

Development Partner Consultation on World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework for Myanmar, Yangon, 3rd July 2014

A meeting with development partner representatives was held in Yangon, on 3rd July 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 development partner representatives who participated in the meeting is attached hereto as Annex A.

Following is a brief summary of input and feedback received from the development partner representatives, organized under four broad themes discussed: Operations and Coordination, Public Financial Management, Private Sector Development, and Access to Finance.

Operations and Stakeholder Engagement

- I would like to suggest that the WBG consider bringing out cross-cutting issues such as gender and conflict sensitivity in the CPF. Although the WBG may not have programs focused on these issues I am sure that they are important considerations in the development of your programs. I am thinking particularly in regard to Rakhine State. We are trying to encourage our development partners to think about how the situation there affects our ability to deliver projects, how those projects can potentially exacerbate the tensions in those areas, and also on how to use the opportunities available to raise concerns with government on these kinds of issues.
- The WBG should ensure that it has adequate human resources in country to work on the areas that that it chooses to prioritize. Myanmar is a country where there really is a need to have people on the ground. There is a lot to be gained from developing relations here. There are a lot of development partners and therefore a lot of coordination is needed. There is also a lot that needs to be done in terms of coordination with government as well. It would therefore be beneficial for all Task Team Leaders to be based in Yangon and also for adequate support staff to be based here as well.
- The development partners need to consider how we can further develop the aid coordination mechanisms and improve coordination in Myanmar. The aid coordination here has been fairly successful so far, but it is not fully established and is not set up to manage aid of the proportions that is coming into Myanmar these days. We are doing fairly well to collectively push for aid effectiveness and donor coordination, and the division of labor is working to a certain extent. However I think that we can see that in the sectors that are crucial to development in this country, pretty much everybody is going into these sectors. As we are not yet at the stage yet of dividing responsibilities on a sectoral basis, so we will need to continue to coordinate closely within each sector.
- The WBG has an opportunity to develop a mechanism for coordination with the INGO community to ensure that interventions are built on existing successes. Over the past 10 years here it has gone from an environment where implementing organizations were largely responsible for getting things done, to one in which they are rarely involved in the decision making around how funds are used. This is of course a natural evolution of the situation, but I wonder to what extent these huge investments and the strategies being developed at the moment really do understand the good things that have happened in terms of integrated development solutions at the community level and build on these. While there have been

lots of consultations and attempts to ensure that there is synergy and that geographical differences are taken into consideration, I believe that there is a sense that not only is the INGO community a bit crowded out, but also that some of the interventions will not build on existing successes but will build new things. This may be unfounded but maybe it speaks to a gap in the coordination.

- The decentralization process that we hope will take place in Myanmar over the next 20 years or so is going to be very interesting, with large investments going through government and but also increased investments at the community level through organizations that are working there and through local civil society. I wonder whether the WBG could consider working on the strengthening of local civil society. Myanmar is ranked as No. 2 in the world for public philanthropy. There is a developed but highly disorganized civil society and we are all looking to civil society to be the future of community approaches.
- The WBG should be aware of the negative consequences that increasing domestic migration is causing for the poor in Myanmar. A lot of poor households in Myanmar are moving domestically and internationally. In the past we could easily identify where the poor were, but now it is much more difficult. In the South East, in almost all ethnic villages there are now households of semi-permanent or temporary migrants. They are not counted on village household lists, and yet sometimes they make up as much as 25 % of households in the village. These people are invisible. While migration is a copying strategy, the lives these migrants lead is one of social exclusion. They do not participate in village life. Their children do not have access to schools even though they are in walking distance. We also see the emergence of new small villages made up of these migrants within the village tract

Public Financial Management

- It would be useful to include a section in the CPF on the work being done on financial sector supervision.

Private Sector Development

- The WBG should consider developing a State Economic Enterprise Reform Plan. There are some 40 State Economic Enterprises (SEEs) here. They are present in every industry, and are big players in the transport sector and many other sectors as well. They are therefore very important for poverty reduction. Therefore perhaps what is needed is some kind of targeted SEE Reform plan, that would cover prioritization amongst the different SEES, rather than having this woven into the different sectoral programs.
- Development partner support to the private sector and private investment, is very relevant and important, as a country of this size should not become aid dependant. However we need to be very careful about what to select in these areas as there is also a huge interest from international investors. The WBG should work with other development partners to determine which aspects of private sector support international donors should work on and which should be left to international or domestic investors.
- The WBG should consider working on linking the private sector organizations to impact investing through implementing organizations. There are quite a few examples of successful CRS transforming into impact investing from private companies. We would like to see that grow both for local and international civil society, and where possible moving beyond CSR more towards value chain

development – doing CSR differently so it is not just window dressing. This would need a considerable amount of high level influence.

Access to Finance

- There is a desperate need to develop micro-insurance market in Myanmar at the community level .

Annex A

No.	Name	Organization
1	Htet Htet Aung	<i>No organization listed</i>
2	Thom Adcoch	Department for International Development (UK)
3	Saw Eh Law Hsin	Consortium of Dutch NGOs
4	Taohid Ibwe Farid	Action Aid
5	Chris Simet	<i>Permission to publish only name.</i>
6	Alberto Nenhgini	European Union
7	Richard Harrison	Pact
8	Tom Lambert	<i>No organization listed</i>
9	Yee Yee Maw	World Wildlife Fund
10	Michiko Ho	International Organization for Migration
11	Susan Lee	Asia Foundation
12	May Thway	Yangon Heritage Trust