**Updated List of OSF-WB Partnership Projects**

(as of October 8, 2013)

Active Partnerships / Consultations

Global Partnership for Social Accountability

OSF has joined the steering committee of GSPA as an observer and committed up to $3 million in parallel funding.  Recently the Bank made 12 grants in 10 countries, for a total of over $9 million. OSF is in the last stages of reviewing proposals that were not selected for funding: proposals from Mozambique, Indonesia and the Philippines appear to be the most promising.

GPSA continues to add countries to its list. There are now 30: Antiqua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Honduras, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Senegal, St. Kitts and Nevis, Tajikistan, Timor Leste, Togo, Tunisia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In November, the Bank will be issuing a call for the second round of proposals for countries that have opted in to the GPSA. OSF will discuss with the Bank ideas for areas of focus in individual countries, through consultations with the OSF network.

Civic Engagement with the Bank

The Bank has recognized that it has a problem with civil society and is looking for ways to engage CSOs.  The GPSA is one such effort; another is an ongoing reorganization of its department that works with the non-profit sector.  WB has also tried to upgrade the Safeguards Process, which has been the main (but flawed) vehicle for consulting with stakeholders around Bank plans and projects.  Despite these efforts, CSOs remain highly critical of Bank operations.  At the civil society meeting OSF hosted in April, more than 70% of participants felt the Bank was doing more harm than good.

The problem of asymmetric power between the Bank and civil society has contributed to this atmosphere of mistrust and contestation.  OSF could pursue two options to help address this state of affairs.

* *Concept note from Bank Information Center on Safeguards Process*. Although many of the organizations participating at the April meeting were critical of the Safeguards Process, they haven’t given up on it - rather, they’d like to find a way to strengthen it. OSF has been talking to the Bank Information Center (BIC) about a proposal to coordinate and reinforce civil society’s voice within that platform. Their concept paper is attached.
* *Civil Society Forum*. OSF could also create a neutral forum – call it safe space – where representatives of CSOs and the Bank can meet regularly to discuss issues before they become problems.  Such a project would involve 3-4 curated meetings per year, most likely at our office in Washington, around themes of mutual interest.  We could either manage this effort directly or make a grant (most likely to BIC).  We would also need to devote some resources to bringing in CSOs from other countries so that the event doesn’t include only well-resourced organizations or those who happen to be based in the US.

Disabilities

OSF colleagues from HRI and MHI have had several consultations with the Bank’s Disabilities and Development Office. Dr. Kim indicated a willingness to collaborate with OSF on deinstutionalization; this may lead to some collaboration in Croatia. OSF had hoped to collaborate on Moldova, but that is not likely, as Bank projects are already underway. OSF may organize a presentation of its work at the Bank in the near future.

Burma

OSF and BIC (grantee working on Burma) have met with Bank officials in Yangon and Washington several times. These discussions have caused the Bank to engage with independent local monitors and led to broader consultations with civil society. There is still some tension between the Bank’s rapid engagement in economic reform and energy investments, and local stakeholders’ desire to include local stakeholders in deliberations about the country’s development trajectory.

Roma

Follow up to the GS-JK visit to Romania in May has been poor. We were unable to get Bank colleagues to participate in a debriefing session. OSF organizers of the trip discussed the problems with Chris Stone and agreed to look for another champion (besides Kim) within WB. Jonas will meet with Cyril Muller next week to pursue this and other OSF’s asks on Roma.

During the videoconference with OSF staff at the end of July, Dr. Kim indicated that as a follow-up to his visit to Romania with Mr. Soros earlier this year, the Bank was exploring a possible internship scheme for young Roma. OSF is following up on this project with the Bank, given its success negotiating a similar internship scheme for Roma youth at EU institutions.

The Bank has recently proposed a Roma-related session at the annual conference of the European Foundation Centre, which is at least a sign of life in its Roma agenda.

Criminal Justice and Legal Empowerment

The Bank has recently decided to begin some work in criminal justice. OSF colleagues have been talking about joint efforts on pre-trial detention. JI would like Chris to reinforce the need for WB involvement in pre-trial justice and criminal justice reforms and to propose technical briefings by OSF staff to the Bank’s new Criminal Justice Resource Group.

In the area of Legal Empowerment, OSF has been in conversations with the Bank about possible collaboration in the MENA region and Jordan specifically. Bank staff also attended a recent donor collaboration meeting in New York, which while informal, led to a general agreement about working together on this topic.

Mapping

We have finalized data collection on OSF engagement with the Bank. We are ready to move to the next stage of using data visualization software to communicate the results to the network, but since this requires some financial investment into the technology, we are holding off on this project until October 15, when we will talk to Chris about data visualization projects at OSF more broadly.