

## **Non-State Armed Group & Civil Society Consultation on the World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Myanmar, Chiang Mai, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**

A meeting with Non State Armed Group and civil society representatives was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on July 11th, 2014 as part of a series of consultation meetings to inform the World Bank Group's new Country Partnership Framework and priorities emerging from the Systematic Country Diagnostic for Myanmar. The list of NASG and CSO representatives who participated in the meeting is attached hereto as Annex A.

Following is a brief summary of input and feedback received from the meeting, organized under seven broad themes discussed: Operations and stakeholder engagement, Securing the Political Transition, Agricultural Development, Private Sector Development, Electricity, Health and Education Transportation and Communications.

***Note:** Numbers (eg. **(3)**, **(6)** etc) in brackets indicate the number of times that a particular point was made by different participants during the meeting.*

### ***Operations and Stakeholder Engagement***

- There is a need for the WBG to increase the transparency of its operations, and coordination and trust building with local organizations operating on the ground. **(4)**
  - This would ensure that WBG projects are based on thorough and accurate knowledge of the local context in addition to international expertise. **(2)**
  - WBG should help to find a way to reconcile the people's vision of development with that of the government.
- The WBG should try to find a way to make these consultations more effective **(4)**.
  - The organization of this consultation was not well managed. Invitations and information were only received at the last minute.
  - Even though WBG is a government to government organization, there should also be regular consultations with non state actors.
  - Please disclose the full text of the SCD and the CPF, as the documents we have seen so far are not comprehensive.
  - There should be more meetings and more opportunity to develop and understanding of the documents and issues covered.
  - Please support us to be better able to participate in these consultations.
  - Conduct public consultations throughout the SCD-CPF process as we feel that we do not yet have a genuine chance to be involved in the decision making.

- Do not only support capacity development for government, especially during the ceasefire period, as this will change the balance of power. Support should also be provided for non-state actors. Try to find ways to work directly with the ethnic minorities and with the alternative health and education mechanisms that have been established in ethnic areas. **(3)**
- WBG needs to be aware of the inaccuracy of information put out by government on paper, and try to avoid the use of politically sensitive 'language of government' in WBG documents. **(2)**.
  - Try to understand the difference between what is on paper and what happens in real life.
- Although almost all sectors need to be reformed, the most basic reform that is needed is the constitution. The WB should find effective ways to indirectly support constitutional reform such as educating the farmers on constitutional issues during the consultation process.
- Be aware that the primary problem in Myanmar is not poverty, but a lack of political judgment and ethnic inequality.
- WBG should work towards the UN Development goals by directly addressing the needs of women **(2)** and children.
- The WBG safeguard policies need to be better enforced. WBG has an obligation to follow standard best practice policies like Free Prior Informed Consent. It is essential that WBG take great care to ensure that human rights abuses do not occur as a result of WBG projects.
- WBG should consider operating under a second ISN rather than developing a CPF.
- The WBG should consider migrant issues such as statelessness, and health and education for migrants in the country development plan.

### *Securing the Political Transition*

- Please ensure that all WBG project are conflict sensitive. **(2)**.
  - WBG should conduct through research on the ground to ensure that WB projects do not exacerbate conflicts in ethnic areas.
- WBG should assist the banking sector to ensure the stability of our Myanmar Kyat.

### *Agricultural Development*

- WBG should not focus agricultural development only on trade; food security and environmental protection are important priorities.
- WBG should be sure to protect the rights and livelihoods of small holders when designing agricultural development projects in Myanmar.
- The support to Yoma Bank will not reach into the hands of the small scale farmers.

### *Land Governance*

- WBG should consider working on the issue of land governance. If WBG does work on land rights, please try to support the rights of ethnic and marginalized people, and ensure that customary land rights are recognized.

### *Private Sector Development*

- WBG should ensure that SMEs are consulted in the SCD-CPF process as the cronies have a stranglehold on the business and SMEs are facing many difficulties.
- The ethnic minorities have asked for a moratorium on FDI in primary natural resource extraction in their areas.

### *Electricity*

- In regard to electricity production and distribution the WBG should support small projects and alternative technologies and off-grid electrification systems. WBG should not support mega-dams or coal fired plants.
- For the gas turbine power plant that is currently being supported in Thaton, WBG should ensure that the local people benefit and that the power is not just fed into the national grid.

### *Health and Education*

- The health and education sectors needs more than infrastructure development, please also work to raise the standard of services provided. **(2)**
- There is also an urgent need for educational reforms, such as decentralization, making education more inclusive through the use of local languages and non formal education programs. Myanmar needs to establish a department of non formal education.
- Please develop long term comprehensive health and education strategies. Many international donors are coming and promising support such as teachers' salaries, but then this assistance does not materialize.
- In regard to investing in people, please study the systems being delivered by non-state actors, and consider the most effective methods for convergence. These services have been operating in the conflict areas for many years and should be supported.
- WBG should not only support not only basic education. Higher education is also very important. Please consider the provision of university scholarships.

### *Transport ation and Communications*

- The WBG should support transport connectivity, but it is essential that careful studies are conducted in advance on the impact that road development would have on security, the drug trade, the environment etc. WBG should not build more (or bigger) roads than necessary. It is important to think about which areas should be kept intact for ecological purposes.

## Annex A

No.	Name	Organization
1	Saw Kolo Htoo	Karen Teachers Working Group/Karen Education Department
2	Khu Oo Reh	Karenni National Progressive Party
3	Mo Solomon	<i>Organization name unclear</i>
4	Aung Moe Myint	Radio Free Asia
5	Sai Oo	Pyidaungsu Insitute
6	Saw David Thakabaw	United Nationalities Federal Council
7	Wah Lar shwe	Womens' League of Burma
8	Steve Thompson	Karen Environmental and Social Action Network
9	Duncan McArthur	The Border Consortium
10	Ursula Cats	We Women Foundation
11	Sara Zondag	Jungle School of Medicine-Kawthodei
12	Monn Nay Li	Kachin Women's Association
13	Paul Sein Twa	Karen Environmental and Social Action Network/BEWG
14	Twan Zaw	Arakan National Council
15	Khun Myint Tun	Pa-Oh National Liberation Organization
16	Hkun Okker	United Nationalities Federal Council
17	Jason Gilbert	<i>Organization name unclear</i>
18	Sai Aung	Network Media Group
19	Alex	Karen Environmental and Social Action Network
20	<i>This participant did not want his or her name published.</i>	
21	Frankie	TRIP NET
22	Kyaw Kyaw Min Htut	BEAM Education Foundation
23	Jennifer Leehey	Chaing Mai University (RCSD)