

The Critical Role of Infrastructure in the Gender Action Plan

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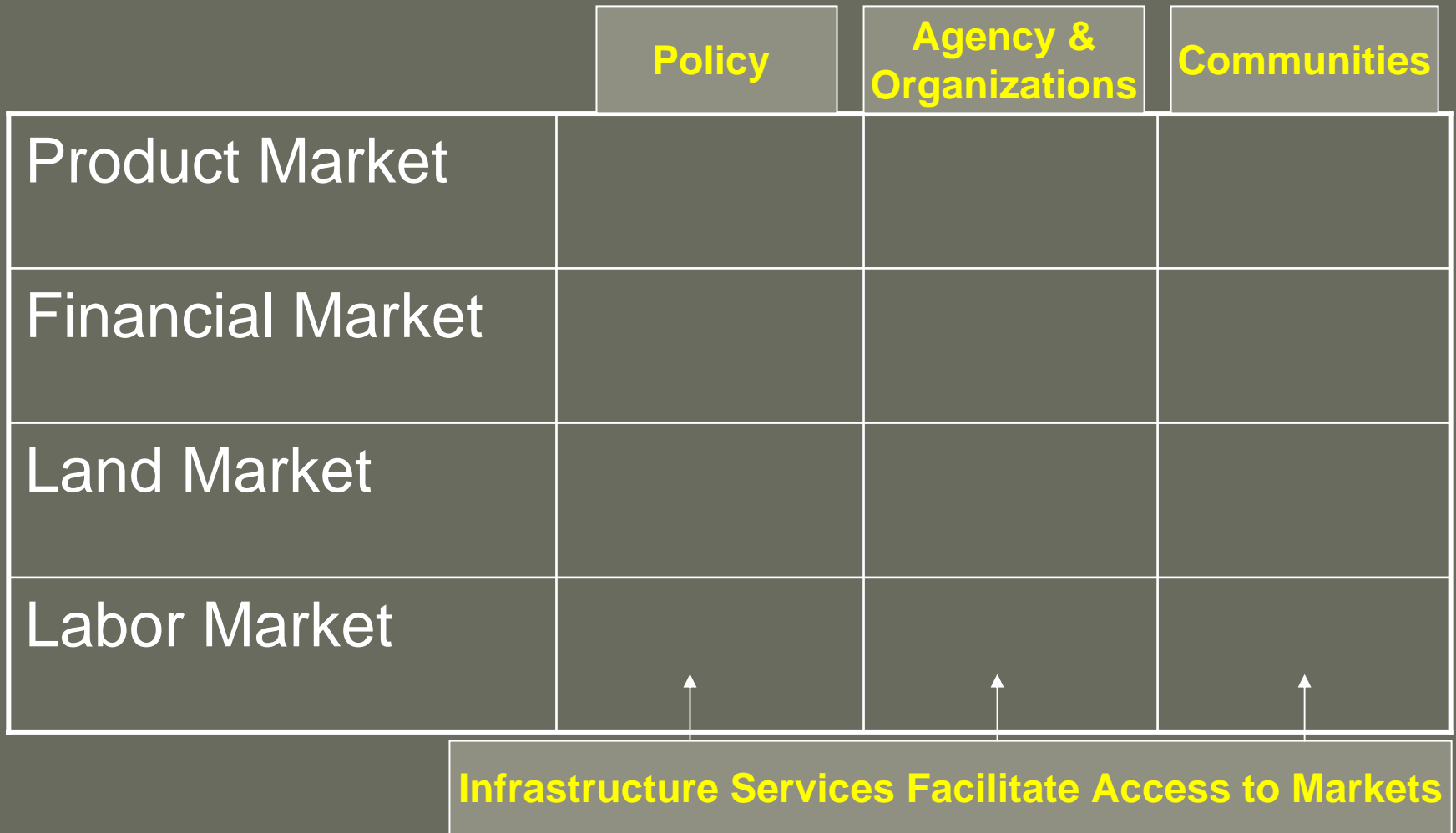
**Roundtable on Mainstreaming Social and Gender
Dimensions in Transport Programs: Moving the
Agenda Forward**

June 20th, 2007

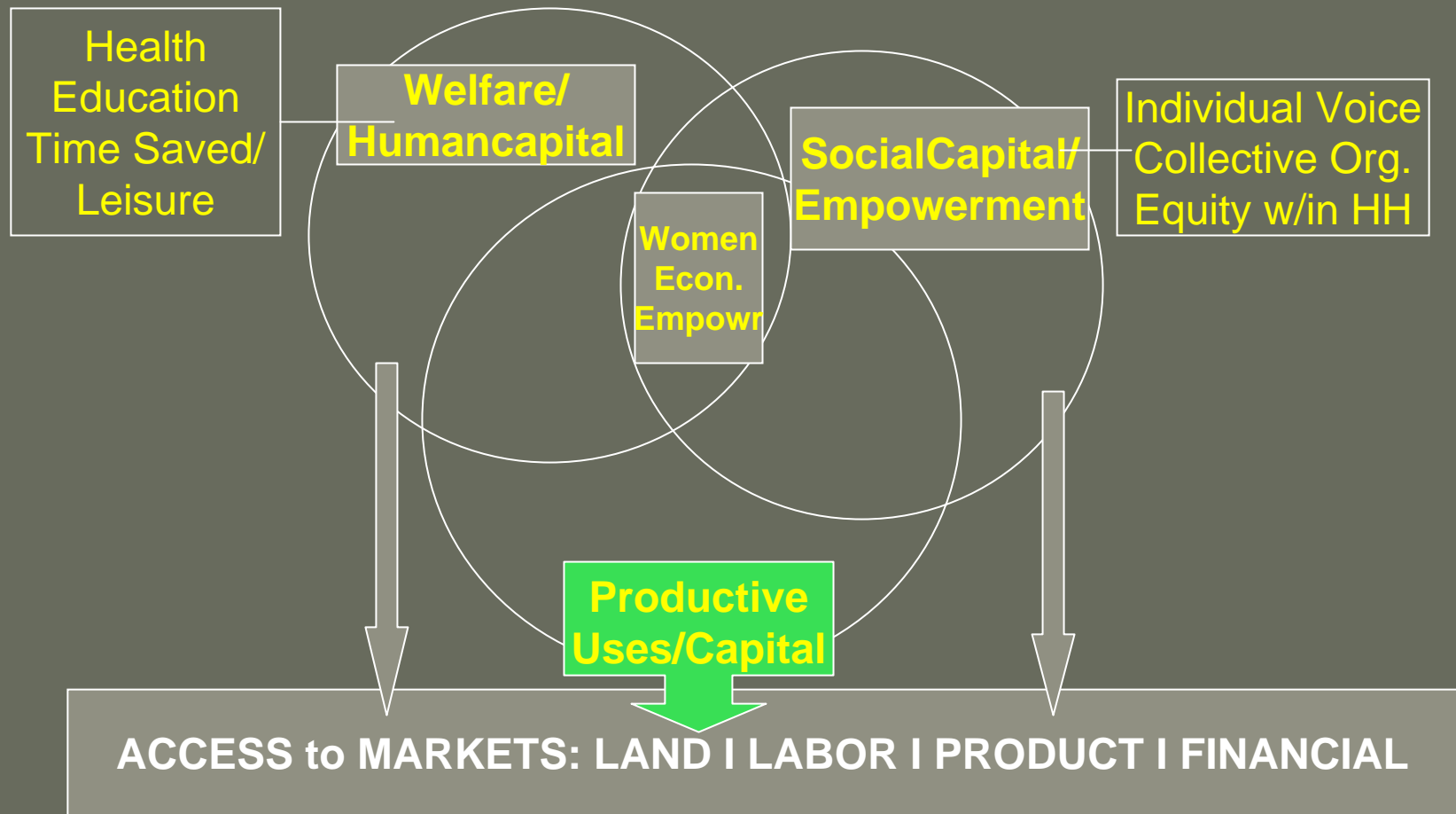
Gender Action Plan: Advance Women's Economic Empowerment (MDG3) to promote gender equitable growth



Implementing the Framework



Framework: The Three Dimensions for Infrastructure services



Example: Liberia-Access to Labor Market through Infrastructure Program

- Rural Road Rehabilitation & Urban Infrastructure Repairs
 - ➔ Women's participation in infrastructure labor market: 15-20%
 - ➔ Men employed in same market earn 3 times as much
 - ➔ WHY? Women's participation is lower and they get the lowest paying jobs.
 - ➔ WHY? IMPACT?

Liberia...

WHY?

Women are Illiterate & Have limited Technical Skills

**Welfare/
Humancapital**

**Women Econ.
Empowr**

**SocialCapital/
Empowerment**

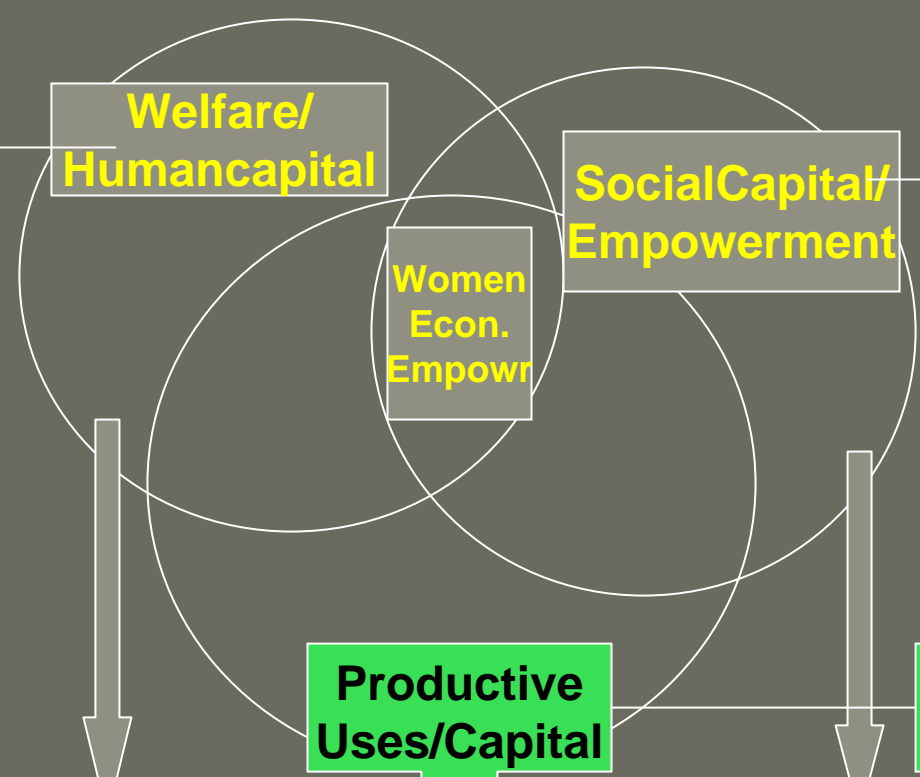
IMPACT?

**Acquiring recognition
in the Community**

**Productive
Uses/Capital**

**Women investing in
Agriculture and Trade**

ACCESS to MARKETS: LAND | LABOR | PRODUCT | FINANCIAL



Improved infrastructure services improve women's productivity from time saving, information/education, health, etc.

- Improved roads → facilitate access to product market, time saved on transport
 - facilitate access to schools, health centers
- ICT/Telephony → gives access to market information: income increase
- Potable water → reduces morbidity
- Improved energy → reduces morbidity (URD) and mortality
- Improved sanitation → reduces morbidity, improves DIGNITY
- Intersectoral linkages: Road + Agricultural Service + Seeds + Produce Market + Energy for produce conservation

Opportunities for Infrastructure Business Creation by Women

- Water distribution
- Energy – lamp and stove manufacturing, SHS systems installation and maintenance, battery recharging stations
- Road Maintenance
- ICT kiosks
- Construction: brick kilns, prefab masonry etc.

BUT: some preconditions:

- literacy and skill training
- access to credit
- Having a voice / Consultations