The World Bank Group’s Systematic Country Diagnostic

Online Consultation, March-April 2016
The World Bank Group’s new Country Engagement Model was introduced in July 2014.

This included a new feature—the Systematic Country Diagnostic—that would provide an analytical underpinning to the World Bank Group’s work in each of its partner countries.

For more information, see the July 2014 World Bank Group Directive on Country Engagement.
The World Bank Group’s Country Engagement Model

Systematic Country Diagnostic

- Provide analytical foundation for country-level actions and investments based on alignment with poverty/prosperity goals and degrees of impact

Country Partnership Framework

- Prioritize WBG/country engagements based on WBG comparative advantage, resource availability and country-ownership

Performance and Learning Review

- A chance to learn lessons at mid-term, enhance focus, make corrections and recalibrate expected results

Completion and Learning Review

- Holds WBG accountable by taking stock of program performance. Draws lessons at completion to enhance the selectivity design of future CPFs.
The Systematic Country Diagnostic looks at what matters for sustainable poverty reduction and shared prosperity in a country.

The analysis looks at a range of issues in a particular country, and seeks to identify which issues form barriers to and/or create opportunities for sustainable poverty reduction and shared prosperity.
The Systematic Country Diagnostic: At a Glance

• A **diagnostic exercise**, based on the best available evidence, conducted by the WBG in consultation with national authorities and a range of national stakeholders
  - It identifies *key challenges and opportunities* for a country to accelerate progress in **poverty reduction** and **shared prosperity** in a **sustainable** way
  - It is not limited *a priori* to existing areas of WBG engagement in country
  - It is conducted *upstream of the CPF* to inform strategic discussions with clients
  - It is subject to a *robust and contestable* review process

• **Integrative and analytical**, drawing on expertise from across the WBG and partner institutions as appropriate

• A **standalone World Bank Group (World Bank, IFC, MIGA) product**, made public according to the Access to Information policy
  - The SCD is not designed to simply support the CPF; it can be a *valuable resource for governments, citizens and other stakeholders* who are interested in building their policies, recommendations, and actions on a sound analytical foundation.
What a Systematic Country Diagnostic looks like

Based on these questions, the SCD identifies **priority or focus areas** for a country, in order to maximize poverty reduction and welfare improvements among the less well off.

**What are the country’s main issues, in terms of the current trends and patterns in poverty, shared prosperity and sustainability?**

**What are the critical factors driving or constraining economic growth?**

**What are the critical factors determining the inclusiveness of growth, namely increase in welfare of the poor and less well off?**

**How sustainable (environmentally, socially and fiscally) is the current pattern of growth, distribution and poverty reduction?**
Systematic Country Diagnostic Principles

- Synthesize existing knowledge (not limited to WBG’s own work) and complement it with additional analysis as needed
- Be candid about the underlying assumptions and limitations of the evidence; identify data and knowledge gaps
- Take into account country and political context as relevant for poverty reduction and shared prosperity
- Follow the spirit of the WBG goals – incorporating a country’s development goals as consistent with the WBG’s goals for a more impactful analysis
- Follow a flexible model for citizen and partner engagement, eliciting feedback and inputs on the diagnostic through consultations, including with civil society and private sector organizations
April 2014 to January 2016 - rapid progress on SCDs

First concept review meeting on April 17, 2014 (Myanmar). As of January 21, 2016

Concept Reviews (SCD outline and approach endorsed): 52
  Of which decision drafts reviewed (draft of final report reviewed WBG-wide): 41
  Of which completed (publicly available): 28
January 2016: Current SCD Landscape (rapidly evolving)

Blue: Concept reviewed; Green: Decision reviewed; Purple: Completed (publicly available).

http://tab.worldbank.org/t/WBG/views/SCDCountryListSCDStatus/Status?:embed=y&:display_count=no

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Systematic Country Diagnostic is relatively new, and we are working to improve and streamline the process. Please complete the survey, including the questions in the next slides, via the link on the consultation web page.

Thank you!
Question 1

In your opinion, are the principles of and issues covered in the SCD (slides 4-7) sufficient to capture countries’ progress on sustainable poverty reduction and shared prosperity? If no, please explain.
Question 2

Based on what you may have experienced during the development of the SCD in your country, and/or the stated principles and objectives of the SCD, does the current SCD process allow for sufficient engagement with in-country stakeholders? If no, please explain.
Question 3

Based on the configuration of an SCD outlined in slide 6, and the principles outlined in slide 7, what should ideally be the areas of focus of the SCD consultation?
Question 4

Is there anything that would make the SCD more useful?