

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BAHAMAS/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in The Bahamas
▪ TC Number:	BH-T1088
▪ Team Leader/Members:	BETHEL, NATALIE ARIEL (CCB/CBH) Team Leader; COTACACHI VELASQUEZ, NESTOR DAVID (SCL/GDI) Alternate Team Leader; DAVIS, TIMYKA ANISHKA (SCL/LMK); ROCA, MARIA EUGENIA (CCB/CBH); DURYEA, SUZANNE (SCL/GDI); KING, DANA MICHAEL (IFD/ICS); ALMEIDA OLEAS, NATALIA (LEG/SGO); CARRERA MARQUIS, DANIELA (CCB/CBH); EDWIN FERGUSON (ITE/ITO); ROZA, VIVIAN ELLEN (SCL/GDI)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	13 Apr 2022
▪ Beneficiary:	Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development
▪ Executing Agency:	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$300,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CCB/CBH - Country Office Bahamas
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CBH - Country Office Bahamas
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Gender equality

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The general objective of this TC is to assess the technical capacity within country for the advancement of The Bahamas' priorities for gender mainstreaming in legislation, public policy, leadership development and behavioral change in The Bahamas. The results of this TC will provide technical inputs to design policies and programs to strengthen technical capacity within The Bahamas to advance gender mainstreaming in governance, public policy, leadership development.
- 2.2 Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is among the sustainable development goals of the United Nations and remains a priority for the Government of The Bahamas. Despite improvements, full gender equality and the empowerment of women in The Bahamas remains unreached and is particularly evident in the gaps of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which The Bahamas signed onto in 2013. This mandates that initiatives, resources, projects and programmes listed in the following twelve Beijing Declaration of concerns for women and girls, must be replicated in all major islands and cays of The Bahamas. According to the IDB's Update to the Institutional Strategy 2016-2020 (UIS), 'Gender equality and diversity' is identified as a cross-cutting issue that should be considered "in all elements of work, guided by current Bank policy, sector strategies, and action plans, and incorporated into programming through Country

Strategies according to clients' specific context". As a result of ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Social Services & Urban Development, the Country Office has included in its 2022 Country Programming Document a commitment to further support the Department of Gender & Family Affairs, in accordance with the Country Strategy with the Government of The Bahamas.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

3.1 **Component I: Support for Strengthening the Legal Framework to Eliminate Gender Based Discrimination and Enable Advancements in Gender Equality.**

This component will strengthen the legal framework to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination and enable advancements in gender equality. Consultancies will support the government's review of international conventions and treaties ratified, legislation impacting gender equality and recommendations of amendments. Expected results: strengthened legal framework for addressing gender-based discrimination.

3.2 **Component II: Support for Strengthening the Policy Framework to Eliminate Gender Based Discrimination and Enable Advancements in Gender Equality .**

This component will strengthen the policy framework to eliminate gender-based discrimination and enable advancements in gender equality. Consultancies will provide technical support the Government and Public Policy Institute to lead the process of gender mainstreaming frameworks, strategies, and public policies across sectors. Expected results: strengthened institutional capacity of gender mainstreaming in academia and lessons learned for scaling to the public and private academic institutions.

3.3 **Component III: Gender Mainstreaming in Political Leadership.** This component will contribute to the development of women in political leadership and those aspiring to make better decisions to achieve gender equality. Consultancies will support the development of a Massive Open Online Course, including modules on leadership, communication skills, policy and spending decisions related to gender mainstreaming. Expected results: a sustainable learning and engagement platform customized for the Bahamian context.

3.4 **Component IV: Knowledge Dissemination and Change Management.** This component will promote public awareness and citizen engagement to foster principles of inclusion and co-creation of solutions. Consultancies will: produce a knowledge management strategy and support national dissemination of materials. Expected results: increased public awareness centred around advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in The Bahamas.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Support for Strengthening the Legal Framework to Eliminate Gender Based Discrimination and Enable Advancements in Gender Equality	US\$90,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$90,000.00
Support for Strengthening the Policy Framework to Eliminate Gender Based Discrimination and Enable Advancements in Gender Equality	US\$90,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$90,000.00
Gender Mainstreaming in	US\$90,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$90,000.00

Political Leadership			
Knowledge Dissemination and Change Management	US\$30,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$30,000.00
Total	US\$300,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$300,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 As requested by the Government, this TC will be executed by the Bank, in close coordination with the Department of Gender and Family Affairs. There will be coordination with the University of The Bahamas, through a recently signed MOU with the Bank, and the Organization for American States. This proposed structure will ensure institutional capacity strengthening in addition to fostering collaboration between the private, public and non-governmental organizations. The Bank will support a Technical Advisory Committee to coordinate the involvement of other benefitting ministries and entities.
- 5.2 Establishment of the Department of Gender and Family Affairs (DGFA) in October 2016 marked a significant achievement towards gender equality and the empowerment for women in The Bahamas. In June 1981 a Women's Desk was established. The Desk was renamed the Women's Affairs Unit in September 1987 and renamed the Bureau of Women's Affairs in January 1995.
- 5.3 The Department of Gender & Family Affairs has implemented projects at the national level (GOBH budget) and others funded by international organizations and specifically the UN agencies, however due to limited human resources, the Department of Gender and Family Affairs has expressed interest in the Bank executing the proposed TC in order to facilitate synergies with existing projects and partnerships with other stakeholders.
- 5.4 This proposed structure will ensure institutional capacity strengthening in addition to fostering collaboration between the private, public and non-governmental organizations. The Bank will support a Technical Advisory Committee to coordinate the involvement of other benefitting ministries and entities.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 As with most social interventions, application and enforcement of the proposed policies and strategies to address gender equality and violence against girls and women transcend the bounds of specific departments or agencies to become policies of the State. The independent branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial) must be able to reach consensus; there must be incentives for collaboration that include, but transcend, the economic and financial considerations; efforts must be ongoing and sustained with multiyear agreements that extend beyond the mandate of a particular administration. This risk can be mitigated through a comprehensive change management and socialization plan.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".