MEMORANDUM

TO: OSF Network

FR: World Bank-OSF Working Group

RE: Update on World Bank/OSF Collaboration

Date: December 17, 2012

As you may remember, Chris Stone has established a working group to explore and deepen OSF’s collaboration with the World Bank (WB). This effort follows a series of meetings between Chris, GS and new WB President Jim Kim. Kim knows us well from his days as head of Partners in Health, a grantee of ours that made great contributions in the fight against tuberculosis in Russia and elsewhere.

The working group (see the list of members below) has been tasked with finding new ways to leverage the Bank’s assets. We write to provide an update.

Relationship with the Bank

The attached map of OSF-WB engagement shows a wide variety of partnership (existing and prospective) with the Bank, both in terms of geography and issues. It’s still incomplete – and we are following up with some of you for additional input – so please treat these highlights as provisional:

* The majority of OSF engagement with the Bank happens at the foundation level (i.e. it’s locally driven). Although this may reflect the response rate to the survey, it appears to be easier to establish collaboration at the country level.
* We have substantially more partnerships in Eastern Europe and Caucasus / Central Asia than in other geographic areas – perhaps because we have more foundations in that part of the world. Our level of engagement in Africa, Asia and Latin America is steady, but there’s room for growth.
* More than half our partnerships are in the fields of Education and Transparency. We have moderate-to-low engagement in the other areas identified to date: Governance, Public Health, Economic Development and Environment
* Relations with the Bank are generally positive. Of the 23 foundations and programs reporting concrete collaboration, 12 described the interactions as constructive (positive, productive, consistent); 9 called them neutral or sporadic; and 2 found them difficult.

Scope for New or Expanded Partnership

The scope for engagement with the Bank is enormous. Virtually all of our **development-related work** fits within the WB mission. We already have both formal and informal partnerships in this realm that provide good models for additional collaboration. Much of this work is technical and project-based.

Although **Human rights** fall outside the Bank’s remit, there may be even greater scope for collaboration in this sphere because OSF can do things the Bank cannot (but would like to see happen). This kind of partnership is likely to be more strategic than project-specific.

OSF and the Bank are both organized around themes and geographies, which makes it possible to match up interests and people around specific projects. Most of our existing collaboration has developed in this way. Moreover, because neither organization “needs” the other, engagement happens mostly around concrete initiatives where both sides see a real benefit to developing a partnership.

It should be said that there are also differences in organizational culture that may inhibit collaboration. The Bank is bigger, richer, more bureaucratic and more political than OSF. These factors should be taken into account when contemplating joint work.

How to Get Started

The working group can facilitate contact with Bank counterparts. Individual members have responsibility for specific themes and geographies as follows:

Theme Contact Email

Climate Change Jonas Rolett [jonas.rolett@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:jonas.rolett@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Economic Development George Hsieh [George.hsieh@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:George.hsieh@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Education Vonda Brown [Vonda.brown@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:Vonda.brown@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Governance Glen Mpani [glen.mpani@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:glen.mpani@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Migration Vonda Brown [Vonda.brown@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:Vonda.brown@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Public Health Rob Kushen [Robert.kushn@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:Robert.kushn@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Roma Rob Kushen [Robert.kushn@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:Robert.kushn@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Transparency Ken Hurwitz [ken.hurwitz@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:ken.hurwitz@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Region Contact Email

Africa Glen Mpani [glen.mpani@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:glen.mpani@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Asia Joy Chia [joy.chia@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:joy.chia@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Europe Jonas Rolett [jonas.rolett@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:jonas.rolett@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Latin America Vonda Brown [Vonda.brown@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:Vonda.brown@opensocietyfoundations.org)

Middle East / North Africa Anthony Richter [Anthony.richter@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:Anthony.richter@opensocietyfoundations.org)

If you would like to work with the Bank on a project; of if you have questions or issues about how ongoing initiatives, please write a quick note to the person covering your issue or region. For general matters or anything not covered above, please write to Jonas Rolett.

Members of the Working Group

Vonda Brown, Senior Program Officer, Latin America Program

Joy Chia, Program Officer, China North East Asia

Oby Ezekwesili, Senior Advisor for Africa Economic Development Policy

Mort Halperin, Senior Advisor, OSF-DC

Ken Hurwitz, Senior Legal Officer, Justice Initiative

George Hsieh, Program Officer, Office of the President

Rob Kushen, Executive Director, RIO – Advisory Board

Glen Mpani, Program Officer, Africa Regional Program

Anthony Richter, Associate Director and Regional Director for Pakistan/Afghanistan and MENA

Jonas Rolett, Regional Director, Southern Central and Eastern Europe

Support to the working group is provided by Vera Tomka, Regional Program Officer, OIO