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

(as of November 26, 2013)

Active Partnerships / Consultations

Global Partnership for Social Accountability

In October OSF selected the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP) and its project “Checkmyschool” as the recipient of the first round of OSF parallel funding for the GPSA. ANSA-EAP is currently a grantee of the Rights Initiative, so the management of this grant from the President’s Office will be managed by Eszter Filippinyi in Budapest. In addition, Rights Initiative’s existing budget commitment to ANSA-EAP satisfies the condition that an OSF program or foundation provide co-funding. This formula can also be used in further rounds of the GPSA where an applicant under consideration happens to be an OSF grantee. OSF should encourage its grantees to apply for the GPSA as a means of leveraging more funds and getting exposure to new funders.

The Bank released a call for the second round of proposals in mid-November. OSF sent GPSA staff ideas for areas of focus in individual countries based on consultations with the OSF network, and will now help spread the word about the call throughout its network.

Disabilities

OSF colleagues from MHI had a productive conversation this month with Tim Evans, the Bank’s Director for Health, Nutrition and Population. The Bank is putting together a working group, led by Dr. Arthur Kleinman, to re-consider how the Bank addresses mental health in its projects. OSF has been invited to participate in the working group, which will work throughout 2014. In the conversation it was also agreed that OSF and the Bank should organize a meeting in December or January where each organization’s work in this field could be presented and discussed.

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 be included in deliberations about the country’s development trajectory.

Also, Zaw Oo, the Executive Director of MDRI-CESD – an OSF grantee – is a newly appointed Presidential Advisor on the economy. Zaw asked GS for help in getting an impartial evaluation of an important tender at the deep water port and oil pipeline project in Rakhine state. Zaw Oo met Dr. Kim at GS’s wedding to see if the Bank could help.

Roma

There has been some progress on the follow up to the GS-JK visit to Romania in May. In preparation for a meeting briefing of higher-level Bank officials on Roma issues, there was a preliminary meeting in Brussels on November 22 to discuss fundraising for the Roma Education Fund (REF), the Bank’s commitment to the Decade, and the Roma internship program that Jim Kim announced when he visited OSF during the summer. (Jonas and Adna met with Bank staff in November to discuss the modalities of the program and how OSF could contribute in a non-financial way.) Update?

Specifically on REF, there is some thought to ask Chris to invite Jim Wolfensohn, former Bank president, to be an honorary chair of REF as a way to increase the Bank’s commitment.

Criminal Justice and Legal Empowerment

Criminal Justice

Madeleine Crohn has been talking to staff at the Bank for about a year or so about how pre-trial detention has a negative impact on development. She and Ken Hurwitz will shortly be reaching out to the Bank to do a presentation on OSF’s approach to criminal justice. This coincides with recent developments at the Bank as well, which is in the process of rolling out new legal initiatives. OSF is making contact with senior staff involved in this rollout.

There has also been an unsuccessful effort to raise the issue directly with Jim Kim. Christina Biebesheimer (Chief Counsel of the Justice Reform Practice Group in the Legal Vice-Presidency of the Bank ) sent language to use when bringing up the subject of criminal justice with Kim, but it has so far been difficult to reach him. The Justice Initiative has asked Chris Stone to reinforce the need for Bank 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. Chris Stone will have a meeting with Sanjay Pradhan and will take the opportunity to discuss this with him. We are hoping that by speaking with Sanjay, we will be able to reach Jim Kim.

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.

Urban planning / land use

HRI are exploring possibilities for a shared framework on evictions/expropriations and are currently working on a white paper (with the help of an outside HR consultant.) HRI are suggesting holding a peer discussion in December to discuss the paper which will include recommendations. The paper will then be sent out to OSF colleagues to see if a shared framework is possible. HRI’s proposed work on rights and policy related to land grabs may intersect with the Bank’s interest in urban development. We are about to introduce OSF colleagues to Bank staff who work on urban planning and land tenure issues.

HRI is planning to release a call for proposals next year to fund initiatives that use data for campaigning on evictions with the aim to assist groups in developing alternative approaches. At present advocacy concentrates on ‘don’t evict’ messaging, but HRI would like to explore options that go beyond this. HRI do not have a particular geography in mind that they would like to collaborate with the Bank on. However, they would like to explore opportunities to share information (presentations), collaborate on the project/ground level, to develop a shared understanding of the issue and joint funding.

In addition, HRI would like to speak to the World Bank Institute in regards to the possibility of a feasibility study which asks ‘what does it mean to have successful/meaningful conversations about expropriation’.

Brazil

The Latin America program is in conversation with the Bank about collaboration on ICT and citizen engagement. The Bank has about $2-5 million available to invest in promising pilots within Brazil, where the Bank says at least 50% of state governments would like to increase citizen involvement but lack low-cost, efficient and effective models and methodologies. It wants to partner with organizations like OSF with the capacity to support civil society to engage with their governments to advocate for change. If the Bank makes progress in Brazil, it is likely they would scale-up the investment to other countries in Latin America. The next steps are to: 1) identify a locality  with the highest potential for piloting an initiative where OSF can invest resources in civil society to develop and test citizen participation mechanisms that can later be taken-up by the government with assistance of a WB loan; 2) share contacts to help expand networks in Brazil and other Latin American countries; and 3) participate on an advisory board that will start meeting in December 2013 to review the WB’s Evaluation Framework for ICT and Citizen Engagement.

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; however, OSF cannot spend funds on this as it can get very expensive. With the help of a staff member in the President’s Office we are looking into universities and professors in graphic design who may be willing to collaborate with OSF on a project.

Potential Partnerships

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.  The Working Group discussed with Chris the possibility of funding the Bank Information Center to work with civil society around the Bank’s Safeguards Process, currently under review. OSF may be interested in doing this if co-funders were found.

Another option the Working Group discussed with Chris is for OSF to serve as a neutral forum where representatives of CSOs and the Bank can meet regularly to discuss issues before they become problems.  OSF will not contribute funds to such an initiative but may co-host these meetings if approached by the Bank.

Public Health

Krista Lauer, Director of OSF’s Global Health Financing Initiative is coordinating PHP’s agenda for discussion with the Bank. She has identified a number of areas for potential collaboration, including: global health financing; health and rights; evidence based interventions; global health outcomes.  She would like to engage Bank counterparts in discussions on vulnerable communities, particularly sex workers, drug users, men who have sex with men, and transgender groups.

Education

OSF’s education programs held a call to identify countries where we may discuss cooperation with the Bank. Among them are Bulgaria, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Congo and Liberia. We are in the process of connecting our colleagues with Bank counterparts in Washington and the field.

Transparency – corruption

These are areas of primary importance to both OSF and the Bank.  Some collaboration has taken place already in countries where OSF has a local presence. However, we need to launch broader discussions between both institutions. Ken Hurwitz will take the lead on this.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Johanna Chao Krelick, Steve Hubbell and Jonas Rolett met with Rick Scobey of the Bank’s Independent Evaluation Unit. The discussion centered on challenges both institutions are facing around evaluation. Further discussion on the issue is planned.

Food security

Although the shared framework has advanced, there is presently no connection to the World Bank work in this area. Looking at proposals in strategies for 2014, it’s unlikely there will be any connection in the near future. However, as OSF’s expertise in this field grows, this may change but it’s too early to tell. The shared framework is in its infancy and OSF needs to establish a niche in the field before deciding whether to reach out to the World Bank.

Indonesia

Indonesia is a member of the GPSA, with a focus on extractive industries. TIFA has experience in this sector and is interested in exploring collaboration.