**Myanmar Country Partnership Strategy**

**First Consultation Workshop, May 22, 2014**

**Taunggyi Civil Society Organizations**

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| **Category** | **Comments from Stakeholders** | **Response** |
|  | I was in Kayah State last week, which is shown as green on the presentation slide. Most townships in Kayah State are very poor. I believe that this data might be inaccurate. | The data for Kayah State unfortunately only covered, the area which was secure. Naturally this was a more prosperous area. We are trying to collect broader, more accurate and up-to -date data. |
| Many poor people have income of less than 1 US$ per day. This is not sufficient to buy food. We need to reduce prices / inflation. |  |
| From the presentation the WB is implementing 6 activities. Does the WB only follow the government’s priorities? | The government is our main client, but the reason we are holding these consultations is to listen to other voices. |
| Can you tell us about the challenges that the WB face in Myanmar before and after transition. | We are not here to describe our work but to listen to and gather your input. |
| How and to what extent do the WB intend to raise the bottom 40% out of poverty  | As the country develops and GDP increases the WB would like to ensure that not only the elite benefit, but that these benefits are also shared to the bottom 40%. |
| It is our experience that the WB only follows the government’s priorities.  | The Government of Myanmar is the WBs partner here, however the consultation that we are having today is part of our effort to ensure that we listen to the voices of other stakeholders.  |
| Does the WB plan to get involved in the Myanmar peace process?  | A plan to support funding through the Myanmar Peace Center is currently under review. |
| **Substance** | The first priority is **agricultural development.** As we know 70% or more of Myanmar people are rural farmers. We need to resolve land conflicts, return confiscated land and increase agricultural productivity. We need to increase mechanization and develop means to protect farmers from bad weather. The second priority is **electricity**. This is fundamental to development of all other sectors. Our current electrical infrastructure was laid in the 1950s. We need to find new hydropower sources in addition to Lawpita. We need to minimize/reduce wastage by setting up multi-transformers. It would be helpful if we could receive technological and financial support so that we could produce these inputs (cable, transformers etc) domestically. **Peace.** If we do not have peace we cannot collect accurate data without which we cannot give our support to what the country really needs. The country needs a comprehensive development framework that includes all divisions and states.  |  |
| The priority is **agricultural development.** We need seeds, appropriate technology, financial support (which is given directly) to farmers. Can such support be channeled thorough CSOs and NGOs that are already in the region on agriculture? In addition to material assistance we need to give technical support. We were not sure whether we should focus on extending the land under cultivation or improving the quality of land already being cultivated. **Access to markets** We need to plan carefully for an open market economic system. Unstable prices and vulnerability to disasters are big problems for farmers. We need to reduce the role of brokers in the agricultural market so that farmers can obtain a better price for their produce.  |  |
| Our priority is **transport connectivity.** We cannot operate a market economy with a poor transportation system and communications infrastructure. These are key to poverty alleviation. The **peace** process is important to improving transportation in Shan State. Political instability and conflict remain enormous challenges.Also we should not forget that our country is among the bottom ten in the world for **corruption, poor governance and lack of transparency.** Our second priority is **education,** particularly farmers’ education. There is currently only one agricultural university at Yezin. Language barriers are also important. Educational programs should be available in ethnic languages. |  |
| Our first priority was **agricultural development.** The issues have already been covered by other groups.When farmers face crisis they, plant poppy, go abroad to work, sell their land, or cut the trees on it. All these have negative impacts. The deforestation around Taunggyi has reduced the availability of water. We need to protect farmers from falling into debt.Land rights need to be rationalize and people need to be educated on their rights. **Health care** was our second priority. We need to develop an accessible health care system for the poor, and ensure that they are treated even if they cannot afford to pay. We need to conduct health awareness training. Plans for development of the health sector need to be made systematically. |  |
|  Our priority was **education**. The majority of children living in the remote areas do not even have access to primary schools. The schools that do exist do not have adequate materials, so how is it possible to provide good education. There is a need to build high schools with boarding facilities to serve groups of villages. There is a need for teaching in the mother tongue, so that children can absorb their lessons. The creation of a quality education system is essential. **Financial system transparency**: Last year the government provided 1 million MMK, but we do not know where that support went. If the WB give funds to the government I would like to suggest the need for a follow up monitoring program to assess the impact. Our second priority was **access to land.** Land confiscation is a problem. If land is confiscated, then the government should provide not only compensation but long term income-generating schemes.  |  |
|  **Education :** both formal and informal**Agricultural development:** We need to improve the quality of produce, provide financial assistance to farmers, to develop effective market policies and systems, and to support entrepreneurs. We need to improve **access to clean water**, both for household use and for farming.  |  |
| **Process** |  | . |