Innovations to Close Gender Data Gaps: The LGBTQ+ Opportunity

9th United Nations Global Forum On Gender Statistics
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Economic development institutions are articulating gender equality that is inclusive of LGBTQ+ people

- World Bank Group, Draft Gender Strategy 2024 - 2030
- Inter-American Development Bank's ESPF Standard 9
- Asian Development Bank's GESI Strategy, South Asia
- USAID’s LGBTQI+ Inclusive Development Policy

Historical gender programming has not included LGBTQ+ people, nor captured the impact of homophobia or transphobia

Going beyond the traditional binary leads to stronger outcomes in development
Great Challenges

Criminalization of same-sex acts, gender identity
Few legal protections
Social stigma
Violence
Labor market discrimination
Poverty
Limited financial resources
Exclusion from Development
LGBTQ+ Data Needs are Significant

Large quantitative gaps, constricting knowledge and contributing to invisibility

Data-driven policy and impact evaluations on current interventions are limited

Few nationwide data collection efforts, even fewer by NSOs

Research predominantly led by LGBTQ+ NGOs - i.e. citizen generated data
Program Logic Model

1. Data
   Baseline assessments, often citizen-generated, showing extent of problem

2. Roundtables
   Culling all data, bringing together and sensitizing all stakeholders, develop policies and interventions

3. NSO Data
   Partnering with NSOs, designing nationwide & rigorous diagnostics, producing knowledge

4. Scale-up 1-3
   Mainstreaming and targeted programs, better policies, utilize new mechanisms
Survey of LGBTQ+ people in Caribbean as well as diaspora. Capturing challenges in family, school, health, work, housing, violence, justice, brain drain

$n = 2,167$

Quantitative 1

Survey of prospective tourists to the Caribbean. Capturing link between perception of LGBTQ+ issues & likelihood to travel

$n = 1,435$

Quantitative 2

In-depth interviews with business leaders, across sectors. Capturing occupation segregation, labor market discrimination

$n = 21$

Qualitative

Using World Bank model, estimated lost costs associated with lower human capital, health, labor, violence, and tourism

Cost: around 2.1% GDP

Macroeconomic Modeling
Honing in on the data

**Family:** 46% LGB and 57% trans sample faced exclusion, 18% of non-LGBTQ+ sample

**Schools:** 57% LGB and 68% trans sample faced persistent bullying from peers & teachers

**Employment:** 19% LGB and 26% trans sample faced discrimination, 11% of non-LGBTQ+ sample. Wage gap: LGBTQ+ 11% less than general population

**Violence:** 46% LGB and 59% trans sample, physical or verbal violence, 5% of non-LGBTQ+ sample
Would you consider visiting the Caribbean in the next 3 years?

Likelihood to travel only AFTER pro-LGBTQ+ policy is enacted
Data-Driven Policy Dialogue

4 organizations & UNDP
- 5 MPs across the region
- 2 Speakers of the House
- IACHR and UN IE SOGI
- Large companies and SMEs
- All levels of development

The Caribbean Regional Dialogue on LGBTQI+ D.A.T.A. Roundtable
Driving Analytical, Transformative Action
Working with NSOs – Belize and Beyond

Tripartite agreement with Statistical Institute of Belize, United Belize Advocacy Movement (UniBAM), Eolas Consulting - with support from the World Bank

Phase 1, a piloting of two different methods to effectively collect data on LGBTQ+ people (e.g. a module in an existing nationwide survey or a standalone survey) in the first year – in order to compare which is more effective in terms of reach and representativeness

Phase 2, the official data collection – culminating in a rigorous and first-ever endeavor for Belize, in the second year
Our Target Future

**2023 – 2024**
Belizean diagnostic, Work with NSO in Belize, Nationwide data collection to Inform state action plan

**2024 – 2025**
Work with the World Bank, developing entry points for analytics, programs, lending, dialogue, and more

**2025 – 2026**
Develop regional LGBTQ+ economic agenda, with development, govs, the private sector - data, programs, policy

**Onwards**
Seek to replicate around the world, generating data to work with NSOs, govs, and development
The Role of Development

109 Billion per year
US Dollars

- Support to NSOs on statistical capacity, via Bank Budget or Trust Funds
- In-country, leveraging “symbolic messaging” in HQ to support implementation
- Partnering on safe data collection and its usage
- Identifying the most pressing needs, for the most vulnerable
- Dialogue to support coordinated strategy; how to increase “client demand”
- Capacity to officially access funding, programs
"We need data. We are trying to make [our research] as academic as possible...We need support to get that data. In order to be able to provide good services, we need information on what the needs are"

- AJ, in Jamaica
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Thank You