Spring Meetings Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) Announcements
Deadline Extended: CSPF Innovation Fair Proposals
The deadline for submitting proposals has been extended to Friday, March 1, 2019. Click here to submit booth proposals.

CSO Registration: CSO registration closes on March 22. Visit the CSPF website for more details.

Introducing New CSPF Working Group Members
Please welcome our new CSPF Working Group Members, Katelyn Gallagher of the Bank Information Center and Luiz Viera of the Bretton Woods Project. Learn more about the CSPF Working Group here.

Upcoming: WBG Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)
By 2030, more than half of the world’s poor will live in fragile and conflict-affected settings. To address this challenge, the World Bank Group is developing a comprehensive strategy to identify how the institution can systematize the progress it has made to date and adapt and scale-up its support to vulnerable populations affected by FCV. To inform the strategy, online and in-person consultations will be held between March and September 2019. A consultation plan and schedule of events will be available on the World Bank Group's Consultations website in mid-March.

GPSA launches its fourth global Call for Proposals
GPSA has invited its 52 opted-in countries, through the World Bank’s country management units, to express interest to participate in the Call for Proposals. A shortlist of countries will be defined and announced in Spring 2019, along with the thematic focus for each country. The application process will then be opened for CSOs in those shortlisted countries. More details about the GPSA’s Call for Proposals can be accessed here.
Call for Proposals: Small Grants Mechanism to Support Civil Society Engagement for Improved Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health

Management Sciences for Health, together with the global Civil Society Coordinating Group for the Global Financing Facility (GFF), hosted by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, is pleased to announce a new Small Grants Mechanism that aims to improve outcomes for women’s, children’s, and adolescents’ health, by supporting better-coordinated civil society efforts to engage in national processes and programs, with particular focus on the GFF. Submit your proposal [here](#). Deadline for submissions is midnight EST on [March 5, 2019](#).

WDR 2020 – Comment Period Open

The WDR 2020 will study the emergence of global value chains (GVCs) and their implications for development. It will explore why GVCs have formed in some sectors and regions, and not others. The Report will also analyze how GVCs affect growth, inequality, poverty, and employment. The Report will examine whether GVCs can still drive development with technologies rapidly changing, and openness no longer taken for granted. If so, what does this mean for policy? Written comments on the [Concept Note](#) as well as implications of climate change and gender can be submitted by [March 29, 2019](#). The team looks forward to your contributions on this important topic.

Seeking Feedback on PPP Contractual Provisions

The updated draft [Guidance on PPP Contractual Provisions](#) is open for public consultation from relevant stakeholders. The guidance document is expected to be released by the World Bank’s PPP team this summer. The guidance should help contracting authorities—particularly those in emerging public-private partnership (PPP) markets—better understand several essential provisions in a PPP agreement, such as force majeure, termination payments, and dispute resolution. Deadline for submitting inputs into the consultation process is [April 30, 2019](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Land and Poverty Conference 2019**  
*Catalyzing Innovation*  
- March 25-29, 2019  
- Washington, DC

**Civil Society Policy Forum**  
*2019 WBG-IMF Spring Meetings*  
- April 9-12, 2019  
- Washington, DC

**Debt Management Facility Stakeholders Forum 2019**  
*To discuss current challenges and trends faced by debt managers around the world.*  
- May 13-14, 2019  
- Dakar, Senegal

**WB-Annenberg Summer Institute – Apply Today!**  
*For diverse professionals from government, multilateral organization, and NGOs.*  
- March 1, 2019 (deadline for Early-bird Discount)  
- June 3-14, 2019 (Program dates)
BLOGS AND STORIES

World Bank Group and Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility Announce Up To $80 Million for Escalated Response in DRC
The World Bank Group and the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) have approved a total of up to US$80 million in grants to support over half the estimated cost of an escalated response to the current Ebola virus outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

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Stronger Accountability, Key to Achieving Human Capital Goals – Hear from Civil Society
How can social accountability help governments and CSOs implement innovative and effective solutions to promote investments in human capital? Several CSO representatives were interviewed during the GPSA Forum about the critical role of social accountability in achieving the goals of the human capital project. Here are some of their answers.

How has Citizens’ Charter brought positive change in Jalalabad, Afghanistan?
The Citizens’ Charter Afghanistan Project (Citizens’ Charter) is a national program to provide every village and city in Afghanistan with basic services, such as water, roads, and electricity—based on decisions made by the community... Before the project started in 2017, there were no organized councils that people could turn to, to address their shared problems. However, since the Citizens’ Charter established Community Development Councils (CDCs) in municipal districts, things are beginning to change.