

PNG Country Partnership Framework: Consultation with Civil Society

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2018

PNG civil society invited and present included PNG NGO council, The PNG Institute of National Affairs (INA), The Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council (CIMC), PNG Family & Sexual Violence Action Committee (FSVAC), World Vision PNG, PNG Tribal Foundation, Business Coalition for Women (BCFW), PNG Council of churches and PNG Red Cross.

World Bank Group represented by World Bank and IFC Country Offices.

Introduction: Further to consultations with Civil Society on the WBG's Systemic Country Diagnostic (SCD) in Port Moresby, Goroka and Madang in October 2017, detailing the development challenges PNG faces, consultations were held with Civil Society on October 15, 2018 in Port Moresby, on the proposed Country Partnership Framework (CPF). The CPF is the intersect of PNG's third Mid-Term Development Plan (MTDPIII) and the SCD, taking into account the WBG's comparative advantage in certain areas. Following a presentation on the CPF's conceptual framework, the MTDPIII, and the WBG's alignment to the MTDPIII, participants discussed the WBG's country engagement under five topics summarized below.

Direction of the WBG portfolio

- There are new forms of development assistance being introduced in PNG, including various kinds of guarantee mechanisms. Capacities to engage with these new mechanisms varies between and across ministries, provinces and districts.
- There are some areas where there is very limited capacity, or where it is hard to find government capacity to engage with. In this context, the WBG needs to decide where to put its energy: on vulnerable high need areas, or to engage in higher capacity environments where it may have more traction, but the need is lower. In some cases, the WBG may be able to offer examples that could be replicated on a wider scale.
- While the WBG is not currently engaged in the education sector, it needs to be mindful that without aligning with those partners who are engaged in education, it may be creating infrastructure without the needed human capacity behind it to make it effective.
- Long-term multilateral engagement in the infrastructure sector was noted. However, there is a risk of multilaterals facilitating the entry of operators that do not closely observe safeguards requirements or create potential unanticipated adverse associated impacts, such as land grabbing around infrastructure or even influx of labor and outsiders in the context of tourism.
- Noted the IFC's prior engagement with Digicel was very important and had wider ramifications for other sectors. Surprise expressed that the WBG has not further engaged in ICT given pricing issues still prevailed and its engagement could have been transformational in this area.
- Many other actors are engaged in roads and electricity. The Bank has spent a lot of years on infrastructure and agriculture without evidence of catalytic success. It could have been more strategic with a potential focus on social sectors.

- With loan support coming from the Bank it was understandable that the government might want to engage the Bank on areas that support an economic stimulus, and the WBG does have a specific contribution in these areas, beyond that of other actors, including on setting standards, safeguards and supporting small operators in undertaking their own businesses (as opposed to plantation style operations).
- Even if the WBG were not supporting the education sector directly, it could explore opportunities for linkages, including for example with youth, in trying to open a link to education through utilizing modern technologies.

Training and Capacity Building

- There needs to be a different approach to training and capacity building, including the provision of advisers. The WBG engagement needs to be more interactive and supportive of behavioral changes. Cannot continue just underwriting courses and workshops but needs to look at coaching, mentoring and other models of engaging people.

General collaboration.

- WBG needs to be careful about giving mixed messages to the Government, especially about technology and other innovations.
- There are many innovations coming out of communities that the WBG needs to capture, as well as experiences within and across sectors that would be useful to build upon. The CMIC process tries to capture some of these experiences across sectors.
- Similarly, there are many organizations engaged in gender, though it is challenging to collaborate and coordinate across these.
- Within the extractive sector there is some mapping of actors in the FSV areas. There are some good experiences with various initiatives supported by faith-based organizations, however without support from Provincial Governments it will be hard for this to be sustainable.

Social Impacts of WBG Engagements.

- In all WBG engagements there will be social impacts, so efforts must be made to mitigate adverse impacts and maximize opportunities.
- Within the infrastructure sectors the WBG should look at the accessibility of communities to services, within impacted areas, are we facilitating or hindering these?
- Within economic sectors, there will be both positive and negative social impacts, that we should assess for example in tourism and extractives. Even when building a road, the WB must understand how the local communities see the use of the road and whether it will have real impacts on accessibility to schools or other services, or indeed to less positive impacts.
- Some NGOS are working on social impacts, such as Wildlife Conservation Society. Civil society is also beginning to engage more in governance, including supporting open governance and transparency issues, including how to empower communities to demand more from their government.

Additional comments received

- Data and sharing of information to all relevant stakeholders is critical to enabling constructive ideas and feedback to be shared by civil society. We all need to ensure that our databases are kept up to date in practical and accessible formats.
- The WBG should mainstream gender development in all projects, integrating both GBV and gender sensitive programming. This involves institutionalisation, capacity building and project planning and implementation.
- Infrastructure (Transport): will increase access to goods and services and the Government's presence in bottom up planning for sustainability and fiscal planning.
- Impact areas that need support in PNG include:
 - Social - accessibility to other services such as health (and also looking at protection through community policing)
 - Economic - SME/Informal economy (establishing mechanisms for community participation through economic growth such as formal markets for accessibility, gender empowerment like financial literacy for adults)
 - Cross-cutting issues - Youth Employment project (integrating gender)
- The WBG also need to bear in mind some of the risks such as the decentralisation for line agencies at sub-national level. In addition, Government's presence is limited, most of the service providers in rural areas are supported by a faith-based organisation, a development partner, or the private sector.