**Myanmar Country Partnership Strategy**

**First Consultation Workshop, Yangon, February 26th, 2014**

**Civil Society Organizations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Comments from Stakeholders** | **Response** |
| **Substance** | **Land Reform** is the most serious concern. Without access to land, the farmers will suffer. When we look at the type of investment, land is the big source of economic development. How much land has been taken away by investment? The FDI is facilitating these land grabs. The institutional reform must be considered seriously when thinking about land reform in the country. There should be a policy to protect land, river and resources. | *We take seriously the issue of landlessness. The issues of land reform and ownership issues are absolutely critical.* |
| **Agriculture:** Agricultural development as a key driver of poverty alleviation in Myanmar. Does the WBG have a special scheme? |  |
| **Resource Mobilization**: More taxation may lead to better service delivery. The WBG should look at alternatives for tax revenue, and the tax base in relation to an increase in agricultural income. Also oil and mining revenue needs to be brought under central control |  |
| **Infrastructure:** The ABD is offering 1 billion for energy. We have been talking to the government about off-grid and on-grid provision of energy. How would the government use the money from the donors to improve the provision in the off-grid? The share of expenditure for the off-gird people should be looked into. You should upgrade the provision of electricity for off-grid. |  |
| **Process** | What is the priority and sequence of different components? | *The client survey is a questionnaire is sent to all the stakeholders and government. Basically, with this instrument, are we doing our job well? With CPF consultations, how best can we support Myanmar in poverty alleviation and boosting prosperity? It will be based on the findings of the SCD. Given the findings of the SCD, how can we move forward with the consultations from the stakeholders? Web-based consultations are an open forum for everyone, especially those who are not included in the face-to-face consultations. Interim strategy note is our current country strategy, which was approved by the board. We also have specific consultation with the government of Myanmar. So, all of these pieces have a role to play in informing the CPF.* |
| How does the WBG SCD differ from consultations with multi-stakeholders?  It is important for the CSO to understand the objective of the World Bank vis-à-vis extreme poverty, as well as the clients for the WBG development dialogue. | T*he primary counterpart is the Ministry of Finance, as well as the Ministry of Planning. Whatever we do should be aligned with the strategy of the country. We also have counterparts with different sector ministries such as the Ministry of Electric Power.* |
| Concern: the timeframe for the SCD is too short—how many consultations does the WBG intend to hold, since there are thousands of CSOs across many issues like land policy. And what about ceasefire areas— How would the WB implement policies for critically poor in these areas? In four years, how much can the WB can realistically address the issue of poverty? | *The WBG* *appreciates that it is a short time period, but we will try within this period to reach as many places as possible. Moreover, poverty reduction in Myanmar requires action more than talking. The sooner we finish talking, the sooner we can start moving on the action. We will try our best to do as much as we can. But it is important to be clear on which areas we should be focusing on. In terms of four years for our partnership framework, this is just the planning period. The WB plans to stay in this country much longer. After four years, a new CPF will be developed taking account of new circumstances and priorities. In fact, after two years, we will have a mid-term review.*  *The four-year period is based on funding cycle not an implementation plan. The WBG is one player helping you, but there are other donors—we will be involved in areas of comparative advantage determined by the SCD. Instead of doing everything, we will select a few areas and devote our resources. Don’t expect that the WB can finance all the sectors.* |
| How are the inputs from CSO being taken into account | *This is the first of many ongoing consultations. There should be adequate time for the CSO to make a contribution. We are planning to hold consultations in Yangon as well as in other townships, as well as meeting CSOs in each state to talk about some of the broader issues on consultation* |
| In the field, the whole schedule of CDD and DRD has been delayed. The community is getting a negative response. Project design from step 1 to 6 was done in three hours. I am very concerned that it could happen on the CPF. | *If you feel that there isn’t enough time, please do let us know. There is a balance between fast-paced demands for rapid action and the need for consultation. We have been accused of being too fast. To maintain the balance between results on the ground and not being rushed into things is important. It is not one time event. It is going to be an ongoing exercise.* |
| In the dry zone, you failed to recognize the role of poor policies as a driver as well as the role of relevant stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the process. How can the CSO be a part of the implementation process? To monitor the enforcement of policy is equally important. How can INGOS help with the delivery and implementation?  Access to energy, information, and education are missing in the analysis. How can we improve the access to energy for rural poor? Internet Connectivity should also be on the agenda. Decentralization can be a quick fix. | *Without the CSOs, we cannot implement the rural development strategy. Without people-centered methodology, it is not possible to implement a development strategy Myanmar. We are doing a CDD program in Chin State. We are providing grants to village tracts and villages in Chin state to be able to undertake projects that the community feels are important. We are implementing with the DRD. We are starting it in Chin because it is one of the poorest.* |
| When you talk about policies in the dry zone, we need to look at past policies. There is no right framework in place. The WBG should consider allocation of resources in hilly regions. The protection of these resources should be a part of WBG’s strategy. It is critical that the CSOs are officially recognized. The CSO’s role has never been taken into account. The government should issue an official decree about the role of the CSOs in the committee for monitoring and evaluation. | *There may be joint meetings between the CSOs and the government. In our activities, we would like to promote that kind of joint venture. We have started along the path toward growing recognition of the CSOs as a partners.* |