

Uganda Country Partnership Framework (CPF): Summary of meetings

Government of Uganda

A number of meetings were held with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the National Planning Authority and relevant ministries, departments and agencies. The main focus of these meetings was to agree on the proposed CPF strategic focus areas and objectives and discuss interventions in support thereof. Some of the issues discussed included:

- Agriculture and private sector growth will drive Uganda's economic growth and poverty reduction
- Balance investments in rural and urban development
- WBG should continue investing in infrastructure, but put more emphasis on productive sectors
- Strong interest in general and sector budget support
- Education is critical, also to achieve health impact and reduce fertility
- Priority investment areas include agriculture, water & sanitation, water for production, social sector service delivery, climate change, energy transmission & distribution, urban development, and private sector development

Citizen engagement

To complement the comprehensive SCD consultations with the public, the WBG also sought the views of Ugandan citizens as part of the CPF consultations. Views were collected through newspaper announcements, the consultation webpage and an online survey. Opinions expressed included:

- Main country priorities are: (i) agriculture; (ii) public service delivery in general; and (iii) private sector competitiveness
- Top five priorities for WBG should be: (i) agriculture; (ii) education; (iii) health; (iv) water & environment; and (v) public sector management
- Need for clear division of labor between development partners

Civil Society

On December 4, 2015, the WBG and the Department for International Development (DFID) met with representatives from the civil society to discuss the proposed strategies of the two institutions. The meeting offered a rich discussion and highlighted a number of key recommendations, such as

- Agriculture is number one development priority
- Invest more in social accountability, engagement with citizens/beneficiaries, and third party monitoring
- Strengthen complementarity and coordination of interventions
- Mind-sets and attitudes are holding back development
- Gender inequality and gender based violence are widespread

- Education, including early childhood development, is critical
- Focus on successes and scale up—let others finance pilots

Academia and think tanks

On January 13, 2016, representatives from the academic community were invited to share their views on the development challenges facing Uganda and how the WBG can best help the Government to address them. A string of recommendations were made, including:

- Private Sector is the delivery mechanism for growth
- Farmer cooperatives can spur agricultural commercialization
- WBG should focus on land tenure insecurity
- Education and demand driven skills development is sector-wide priority
- WBG should promote more pronounced division of labor between development partners
- Focus on accountability and service delivery at the local level
- Youth employment is key priority
- Interventions must be underpinned by research and statistical data. The quality and timeliness of WBG knowledge products is high.

Private sector

On January 15, 2016, the WBG met with representatives from the business community to discuss, among other things, opportunities and constraints for private sector development. The main takeaways included:

- Commercialization of agriculture is priority and should involve the private sector
- Demand driven skills development is precondition for private sector growth. Promote local content!
- SME development entails access to capital and markets
- Investment in tourism has potentially high return
- Constraints to private sector development include infrastructure deficit, licensing and regulation,
- Strengthen financial deepening
- “All the laws and policies have been written—focus on implementation!”

Development partners

A number of meetings have been held with bilateral and multilateral development partners to discuss the proposed CPF strategic focus areas and objectives, particularly to identify opportunities for complementarity and strengthened partnership. Some development partners have been preparing partnership strategies for Uganda concurrently with the WBG, which has offered an opportunity to discuss ways to ensure division of labor. In summary, the meetings highlighted:

- Shared understanding of the development challenges, among which population is paramount
- Proposed WBG focus and objectives are valid
- Inclusive growth through increased revenue mobilization and improved income distribution is critical
- Agricultural productivity is key, but lack of sector leadership and strategic direction
- Uncertainty of land tenure is cross-cutting challenge
- Improving the business environment is critical
- Promote coordination mechanisms, dialogue and planning to strengthen partnerships