

Looking Ahead: Preparing a New World Bank Group Country Strategy for Myanmar

Myanmar is in the midst of a triple transition – from an authoritarian military system to democratic governance, from a centrally directed to a market-oriented economy, and from sixty years of conflict to peace in its border areas. These transitions have the potential to **reduce absolute poverty** and **boost shared prosperity** for the people of Myanmar, the twin goals that the World Bank Group has committed to achieving globally. To support the Government and people of Myanmar to achieve these goals, the World Bank Group is developing a new country strategy to guide its program in Myanmar over the coming years.

In developing a new country strategy, the World Bank Group will take a deliberate and consultative approach to (i) identifying and addressing the most critical opportunities and challenges that are linked to ending absolute poverty and boosting shared prosperity; and (ii) within these, identifying areas where World Bank Group support would be most effective. In keeping with its new global approach to preparing country strategies, the first part of this work will be done through the conduct of a **Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD)** to identify critical steps to end absolute poverty and boost shared prosperity in Myanmar. The SCD will then provide inputs towards the preparation of a **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)**. The CPF will succeed the current Interim Strategy that was agreed in November 2012.

The following is a brief description of these products, their objectives and how they relate to one another:

SYSTEMATIC COUNTRY DIAGNOSTIC (SCD)

What it is: The SCD is a systematic and evidence-based identification of Myanmar's priorities for ending absolute poverty and boosting shared prosperity. In particular, it seeks to **identify and prioritize** opportunities, constraints and challenges, as well as risks to achieving these two goals. The SCD will focus on four issues:

- Profile of the poor: To determine the characteristics and locations of the poor in Myanmar.
- Pathways to ending absolute poverty and boosting shared prosperity: To identify activities that have a strong direct or indirect link to these goals given the profile of the poor.
- Opportunities, challenges, and risks along the pathways: To identify opportunities on which to build and constraints to remove.
- Priority areas of intervention: To identify the most critical interventions identified by the SCD process.

How it works: The SCD helps identify and prioritize key opportunities and challenges based on evidence and consultations with key technical experts and stakeholders. Consultations will specifically seek to gain insight from stakeholders on the following:

- Along the pathways identified for ending absolute poverty and boosting shared prosperity what are the key opportunities and challenges, and which are the most critical?
- Which are the most critical interventions for dealing with the identified constraints??
- Which important issues to the stated goals fall outside the framework?

Additionally, it is hoped that the analysis of the SCD will also be useful to Government and other stakeholders.

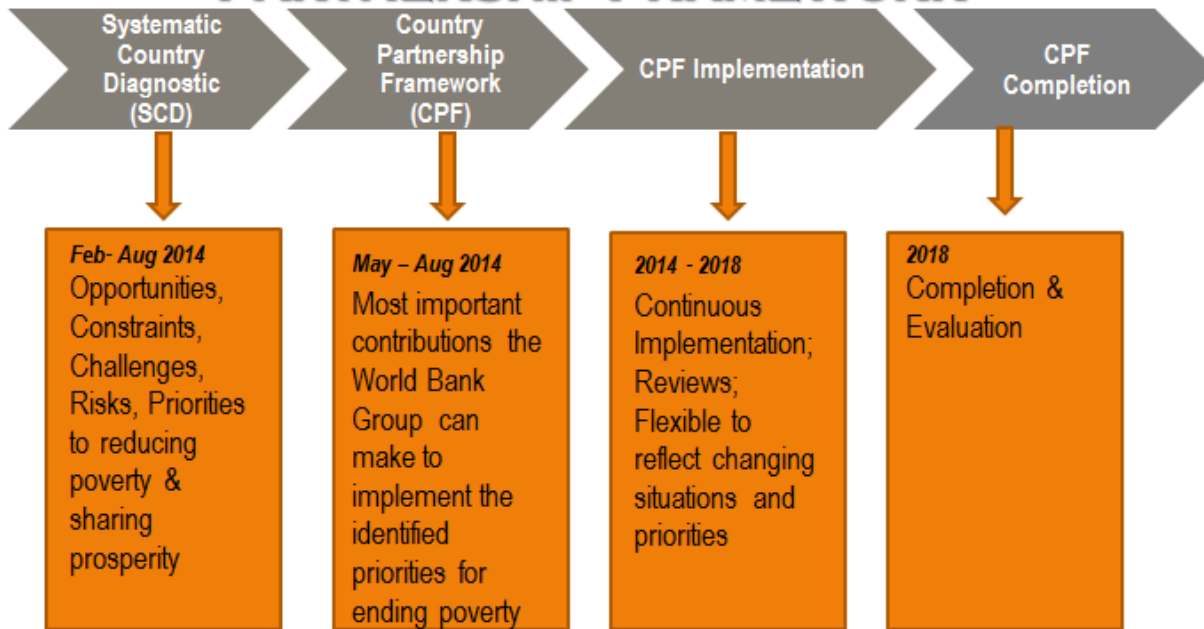
COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK (CPF)

What it is: The World Bank Group is in the process of preparing a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) to succeed the Interim Strategy Note (agreed in November 2012) and to guide the WBG's engagement in Myanmar over the coming year years. This process will involve consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including government counterparts, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to draw on existing knowledge and experience. It will also build on other diagnostic processes, in particular the SCD, to determine priority areas and structure The World Bank Group's engagement strategy.

How it works: A consultation plan and timeline will be developed in the coming months, and posted on the World Bank Group website for comments. Materials, invitations and summaries of consultation meetings will also be posted here as they become available.

An initial consultation for the SCD will take place on February 26th. Details will follow on The World Bank Myanmar website.

MYANMAR: PRELIMINARY TIMELINE FOR PREPARATION OF COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK



HELPING SHAPE THE CPF 2014-2018 FOR MYANMAR

