

Child Rights and the Country Partnership Framework (CPF)

What is the CPF?

The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) is a four-to-six year strategy that the World Bank Group (WBG) develops, together with a borrowing country, to guide its activities in that country. It is a new instrument that the Bank has recently started using, and replaces the Country Assistance/Partnership Strategy (CAS/CPS). The CPF will identify objectives that the WBG activities are expected to help the country achieve, such as access to social protection services, or promoting private sector development. These objectives should be linked to the country's own development goals, and also contribute to the Bank's twin goals of reducing absolute poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

How is the CPF Created?

Under the new approach, the Bank will first gather and develop background materials that will serve as a basis and rationale for the programmatic priorities in the CPF. The main component of this background material will be a *Systemic Country Diagnostic (SCD)*. This is a document developed by the Bank which should provide analysis for determining the opportunities and constraints to poverty alleviation in a country. The SCD along with the government's national development plan will then be used to begin working with the government to develop the CPF. This generally includes a discussion regarding priority areas for the country and where the Bank can provide added value. The Bank will also look to see what other donors are planning in the country, and should consult with various stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to hear inputs about what the CPF should, and should not, include.

Why should Civil Society care about the CPF?

Although children are often the primary stakeholders in the development projects and programs that emerge from the CPF, their needs and interests can be overlooked without the involvement of civil society organizations that can advocate for their inclusion. For example, the Bank could identify priorities related to access to health services. Child rights organizations with experience in the health sector could engage in public consultations to encourage the inclusion of programs or methods that better serve children in this sector, or identify populations that might be at-risk or traditionally excluded from health programs such as child-headed households. The involvement of civil society at this stage of the development process could provide an important opportunity to not only identify development challenges and priorities, but also to avoid negative outcomes when certain communities or stakeholders are overlooked.

How can Civil Society become engaged in the CPF process?

Encouraging the Bank to carry out broad consultations throughout the CPF process is important to ensuring that the CPF addresses the most critical development challenges in the country. The Bank generally conducts civil society consultations, both online and in person, in the process of developing the CPF. For more information on the timeline for the CPF process in your country, and how you may get involved, please contact eberger@bicusa.org.