



## Foreword

The historic expansion of the International Development Association (IDA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) mission and financing proposed as part of the World Bank Group’s (WBG) Evolution will magnify the challenges of delivering quality results and accountability in the use of funds. Maximizing development impact will require that the World Bank (also referred to as the Bank) works not only with the public and private sectors but also with civil society. The World Bank has long recognized that robust citizen and civil society organization (CSO) participation is central to the development agenda and, in principle, supports their engagement in Bank-supported operations.

The extensive experience of Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) members in working at the front lines of World Bank-supported operations has convinced us that civil society has a major role to play in ensuring that World Bank country program design is responsive to citizens’ needs; in supplementing government implementation capacity—particularly in fragile states; and in reducing inefficiencies and corruption. While the space for civil society has narrowed in recent years, CSOs are increasingly vibrant and capable in many of the Bank’s client countries. However, the potential for citizens and CSOs to fully contribute to enhanced development outcomes in Bank-supported programs is constrained by lack of priority attention, operational deficiencies, and financing.

This report is based on a comprehensive, yearlong review of how to expand and adequately fund citizen and CSO engagement (CSE) in IDA- and IBRD-financed operations. The report was supported by the Foundation to Promote Open Society (FPOS) and carried out with the knowledge and cooperation of Bank staff and consultations with key stakeholders, including Bank shareholders and civil society. Although the Bank has made considerable progress in engaging citizens and CSOs, significant information gaps remain regarding the scope, extent, funding, and outcomes of such engagement. World Bank CSE policies and guidance for engaging with CSOs are also ambiguous and need to be clarified. While the experience of the Bank and other development partners shows that CSOs can make significant contributions to improved development impact, an unsupportive, enabling environment and inadequate funding limit their ability to meaningfully participate in country engagement, projects, third-party monitoring, fiduciary, and other oversight activities.

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The report makes ten recommendations in two broad areas to enhance the contribution citizens and CSOs can make to IDA and IBRD country engagement, financing, and accountability. First, the World Bank should deepen and institutionalize CSO engagement in IDA and IBRD operations at the country level for faster delivery of outputs and better results. Second, it should adequately fund deeper partnerships with civil society through project financing when appropriate and establish a facility dedicated to funding CSO engagement in IDA's country engagement and accountability systems. These activities are not covered and/or not appropriate for project financing, and there are no systematic financing sources/mechanisms at the Bank for adequately funding them even though these activities are essential for enhancing the development impact and value for money of the Bank-supported operations. The report details a suggested framework for establishing the proposed funding facility.

The PTF, many of our development partners, and the stakeholders commenting on the Evolution proposals and the IDA believe that the time is right for the IDA and IBRD to take bold steps to rapidly expand citizen and CSO engagement in its operations, as called for under the Evolution road map and in the fast-growing IDA. We call for serious consideration of the report's recommendations during discussions of the Bank's Evolution framework, IDA20 Mid-Term Review meetings, and IDA21 Strategic Directions paper.