

**National Community Driven Development Project**  
**Summary Note of CSO Meeting**  
**World Bank Office, Yangon, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) and the World Bank jointly held a meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs to update them on the status of the Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP) in the context of the World Bank's 18<sup>th</sup> implementation support mission (ISM) for the project. The meeting took place at the World Bank office in Yangon on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Invitation for the meeting were sent on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

These updates on the NCDDP are hosted by the World Bank at least twice a year to share updates and receive feedback and suggestions on the NCDDP from interested stakeholders in Yangon. The purpose of the meeting is to promote transparency, share information and lessons learned, and to encourage coordination with CSOs and international organizations with an interest in community development in Myanmar, and the NCDDP in particular. The previous meeting was held in December 2018.

**Participants (see list attached)**

- 14 local CSOs and NGOs representatives (see participant list attached).
- Six representatives from the DRD Regional Office in Yangon and Union Office in Naypyidaw.
- Seven World Bank staff.

The World Bank began the meeting with a presentation providing an overview of the project and status across the country, followed by the interactive discussion among participants.

Question and Answer Session Question/Comment	Responses
NCDDP has received and addressed about 18,000 of the grievance cases. I like to learn how the cases are resolved because in Myanmar, Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) laws and policies are weak, but World Bank has strong FPIC policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCDDP has a grievance team at different levels (union, state/region and townships) to investigate and resolve reported cases. At the village level, grievance sub-committees are formed (with one male and one female participants) in each village, and they are responsible for resolving lower level issues.</li> <li>• Most cases can be resolved internally by the project and DRD. For some cases, NCDDP needs to collaborate with other concerned government departments (general administration department, electricity supply enterprise, land survey department, etc.). Some example of cases that require collaboration with multiple sectors are mostly related to electricity sub-projects and land issues.</li> <li>• Complaints can be submitted in any local language and are open at the requested level.</li> </ul>
I raised the needs to study psychological impact analysis of NCDDP in the previous meeting. But the meeting minutes noted this as social and behavior change. Need to measure the extend of dependency of individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing mindset of people is a joint enterprise that requires not only government but also CSOs and other development organizations to work together. This will help improve the check-and-balance in the country.</li> <li>• The goal of the NCDDP is to empower citizens, and to give them a leading role of local development</li> </ul>

Question and Answer Session Question/Comment	Responses
	<p>planning – by giving them a strong voice in village development planning, by transferring investment resources into their hands, and by helping them learn how to implement and administer local development resources effectively and efficiently. As a result, community contribution in NCDDP is very high. If there is a mis-use to have a system to report and resolve (grievance handling mechanism).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRD project staff and NGO staff working on the Project have also significantly increased their rural development knowledge, capacity and experience from NCDDP.</li> <li>• Since the start of the NCDDP, we have put a robust and well working M&amp;E system – focused on measurable results on the ground. These can be seen online to access the results of the (<a href="http://www.ncddpmis.com">www.ncddpmis.com</a>) to see the results of the project.</li> <li>• Measuring the “psychological” effects of the NCDDP is challenging. WB and DRD are planning to conduct a social inclusion survey (qualitative survey – baseline and endline) to look into hard-to-measure social aspects., including perceptions of villagers and local authorities with respect to local development.</li> </ul>
For the proposed study, suggest involving universities and consulting with civil societies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design of the study is not finalized yet and happy to discuss how best to arrange it further.</li> </ul>
Facilitation, knowledge and learning component of NCDDP – what are the activities under this component?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Th Facilitation and Capacity-Building component includes resources for (i) Community Facilitators who work with villages on Village Development Planning and sub-project procurement, financial management and monitoring, and on social audits, (ii) for Technical Facilitators, who work with villages on sub-project design and quality control, and for township level supervision. It also includes resources for training of CFs and TFs, as well as for DRD staff.</li> <li>• The Knowledge and Learning component includes resources for annual township-level and Union-level multi-stakeholder reviews, as well as for studies.</li> </ul>
Physical development – roads, and other infrastructure are important. What are the provisions for maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last cycle of the project, 5% of the total block-grant amount has previously been allocated to the village tracts for operations and maintenance (O&amp;M) of sub-projects. However, as to the recent requirement from Finance Department (MOPF), we have to close all the bank accounts and O&amp;M procedures have been adjusted accordingly.</li> </ul>

Question and Answer Session Question/Comment	Responses
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For school and health centers, once they are completed, these are handed over to the respective line departments (e.g., education, health, etc.) Communities also establish pool funds to renovate and maintain the infrastructure as needed.</li> <li>• The project has implemented more than 20,000 sub-projects so far. The O&amp;M issue is discussed for each sub-project from the planning stage. Annually, assessments are carried out for necessary maintenance works.</li> <li>• The NCDDP sub-committee for O&amp;M is composed of at least 3 members and the village level committees have about 17-20 members.</li> <li>•</li> <li>• There is no best system, and we evolve slowly by learning lessons and challenges from implementation.</li> </ul>
Focal persons at community level, after they leave the project, how the project manage to replace their positions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When there is any member who leaves their membership, a new member is elected, and other members supports him/her.</li> </ul>
There are different sources of finance and types. I like to know more about this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project is financed by a combination of loans from the World Bank and Italy and grants from the World Bank, DFID and Italy. There is also Government budget financing.</li> <li>• There are three accounts in the project in Kyat, in Euro and in dollar and at Central Bank and Myanmar Economic Bank.</li> <li>• The service charge for the World Bank's IDA loans – service charge is 0.75%.</li> </ul>
I want to know land use in the project. World Bank's safeguard policy also protects indigenous people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project uses an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) based on World Bank safeguards procedures, and consistent with Government policies.</li> <li>• Land issues are discussed with all the involved stakeholders and are found mostly in road and water supply projects. Any land donation under the Project is entirely voluntary and the landowner and everyone involve need to agree for their voluntary land donation. As , NCDDP's sub-projects are small infrastructure, the land issues are quite limited.</li> <li>• The ESMF draft was developed with the consultations with CSOs and other stakeholders. The ESMF is disclosed on NCDDP website.</li> <li>• The rural development law currently is drafted and now being reviewed by Pyithu Hluttaw. In this law, land use related procedures and policies are proposed.</li> </ul>

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Mindset and attitude change are big issues in Myanmar. Consumer protection is currently being done through consumer education. Because most of the consumers lack knowledge about their rights. Civil society and government are potential partners for us. We like to collaborate with DRD for capacity building of communities and staff, taking advantage of DRD's outreach in rural areas of Myanmar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DRD has its own mandate guided by the ministry. As long as it is aligned with our mandate, we are happy to collaborate.</li> <li>• Communities oversee and manage the project. Part of their responsibilities are related to procurement. Procurement sub-committees needs to make sure to get good quality goods/services with reasonable prices. This can be an area to explore for collaboration.</li> </ul>
What is the role of different government departments in conflict-affected areas where EAOs has influence?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The basic functions including accountability mechanism of project are same in these areas. Regular consultation between township DRD and project staff and EAOs are conducted and issue of access for example is discussed. Some areas open up over time and close down sometimes due to conflict (e.g. Namhsan township of Shan state). The communications is fluid and it is led by DRD.</li> <li>• DRD provides project presentation and regularly updates them progress to EAOs in project areas. For example, in one of the project villages, the community wanted to do a gravity flow water sub-project, but the water source and piping areas were mine-risk areas. The community facilitated a meeting for DRD and EAO representatives to ensure safe access to these areas.</li> <li>• DRD has invested substantial time in this process since it requires many meetings. But it really helps both parties to build trust over time.</li> </ul>

#### Conclusion from World Bank and DRD

DRD and the World Bank team thanked all participants for a good discussion. The project also requests meeting participants to extend invitation to other organizations who might be interested in attending future meetings. The presentation and a summary note of this meeting would be uploaded onto the NCDDP website. Other Project information is also readily available on the NCDDP website (<http://cdd.drdmyanmar.org/mm>) and MIS (<http://www.ncddmis.com/>).

#### Attachment: Participant Sign-in Sheet

CSOs Meeting for NCDDP					
The World Bank Office			April 8, 2019		
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