

Summary Note of CSO Meeting

Summary Note: CSO Meeting of the 15th Implementation Support Mission of the World Bank World Bank Office, Yangon, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM, 29th Jan 2018

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) and the World Bank jointly held a meeting with civil society organizations (CSOs) and international organizations on the Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP) as part of the Bank's 15th implementation support mission (ISM) for the project. The meeting took place at the World Bank office in Yangon on 29th January 2018. Invitations for the meeting were sent on 17th January.

These meetings are held during the World Bank's Implementation Support Mission (ISM) which is conducted at least three times a year to share updates and receive feedback and suggestions on the NCDDP from interested stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting is to promote transparency and coordination with CSOs, NGOs and international organizations that are interested in NCDDP. The previous meeting was held in October 2017.

Participants

- Twenty-one external participants (individual consultants, local CSOs and NGOs)
- Eight persons from DRD Union including U Hla Khaing (Director); U Kyaw Swa (Director); Daw Mee Mee Htwe (Deputy Director) and Yangon Regional Office staff
- Five persons from World Bank NCDDP team.

A presentation providing an overview of the project status was given by Ingo Wiederhofer (Co Task Team Leader of NCDDP, World Bank).

Question and Answer Session

Question/Comment	Answer
Does the project have a specific funding used particularly for data collection?	In each project village, communities develop their Village Development Plans (VDP) resulted from PRA analysis of problems. (http://cdd.drdmyanmar.org/en/vdp-files) Analytical activities including technical audit and studies on fragility and conflict, gender, accountability are conducted under component 3 of the project. Also, other sectors/teams at the World Bank supports the government for data collection, such as the poverty assessment/household survey with Central Statistics Organization.
What kind of capacity building support are provided to CSOs under this project?	NCDDP heavily invests in capacity building by delivering various types of training. The core objective of NCDDP is to support village level institutions. Though the project doesn't provide capacity building support to CSOs, they are invited to participate in village level social audit meetings, Township Multi Stakeholder Review (MSR) and Union MSR. In townships where there many CSOs (e.g. Kayah), Township teams have been conducting regular meetings with CSOs to discuss about the project progress and challenges. Sub-projects are selected at village level, but these plans are submitted to Township Planning and Implementation Committee (TPIC) and they review and sign off the proposals.
Does the project conduct or have plan to conduct evaluation after the project?	At the end of each project cycle, communities conduct social audits and review/evaluate the implementation process and

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	<p>result of the sub-project (SP) by themselves. The feedbacks are then consolidated and feeds into TMSR and UMSR. NCDDP conducts technical audit to assess whether the sub-projects are working well or not. Currently, we are carrying out a second technical audit and looking forward to share the findings when it's ready. In addition, the project has a web-based Management Information System which served as a major M&E tool for the project. https://www.ncddmis.com/</p>
<p>Are there any key lessons emerged from the different M&E systems that affected the overall design of the project?</p>	<p>The project promotes and practices adaptive learning and we have immense amount of learning across the project at different levels. Based on the feedbacks and experiences from the 1st cycle, the project increased the amount of block grant and reduced 50% of forms required under the project based on complaints from the communities. In the 3rd cycle, DRD reviewed training strategy and program to deliver trainings in more coordinated way, to address the feedbacks from the field staff. In the last UMSR, DRD did not receive major feedbacks or changes for this cycle.</p>
<p>Can you please explain further on the distribution of subproject types? For example, health facility is important for the communities but the number of health SP under the NCDDP is very low and transportation is high.</p>	<p>The project team is currently looking into SPs distribution to understand this better. One of the rationale for the limited number of health facilities is that the constraint of health personnel. The NCDDP does not finance hardware only but would need prior agreement from the Ministry of Health to ensure staff will be allocated.</p>
<p>Does NCDDP work in conflict areas and how does the project implement in this area (e.g. Kyaukkyi)? Are there any areas where the Project cannot enter?</p>	<p>Yes, the NCDDP operates in conflict affected but each township has different context. In general, following the public township selection process, DRD, other government departments and the relevant EAOs hold consultations on how to implement the project in the township and which areas are appropriate to begin in or not. The project only goes ahead in areas with decision of the community and support of EAOs. Communities have the option to wait and observe the project in other parts of the township and then start at a later date if they choose. In Kyaukkyi township, following discussion with KNU at central and local level, only about three quarters of the villages were covered in the 1st year of NCDDP, however, in the 2nd year after further discussion with KNU and communities, the project began in the remaining areas.</p>
<p>What are the project strategies for sustainability?</p>	<p>NCDDP finances community infrastructure that can be built and maintained by the communities, we are not supporting mega infra projects. What the project focuses is around continued capacity building of the communities. Therefore, we promote responsible line departments for allocation of their resources and their continued support to NCDDP villages after the project is implemented.</p>
<p>DACU mission to NCDDP. Out impression on the community mobilization is very good. In one village visited, a suspension bridge was built over the stream which</p>	<p>Local adaptation is important. Transparent and inclusive consultations are critical. The project promotes these approaches at community level. We do note that there are</p>

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<p>water current is very strong. After the construction, the bridge was damaged and the community upgraded it to steel bridge but the erosion is getting worse. Land grabbing issues – some villagers lost their farms and many people migrated into other areas. Governance is critical in implementation and sustainability of the project.</p>	<p>many challenges faced by the communities but NCDDP cannot address all these challenges.</p>
<p>Does the project support human resources development/economic development?</p>	<p>Human resources development/capacity building support includes technical and management training such as construction, financial management, book keeping, procurement. The project indirectly promotes the local economic development. For example, because of the road improvement, community has improved access to market. Also, DRD is piloting livelihoods activities in Ayeyarwady to improve economic development.</p>
<p>How much budget is allocated for gender component in the project?</p>	<p>The project holds gender quarterly meetings and budget has been allocated for additional data collection, studies and activities around gender equality. More importantly, gender is mainstreamed in the Project. Some policies are in place that promote gender quality such as participation of women in Village Project Support Committee (VPSC), equal pay for equal work for women and men, reporting gender data disaggregated by gender. Research/studies to explore the project impact on women empowerment and women decision making are in the pipeline.</p>
<p>What are the M&E functions at the community level?</p>	<p>M&E committee is established in all project villages. Their responsibility is to monitor implementation progress of sub-projects. The social audit conducted at every village not only evaluates the budget, process and result of the sub-project construction but also the evaluates the work of the project committee members. . It's an opportunity for community members to provide suggestions for the improvement of the project. Technical audit looks at the safeguard issues, documentation and technical aspect of the sub-project.</p>
<p>Is the project grievance mechanism effective because suggestion boxes are installed in public? Are they happy to send their GRM letters?</p>	<p>There are different ways to submit grievances and suggestion box is one of the available channels along with phone call, email, social media, and through project website. The person submitting grievance can select what level they want their grievance letters to be addressed at (village tract, township and union level). The letters are opened by the dedicated grievance focal person at the VT or staff members and systematic documentation is carried out. Then they are responded in a specific timeframe. The project also conducts regular analysis on the response rate and if necessary the Union DRD and the World Bank carry out joint investigations.</p>
<p>How did you select your Technical Assistance (TA) organizations (e.g. like Mercy Corps)?</p>	<p>The TA selection is done according to the World Bank procurement guidelines. Request for Expression of Interest for TA for new townships are uploaded on NCDDP website.</p>

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	Currently we have INGOs, local NGOs, private firms and local organizations who are contracted to provide township level TA.
Rakhine – any collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in resettlement areas?	There is an ongoing conversation with WB and other development partners for relief and development of Rakhine but it is still in every early stage. NCDDP implements 3 townships in Rakhine State, Ann, Ponnagyun and Gwa townships.
What are the approaches used in selection of sub-projects and if the community comes up with any non-infra projects (e.g. nutrition)? Does the project finance those? data/feedback feed into national policies?	There non-infra development needs identified in the Village Development Plan (VDP). These VDPs are submitted to township authorities for their support for non-CDD financed activities.
Beyond mandate, NCDDP seems to be capturing many useful data. Are there any mechanisms to utilize these data to influence policy makers?	Union Multi-Stakeholder Review where there are presence of external stakeholders and senior government officials provides an opportunity to share the data and lessons learnt through project implementation. In this conference, there is a panel each year to discuss specific topics, for example the session was on “Resilience “last year.
This project is not to expand in 330 townships but to showcase that the government can implement a project in a non-traditional democratic way.	Thank you.

Conclusion from World Bank and DRD

DRD and World Bank team thanked all participants for a good discussion and noted that a summary note and the presentation would be shared with participants and uploaded onto the website.

Project information are also readily available on CDD website (<http://cdd.drdmyanmar.org/mm>) and MIS (<http://www.ncddmis.com/>). The presentation and a summary note of this meeting would be uploaded onto the website