**World Bank Working Group Meeting with Chris Stone**

**October 10, 2013**

**Notes**

Status Report on OSF Efforts to Engage the Bank

The group discussed with Chris the future and parameters of OSF’s engagement with the World Bank. The Bank is undergoing a major internal restructuring which creates challenges, but OSF should pursue collaborations with the goal being to complement each other’s work, where possible. For example, we need to follow up on Dr. Kim’s comments on Roma engagement, as well as a constructive early conversation with Leonard McCarthy, the Bank’s Vice President for Integrity.

OSF should also discuss with other partners, such as the Ford Foundation, the nature of its collaboration with the Bank. Ford sits on the Steering Committee of the GPSA with OSF and may have similar issues/concerns about working with the Bank. Since Ford now has new leadership, OSF will work on a meeting in the next few months. Jonas will follow up with Martin Abregu to see if we can organize a joint OSF/Ford meeting (to include Chris Stone and Darren Walker) with Sanjay Pradhan, World Bank VP. The meeting could do some stock-taking on GPSA and explore how all partners can work on civic engagement in World Bank work. We would likely also the occasion to ask Pradhan for further help with Roma issues.

GPSA Proposals

Staff review has narrowed the options for OSF’s investment in the first round of the GPSA to 3 proposals.

[Mozambique](https://karl.soros.org/communities/world-bank-osf-collaboration-working-group/files/global-partnership-for-social-accountability/8-proposals-for-consideration/mozambique/)

While there was some early potential for this proposal, a staff review determined that the level of investment in social accountability already taking place in the country makes it a very crowded field. DFID as well as other donors are very active. There were also questions about the capacity of the applying organization; while strong on social accountability work, it has become vastly over-stretched.

[Philippines](https://karl.soros.org/communities/world-bank-osf-collaboration-working-group/files/global-partnership-for-social-accountability/8-proposals-for-consideration/the-philippines/ansa-checkmyschool/)

OSF’s Rights Initiative has worked with the applying organization for several years now and considers it a very effective and reliable partner. The organization applied to the GPSA to scale up work OSF is already funding. The Philippine government has also shown commitment to institutionalizing the process developed as part of this proposal, and there are prospects for replication in Cambodia and Mongolia.

[Indonesia](https://karl.soros.org/communities/world-bank-osf-collaboration-working-group/files/global-partnership-for-social-accountability/8-proposals-for-consideration/indonesia/)

Staff received conflicting feedback on the merits of the proposal. On the one hand, while the proposal seemed interesting, covered an important issue (public health service delivery) and the applying organization is active in universal health coverage work, the proposal to use ICT needed further scrutiny and other feedback suggested that the organization was too overloaded to make a meaningful contribution.

It was decided that since the proposal from the Philippines had the most positive feedback, it should be OSF’s investment in the GPSA for this year. Given that one of the conditions is that an OSF program/foundation interested in a particular proposal provide co-funding, it was decided that Rights Initiative’s existing budget commitment to the organization satisfies this condition. This formula can also be used in further rounds of the GPSA where an applicant under consideration happens to be an OSF grantee. Moreover, OSF should encourage its grantees to apply for the GPSA as a means of leveraging more funds and getting exposure to new funders.

The working group also discussed the next round of the GPSA, for which a call for proposals will be going out in November. Several new countries have opted in and the Bank is undergoing consultations on which themes the call for proposals should be built around in each particular country. OSF should encourage its network to reach out to their Bank counterparts in individual countries and have a conversation about GPSA themes for their country. For the next round, OSF should also try to get to know staff reviewing proposals, so that the feedback process on which proposals didn’t get selected and why is improved and OSF can take on more controversial projects that the World Bank is reluctant to fund directly. Where OSF has good contacts with governments, it may advocate they join GPSA.

BIC Proposals

OSF has been looking for ways to include a civil society perspective into its work with the Bank. There are two possible routes for this:

* The Bank Information Center submitted an interesting proposal to work with civil society around the Bank’s Safeguards Process, currently under review. (The proposal can be found [here](https://karl.soros.org/communities/world-bank-osf-collaboration-working-group/files/world-bank-safeguards-campaign-coordination-concept-note-5.doc/).) Chris’ feedback was that it would be best to find co-funders for this proposal rather than OSF going it alone. Ford, Hewlett and MacArthur were all mentioned as potential targets.
* Civil Society Forum. OSF could create a neutral forum 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. Chris’ feedback on this idea is that the Bank should lead its own consultation process with civil society; OSF can host or co-host these meetings but it should not put money into the initiative.

Mapping

While this topic wasn’t covered in the meeting, Jonas and Adna had a subsequent conversation with Chris about how OSF manages and visualizes data as collected by the World Bank group but also other projects such as Jeff Goldstein’s work on USAID, a mapping of OSF’s inclusive education investments, etc. Chris would rather not spend funds on this as it can get very expensive. He suggested looking at universities and professors in the areas of graphic design who may be willing to collaborate with OSF on a project.

WB Meetings

Jonas will meet with Cyril Miller, the Bank’s VP for External Affairs to explore ways to deepen collaboration.