

Non-State Armed Group & Civil Society Consultation on the World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Myanmar, Mae Sot, 12th July, 2014

A meeting with Non State Armed Group and civil society representatives was held in Mae Sot, Thailand, on July 12th, 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 eight broad themes discussed: Operations and Stakeholder Engagement, Securing the Political Transition, Agricultural Development, Land Governance, Private Sector Development, Health and Education, Electricity, 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

- The WBG should provide reports on the progress/impact of what has been done under the ISN.
- The WBG should consider developing a second ISN rather than a CPF due to the ongoing political instability and conflict in Myanmar.
- It is important to ensure that local relevant safeguards and grievance procedures are in place to prevent corruption.
- Please ensure that you provide feedback to local communities after conducting surveys and consultations.
- Before the WBG prioritize the types of support to be provided please consider carefully the extent to which the WB can be directly involved in these projects.
- The WB should work in partnership with the people of Myanmar rather than implement projects for the people of Myanmar. Please continue to communicate and coordinate closely with CSOs after the consultations.
- Please do not only have face to face meetings with CSOs, but also take time to read through the reports that they produce to have a deeper understanding of the issues.
- The WBG should listen carefully to the local villagers as well as the government.
- The WBG should Implement a do no harm policy, work as a partner and use technology and innovation in its programming.

Securing the Political Transition

- It is important the WBG listen to both sides (government and ethnic groups) during the political transition.
- The WBG should conduct a comprehensive conflict analysis and should support the development of effective policies and reform of institutions.
- WBG should provide assistance to advance the political dialogue process.
- Development in ethnic areas should take place only after the nationwide cease fire and political dialogue. It is not possible to reduce poverty when there is political instability.

Agricultural Development

- The WBG should support agricultural development **(2)** by
 - providing access to finance for farmers,
 - supporting the development of land management policy **(2)** to ensure the security of land ownership,
 - expanding the land under cultivation
 - improving access to agricultural markets.
 - providing financial and technical assistance to improve quality and produce value added products,
 - providing quality inputs and equipment
 - building the necessary infrastructure for storage.
- The WBG should **NOT** support large mono-plantations and rubber in particular, as it destroys the land and creates water shortages. **(3)**
- The WBG should **NOT** provide microfinance to the farmers because the farmers do not know how to manage the money properly. Microfinance will encourage corruption, increase the debt burden of farmers and create dependency.
- The WBG should **NOT** support FDI in the agricultural sector.
- The WB should **NOT** support agriculture development in ethnic areas due to the political instability, the lack of transparency and the controversy over land rights in these areas. This could potentially be very damaging for ethnic communities.

Land Governance

- The WBG should carefully consider land rights and land ownership in all development projects. It is a critically important issue.

Private Sector Development

- The WBG should **NOT** promote FDI yet, **(3)** as

- the local people do not have sufficient capacity and will end up in low level jobs. Please provide a comprehensive long term vocational training / capacity development opportunities first.
- the legal framework is not sufficiently developed. **(2)**
- The WBG should **NOT** support FDI in the extractive sector.

Health and Education

- The WBG should support convergence of health and education programs **(5)** by,
 - advocating for and supporting decentralization of the health care system including capacity development for the parallel system. The current Universal Health Care Proposal envisages a totally centralized system, and does not in any way consider the effective parallel systems that have been set up in ethnic areas. Decentralization of health care would be in line with the development of a federal solution to Myanmar's problems, increasing centralization of the system at this time would have the opposite effect.
 - helping the government to recognize and understand the scope and capacity of the parallel health and education systems on the border.
 - putting pressure on the government to avoid overlap with locally managed programs and to respect community ownership.
- Please strive to find the most effective way of funding to provide health care directly to the community level such as supporting salaries and providing training and medicines for voluntary / village health workers.
- The WBG should commit to long term development projects to provide basic health care in rural areas.
- The WBG should advocate to support improvement in the quality of teaching; curriculum development, teaching methodology, the teaching of critical thinking skills.
- Please support the use of mother tongue as a medium for basic education.
- The WBG should support the provision of basic and vocational education. **(2)** Basic education is key to the development of all other sectors.

Electricity

- The WBG should support electrification in rural areas, but should contribute to electrification and power supply in a way that does no harm, and should **NOT** support large scale hydropower.

Transportation and Communications

- The WBG should support the development of transportations and communications networks (2) to enable the development of local economies and of the health and education sectors.
- Provide support for irrigation systems and bridge construction in Rakhine State. The lack of bridges is a serious obstacle to educational provision.

Appendix A

No.	Name	Organization
1	Alex Moodie	Burma Partnership
2	<i>This participant did not want his/her name published</i>	
3	Tin Oo	All Arakan Student and Youth Congress
4	Ko Saw Tun	All Arakan Student and Youth Congress
5	Dr.Thin Myat Khine	Karen Department of Health and Welfare
6	Saw Lah Hler	Karen Department of Health and Welfare
7	Eugene	Karen Human Rights Group
8	Rin Fujzimazu	Burma Partnership
9	Mahn Bala Sein	KKB
10	Saw Nay Htoo	Burma Medical Association
11	<i>This participant did not want his/her name published</i>	
12	Naw Lay Dee	Burmese Women's Union
13	Saw Tah Doh Noo	Karen National Organization
14	Ko Gyi Kyaw	Back Pack Health Worker Team
15	Sandy Yuen	Back Pack Health Worker Team
16	Saw Win Kyaw	Back Pack Health Worker Team
17	Wai Nyi Nyi	Minmahaw Education Foundation
18	Chaung Ku	Karen Department of Health and Welfare
19	Amelia	Karen Women's Organization
20	Samantha Carrer	Karen Department of Health and Welfare
21	<i>This participant did not want his/her name published</i>	
22	Dr Khaing Wai Wai Oo	Community Partners International
23	Way Lay	Karen Human Rights Group
24	Naw Ta Mla Eao	Karen Womens' Organization
25	Dr.Min Thaw Htun	International Rescue Committee