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Comments on the Systematic Country Diagnostic and Country Partnership Framework

Submitter: Rachel Wagley, US Campaign for Burma

May 23, 2014

Dear SCD/CPF Team,

I am writing to provide a brief update on the concerns about the SCD/CPF consultations in Burma/Myanmar that we have received from our Burmese and ethnic civil society partners.

- The consultation timeline is very short, and in several cases, civil society participants were not given sufficient time to prepare for these consultations.
- The first consultation for civil society was held on February 26, but only 8 people representing 7 civil society organizations attended. The invitation for the Wednesday consultation did not go out until the Friday beforehand. Since many people could not access the internet in that time period to view the invitation, they either could not attend or did not have time to prepare for a meaningful dialogue.
- There seems to be no coordination between World Bank staff operating in different sectors/projects. Both Metta Development Foundation and Kachin Peace Network received calls from the education and health teams for information. They met and exchanged information with the teams, but they did not realize that these meetings were considered by the Bank teams to be part of the SCD consultations.
- There is concern that because agriculture, a sector that overwhelmingly impacts the rural population, will be one of the main focuses of the SCD/CPF, the Bank will not obtain a full picture of the needs of the impacted population if it only consults with groups in urban areas. Upstream risk assessments, sector analyses, a country safeguards assessment, and a robust consultation process are critical in ensuring that the Bank acquires a comprehensive, macro analysis of the problems facing the rural population, and in ensuring that the CPF is effective in meeting its development goals.

- Civil society groups encourage the Bank to expand the number and breadth of townships where consultations take place, and to ensure that rural populations are also reached and consulted.
- Civil society groups encourage the Bank to consider translating documents into the main ethnic languages, or, at the very least, to allow sufficient time for civil society and ethnic actors to translate documents into ethnic languages themselves and otherwise prepare for these consultations.
- Civil society groups encourage the Bank to ensure that information is accessible to people with disabilities, people of different ethnic groups, people of different education backgrounds, etc.
- Civil society groups encourage Bank consultation facilitators to listen, take notes, and tangibly respond to and reflect on civil society concerns.
- It is our understanding that the consultation process has improved over the past month. Responding to civil society requests, the World Bank agreed to reimburse travel costs for one participant per organization during the May 19-May 23 consultations that took place in 5 different townships.

US Campaign for Burma is grateful for the opportunity to submit these comments. We look forward to engaging further to ensure that the SCD/CPF strategy is positively implemented in Burma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Wagley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Wagley
Policy Director
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