

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

MENA Region

FEEDBACK SUMMARY

- As part of the consultative process for the two year review for the PforR instrument, the World Bank carried out a consultation with stakeholders in Tunisia and Morocco. The World Bank Group held a consultations meeting on September 10, 2014 and locations were conducted via videoconferencing.
- 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 about 11 participants. (Annex one includes a list of participating organizations).
- Fadia Saadah, Manager from the World Bank's Operations Policy & Country Services chaired the meeting and Anita Ambrose, member of the World Bank's PforR review team, presented the main findings of the two-year review in French, 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.

Main Issues Raised

The summary is organized around two main topics. First, the feedback around the main findings of the review and the results reflected the experience of the participants. The second topic is on areas of improvement.

Do the overall findings of the review match your experience with PforR? If not, what has been your experience/impression?

Tunisia

The World Bank's Tunisia representative indicated that Tunisia currently has one approved PforR that was recently approved, and as such the experience with the instrument was limited. Based on discussions with the counterparts and teams, it was confirmed that the findings presented by the PforR review team are in line with the Tunisian experience so far. It was noted that the Tunisian government liked the instrument for the potential that can help move the reform

agenda forward, provide disbursements based on results and its focus on capacity building. However, it is also too early to discuss how implementation will be as there is no experience on that yet. In Tunisia, some of the DLIs are quite ambitious, so it is risk but can also be transformational as some DLIs require approval by parliaments etc. To this end, it is important to communicate and continue the dialogue so that all stakeholders understand what it takes to achieve the results.

Morocco

The participants confirmed that the main findings of the PforR review were a good reflection of their experience with the instrument in Morocco. They indicated that the instrument provides real opportunities and has a large potential for impact in a variety of sectors. They appreciate the use of PforR because it corresponds to the country's context which involves reforms focusing on results. However, DLIs definition and verification protocols are a real challenge in the preparation of initial PforR operations.

Participants stressed that DLIs should be realistic and that the lag between results achievement and result verification should be short. The Bank team responded that there is such an option and it works in a similar way to that of other instruments.

Participants stressed that they appreciated the flexibility of the PforR instrument but pointed out that it is difficult to capitalize on experiences so far as it is too short compared to the use of IPF. Participants agreed that as both teams and clients gained more experience with the PforR instrument that this would lead to stronger operations and alleviate potential issues.

Participants noted that PforR changed the nature of the interaction with the World Bank and with other development partners. However, it is important to invest in communication and outreach early on since future partnerships will depend on this initial investment.

Participants also noted that in the case of Morocco, PforR has facilitated better partnership with the EC as the instrument has allowed for financing of the same programs, an option that was not as easy to do before the introduction of the instrument.

Suggestions to enhance the PforR Instrument

- Make sure the Bank keeps policy dialogues on PforR on a higher level and to make sure that clients are aware of the instrument's many facets.
- Find a way with PforR to leverage money from other donors such as the AfDB, EU, etc. and to promote partnerships.
- Focus on the DLIs definition rather than the values. The formulation of DLIs was noted as one of the more complex aspects of the PforR instrument and the Bank was urged to promote trainings, both for clients and staff, on this topic.

- Make more efforts in terms of communication, training and monitoring since more operations with important social impacts are under preparation. Therefore, it is important to put in place all the conditions needed for this experience to be successful.

Please contact pferrinfo@worldbank.org with any questions or comments.