not conclusive proof of—GAP effectiveness.

**15. In addition to increased attention to gender in Bank lending operations, a new way of doing gender business has emerged.** This mirrors the guiding principles of the GAP in its sharpened focus on: (i) expanding girls’ and women’s economic empowerment; (ii) incorporating gender issues into the “hard” sectors that stubbornly resisted mainstreaming; (iii) embedding gender analysis in core diagnostics; and (iv) investing in rigorous evidence and pilot experiments to inform operations.

**16. Since the launch of the GAP, the Bank has made strong commitments to women’s economic empowerment and gender equality.** In 2008, triggered by an MDG3 Champion Torch from Denmark’s Minister for Development Cooperation, with a challenge to “do more” to promote women’s economic empowerment, President Zoellick made six commitments. Since then, the Bank has continued to deliver on these commitments by: (i) improving the integration of gender into the Bank’s agriculture and rural development work; (ii) providing more than US\$ 100 million in credit lines at commercial banks for women entrepreneurs through the IFC; (iii) launching the Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI) and the Private Sector Leaders Forum; (iv) ensuring Country Directors report on gender activities and priorities; and, most recently, (v) including gender as a Special Theme of IDA16 (see Annex 2.1). In addition, gender equality and development will be the theme for the 2012 World Development Report (WDR) —the World Bank's flagship publication.

**17. IDA deputies’ decision to make gender equality a special theme of IDA16 further strengthened Bank commitments to gender equality and women’s economic empowerment.** As a result of this decision, the Bank is committed to: (i) reflecting the findings of country gender assessment in 100% of IDA CASs; (ii) increasing gender-informed investments and monitoring progress; (iii) tracking indicators to measure IDA’s support in terms of gender-based country outcomes; (iv) preparing Regional Gender Action Plans; (v) implementing the Reproductive Health Action Plan and completing the Education Sector Strategy with a strengthened focus on gender issues in high priority countries (See also Annex 2.2).

**18. Last year, a Transition Plan to institutionalize the lessons from the GAP was produced at the request of the World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors.** The Plan builds upon the lessons learned from the implementation of the GAP, and sets out a proposal to improve the Bank’s performance on gender and development. It seeks to strengthen the implementation of the Bank’s gender policy and places special emphasis on improving attention to gender issues in Bank instruments (CASs). It covers WBG operations from 2011 to 2013.