

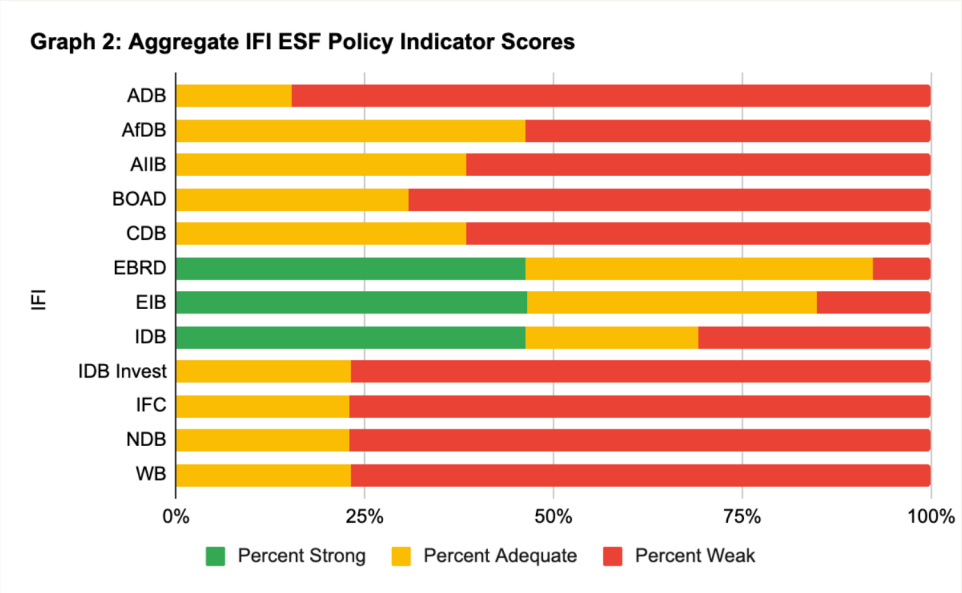
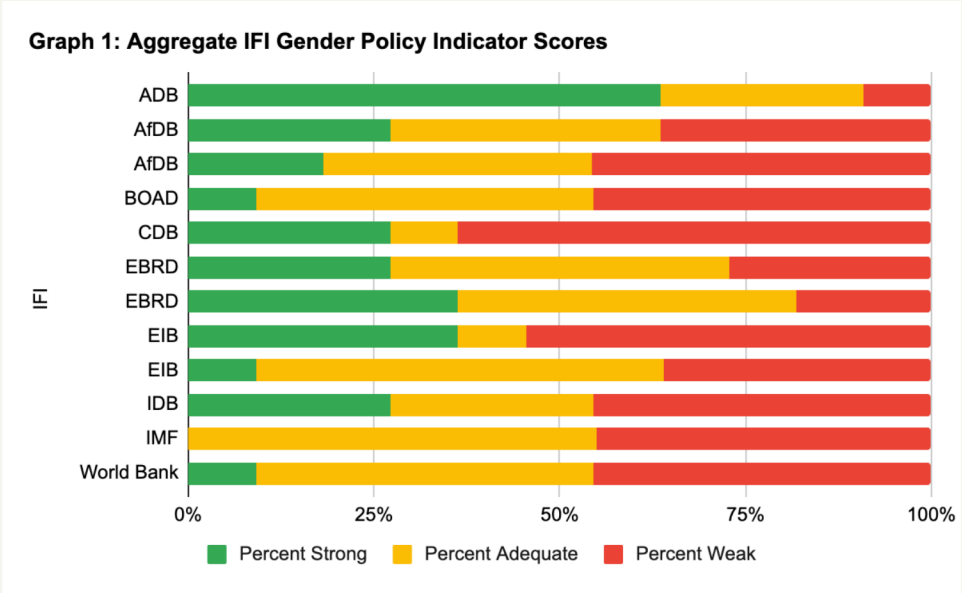
IFIs' Rhetorical Gender & Climate Promises

What did we analyze? The box below lists the gender policies and Environmental and Social Frameworks (ESFs) we analyzed. We also highlight which documents were new.

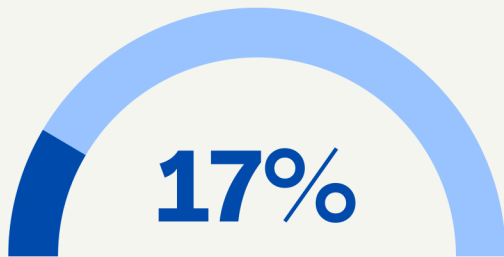
IFIs	Gender policies	ESFs
African Development Bank (AfDB)	✓✓(new)	✓(new draft)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	✓	✓
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	(no policy exists)	✓(new)
West African Development Bank (BOAD)	✓	✓
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)	✓	✓
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	✓✓(new)	✓
European Investment Bank (EIB)	✓✓	✓(new)
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	✓(new)	✓(new)
IDB Invest	(no policy exists)	✓(new)
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	(subject to World Bank policy)	✓
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	✓(new)	(no ESF exists)
New Development Bank (NDB)	(no policy exists)	✓
World Bank	✓	✓

What were our indicators? We developed a set of 12 cross-cutting gender-sensitive indicators to score the gender policies, along with 13 indicators for the ESFs. Multiple indicators, including our Climate, Environment and Biodiversity, and our Gender Dimension of Debt indicators, are new.

How did the international financial institutions (IFIs) score? We present the scores for the gender policies, followed by the ESFs. On gender policies, ADB, EBRD, and AfDB scored most highly, while the IMF, which released its first gender policy in 2022, did not receive a single Strong score.



Insights from scoring gender policies and ESFs



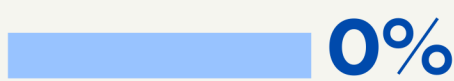
Only 17% of the ESFs scored highly on our Gender Mandate/Safeguard indicator. Equally, only 17% received a strong score for their commitment to protecting women and sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) against harm.



While IFIs must apply a gender lens to all aspects of their work, women, men and gender and sexual minorities will benefit and not be harmed by IFI projects only if IFIs abandon their neoliberal austerity and privatization requirements that frame and permeate all their activities.

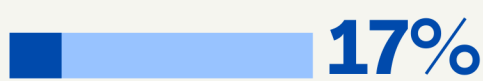
While the IFIs we analyzed scored highly on their **Goals and Priorities**, very few had in-depth monitoring frameworks in place—suggesting that IFIs lacked adequate ways to ensure they are meeting their stated goals.

Here are some other takeaways, showing the percentage of Strong scores that IFIs received:



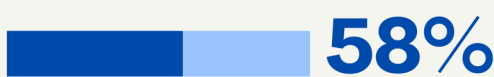
Gender Monitoring & Evaluation

Not a single ESF scored highly on the monitoring & evaluation indicator.



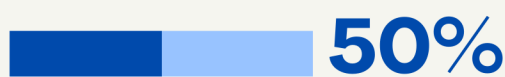
Gender and Climate Change

Aside from ADB's, the gender policies scored very weakly on our climate indicator. The biodiversity indicator fared worse, with only 8% strong scores. Women bear these burdens most intensely.



Mechanisms to Engender Operations

This is the top-scoring indicator for the gender policies.



Unpaid Care Work

Many gender policies now acknowledge the unpaid care burden on women—but few take steps to resolve it.



Too few requirements

Many ESFs and gender policies nod to the possibility of training staff members on gender issues, but few say outright that their gender-based training programs are mandated for all staff.

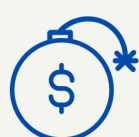


No discussion of debt-based financing

One prerequisite for IFIs to achieve gender equality in project-affected communities is by providing grant-based funding only. Yet few IFIs acknowledge the harmful impact of debt financing.

Recommendations for IFIs

IFIs must integrate gender fully into their ESFs. While the gender policies overall tend to present big ideas or commitments for ensuring gender equality, in the ESFs we do not see that same attentiveness to gender issues.



Debt-based financing remains an elephant in the room. The only way to achieve gender equality in project-affected regions is for IFIs to adopt grant-based funding across all of their projects.

IFI gender policies and ESFs must require gender equal rights mandates. Mandates should be a baseline requirement of any gender-sensitive project policy. All gender policies and ESFs must require that projects prevent harm to women, men, and SGMs.



ESFs must acknowledge and address the gendered impacts of climate change. All gender policies and ESFs must require gender-sensitive environmental and climate change impact risk assessments in project-affected areas.

IFIs can do better incorporating gender into resettlement policies. While it is heartening that IFIs have adequate resettlement policies, IFIs continue to leave gender issues as an afterthought. When resettlement happens, women tend to bear the biggest burden.



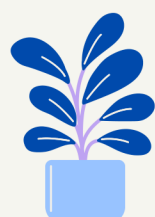
GenderAction



Gender policies and ESFs must incorporate SGMs throughout their policies. IFIs must expand anti-discrimination and harassment policies, grievance and accountability mechanisms, and staff training to counter discrimination against SGMs.

ESFs need to track gender-based risk within their Environmental and Social Assessments prior to project launch.

IFIs must not only study how their actions might particularly impact the lives of women and SGMs, but they should also require that projects develop plans to mitigate and avoid gender-based risks.



Gender policies must recognize and reward unpaid care work. IFIs should promote policies that remunerate and compensate women for their care work. Gender equality cannot be achieved until women's care work is recognized, spread around more equally, and compensated.

IFIs need stronger protections against both sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH). Only a third of gender policies and a quarter of ESFs received strong scores on their protections against SGBV and SEAH.

