Future Cities Future Women Initiative (FCFWI)-Phase I

Gillian Brown
(gilliebrown1@gmail)
Lead Consultant
13 May 2018, Manila

The contents of the material is based on work in progress and initial assessments from the ongoing implementation of the Future Cities, Future Initiative (Phase 1). Please feel free to contact the author directly, should you have queries.

Objective

A gender –targeted initiative to identify and support triggers to accelerate women's participation in urban governance and the urban economy

Scope

- Builds on and complements ADBs existing programs and partnerships

- Focus in three cities:
  - Mandalay: link to MUSIP, increasing women's incomes in the recycling/waste management value chain
  - Tbilisi: Women and women's issues in transport and urban governance
  - Makassar: Transport? Waste management?

Piloting FCFWI-Phase 1

- **Phase 1** (until December 2018): **Identification, initial training, and pilot preparation**

- **Phase 2** (Dec 2018-Dec 2020): **Full-on pilot** activities with impact evaluation and future scaling-up (3 cities + Ulaanbaatar)

Progress in Mandalay

- Overview of women in solid waste management and recycling value chains
- Study on market potential for handicrafts from recycled products completed
- Stakeholder consultations (November 2017, and May 2018 workshops)
- Review of financial services available to poor women in Mandalay completed
- Study tour of Mandalay gov and CSO stakeholders to SWM community activities in Yangon
- Agreement with MCDC to proceed to prepare a pilot

Study Tour Findings

- Cultural resistance to products made from recycled materials (therefore is the tourist market steady enough?)

- Inflexibility of formal finance markets so informal dominates

- Low stage of development of women's movement and lack of owned agenda

- Visibility of women in business vs cultural norms

Potential pilot

- **Output 1:** Work with new community based SWM project (UCCRTF) at ward level to identify activities to increase incomes of women in recycling value chain

- **Output 2:** Training for women entrepreneurs and challenge fund to identify and support businesses with 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) focus

- **Output 3:** Training for women's orgs and their participation in 3R activities

Progress in Tbilisi

- Participation in Future Cities Program activities and identification
- Conference on Gender in Urban Transport and Governance in Tbilisi May 2018 with participants from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan and speakers from ADB, ITDP, UN Women, Transport for London, WiLAT, GiZ, City of Vienna
- Working with Tbilisi gov to identify pilot activities

Conference reflections

- Women in city executive but not in parliaments/assemblies
- Targeted GRB as potential entry point
- Innovations for increased voice of women
- Women's interest in design of public spaces
- Transport: differences in behavior, planning, data collection, safety and security
- SME development at national not city level
- Business case and interest in women's employment in transport sector

Progress in Makassar

- Introduced late (Nov) as substitute for Suva

- Participate in RISE mission

- Transport planning identified as need during CD visit and ADB support offered

Challenges

- City governments have limited areas of authority (transport, solid waste, planning – not financial services or SME development)

- New and innovative areas so need to first make the business case

- ADB have limited number of projects with city authorities

- Aligning with timing of ADB projects

- Closure of Future Cities Program

Opportunities

- Emerging areas of interest at city government level: transport, urban governance, waste management, (DRR/climate change)

- Alternative to work with other stakeholders: transport companies, utilities, chambers of commerce, civil society, business associations

- Alternative through national level entities for SME development, financial services etc.

Next Steps

- Develop Mandalay project proposal
- Identify Tbilisi activity and prepare proposal
- Blogs and films on learning so far
- Continue to follow up in Makassar