

## **PforR: Consulting on the Results of the Two-Year Review**

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### **Presentation at the Brookings Institution FEEDBACK SUMMARY**

- As part of the two year review process for the Program-for-Results (PforR) instrument, the PforR review team organized a seminar at the Brookings Institution in Washington DC in order to share the findings of the two year review of the PforR instrument with civil society organizations (CSO), think tanks and private sector representatives in Washington DC. This is part of a series of events planned around the main findings to seek inputs of various stakeholders.
- The objective of the consultations meeting was to share the main findings of the Program-for-Results (PforR) two-year review and find out if those match the experience and observations of stakeholders and seek any additional observations or inputs the participants had.
- The meeting brought together 34 participants from civil society, private sector, development partners, and others. (Annex one includes a list of participating organizations).
- The meeting was chaired by Jeff Gutman from the Brookings. Linda Van Gelder and Jeff Gutman introduced the PforR instrument and outlined the process for the 2 year review and Fadia Saadah Fadia Saadah, Manager from the World Bank's Operations Policy & Country Services, presented the main findings of the two-year review, which was followed by a facilitated discussion.
- This summary highlights the main ideas from a rich discussion and reflects many of the examples shared on the PforR instrument.

#### **Highlights of the discussion**

- Overall, the event was well received as another opportunity to seek input and feedback as part of the two year review of PforR instrument. Participants welcomed this engagement and urged that the Bank should also consider engaging countries where it has operations in order to increase the scope of reach which will also be an opportunity to engage local CSOs' participation. The WB team noted that the in country consultations are being planned and they will be open to various stakeholders in that country.

- Questions and clarifications were sought on the Environment and Social Systems Assessments (ESSAs), how it works and the experience with this approach to date. The WB Specialists reviewing these assessments explained that they have been working well and that Program activities present low to moderate environmental or social risks and they have all been screened for exclusions defined through the policy (OP 9.00). The team also gave examples of how the ESSAs can build on existing knowledge help identify areas for strengthen institutional capacity. Anti-Corruption Guidelines (ACGs) were flagged as one of the areas that has caused concerns. Some of the issues pertained with the existing countries legal framework and systems and in others areas it was about the perception that these are intrusive and have contributed to limit the scope of PforR operations. Some participants asked for further details and the WB team explained that the feedback received was not about the principles behind the ACGs but rather about how they relate to the country legal system and that with some clarifications those issues can be addressed while maintaining the principles and substance.
- Clarification on the reasons behind the Human Development (HD) sector lagging in the number of PforR Operations (3) was sought. The demand seems to be low in that sector; however HD typically has a small portion (25%) of the bank's overall portfolio. Nevertheless, the pipeline is strong with several Health and Education operations in various stages of preparation.
- A question on whether lifting the cap would lead to the PforR instrument being scaled up was raised. The WB team indicated that this is a decision for the World Bank's Board of Directors.
- Another point raised was regarding the complaints or grievance mechanisms and how robust they were.
- On the topic of hybrid operations (i.e. where there is an Investment operation with a PforR), questions were raised about the policy guidance and applicability. Bank staff explained that in the case of hybrid operations, the IPF components will have to follow the IPF policies and PForR will follow PforR policies. However, hybrids are in general more complex and hence the uptake is likely to be limited but they remain an option for countries that wish to use them.
- Regarding the topic of sustainability of the Bank's financing, PforR supports existing Government program which ensures that the Bank's involvement impact is maximized and would not end at the end of the program or change of Government. These aspects are addressed in the expenditure and economic analysis that are required as part of the technical assessment for each operation.
- A question was raised as to whether the instrument is being applied in too much of a risk adverse manner.
- The Bank Information Center (BIC) representative notified the group that they have done their own assessment of the PforR operation in Vietnam; they will share the final report with the PforR team. The World Bank team welcomed BIC's contribution to the review and also noted that the WB team in Hanoi has provided significant inputs and access to the BIC review for their various requests.