

2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum Parallel Session Summary 5-8

Good morning everyone. I would like to present the summarized reports from the Parallel sessions 5,6,7 and 8, based on the notes provided by the secretariat in each session.

Firstly, I would like to present the highlights of session 5: Enhancing Social Protection and Human Security. As this topic is very broad, there are a large number of recommendations. Firstly, we can see that there have been a number of achievements since the first development forum 12 months ago. These include the following:

- Commenced process for drafting national social protection strategy
- Collected evidence for social protection mapping
- Expansion of Disaster Risk Reduction activities
- Enactment of new Social Security Law
- Launching of NSPAW
- Implementation of social protection initiatives (e.g. VDC, OP SHG)
- Action to protect migrants
- Drafting of regional social protection plans in Chin State and Sagaing Region

IN terms of recommendations, we first have a number of recommendations concerning the knowledge gaps in social protection. There is a need for more complete evidence base, for Evidence based M&E indicators , for more robust evidence on what works and what doesn't work in the Myanmar context.

And more information on the dynamics of migration, including internal migration.

A number of recommendations were made concerning the co-ordination of activities for social protection and human security. These included the need to continue the ongoing coordinated approach between donors and government to avoid fragmentation and overlapping of accountabilities; the need to ensure the coordination and intersectoral cooperation between parallel reform process happening – in particular between social protection and rural development, and also in relation to social security and increased health coverage interventions; the need to clarify roles of different branches of government in social protection (central & regional) and the need to strengthen regional social protection planning.

Finally, there were numerous recommendations concerning implementation. We need to expand access to OP SHGs and build on the inclusive VDC model; to maintain a gender equality dimension in the design of social protection schemes; to maintain the links between social protection and disaster risk reduction; to specifically address issues of inequality and vulnerability, and to ensure that additional resources are allocated to the social protection and social welfare sectors.

There are a number of key issues within the finance management development; The

main issues is that Finance reforms are mainly invisible to the public, but provide an essential foundation for reforms in others sectors. Also, there is a lack of efficient and capacity within the banking system. We also note that Financial inclusion and financial literacy at household level can prevent households from falling back into poverty

A large number of recommendations were made during this panel session. I will try to summarize the key points here. There is a need to increase tax revenue and modernize tax administration, improving compliance and taxpayer service. There is a need to Modernize the banking system (e-banking), including strengthening links between central bank and private banks; to strengthen bank supervision function; to strengthen financial literacy and inclusion by expansion of access to appropriate financial services. Importantly, Monetary policy and PFM reform should work hand in hand to achieve macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth.

Since the first development forum, there have also been a number of achievements in the rural development sector. Eight tasks of Rural Development strategies have been developed, along with co-operatives, a new World Bank CDD project and initiatives such as biogas for rural electrification.

IN terms of recommendations for rural development, again, there is a need to strengthen the research and evidence base. There is a need to develop rural infrastructure, appropriate and sustainable technology for rural households, including renewable energy; to strengthen rural-urban linkages, to strengthen access to information and knowledge in rural areas, to ensure clear linkage between rural development and other reform initiatives such as social protection, and to strengthen the participatory approach for rural development

When considering the issues surrounding infrastructure development in Myanmar, the issues are many. To summarize, we need to consider the short-term requirements, to develop a clear strategic vision, to undertake reform of legal and regulatory framework; to ensure that we undertake a balanced investment programme; institutional development and capacity building, and aligning infrastructure development with national priorities.

IN terms of recommendations, again, we have a need for more research and development; we need to acquire the right capacities for legal, financial aspects; to Strengthen regulatory role of government ministries; to ensure transparency in the tender process; to Strengthen inter-ministerial co-operation for infrastructure development; to develop clear framework for Public-Private Partnerships; and to develop a long-term vision (beyond 2015)

In conclusion, I would like to present four recommendations which are common to all the sessions. These are as follows: a need to Strengthen research and evidence base; Strengthen co-operation between development partners and government, between central and regional government, and between development partners & civil society ;Increase transparency and accountability; Increase participation of the public in planning, implementation and monitoring