



READOUT: REGIONAL IDA FORUM – Latin America and the Caribbean *June 6, 2024*

IDA21 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND UPDATES ON BETTER BANK

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional IDA Forum on IDA21 Strategic Directions and Updates on the Better Bank took place as a virtual event on June 6. Ten countries joined the event: Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guyana, Suriname. Of these countries, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua are IDA clients.

The aim of the forum was to inform civil societies about the proposed IDA21 strategic directions and obtain feedback and any input from them to feed into IDA's policy dialogue, as well as update them on the progress the Bank is making in its evolution towards a better bank. To this end, the IDA Manager for Strategy and Operations Mr. Enrique Blanco Armas made a presentation on the proposed [IDA21 Strategic Directions](#), while the World Bank Director of Operations Policy and Country Services Ms. Paloma Casero presented on the progress the World Bank is making towards being a [Better Bank](#). These were the basis for discussion.

The World Bank Regional Vice President for LAC made opening remarks, followed by the IDA Borrower Representative (Haiti) Ms. Ketleen Florestal representing countries in the LAC region in IDA Replenishment Meetings. Mr. Patrick Saint Pre of Haiti Climat summarized the views expressed by participants as the rapporteur. The forum was moderated by Ms. Diletta Doretti, World Bank Group Resident Representative for Guyana and Suriname.

After the two presentations, participants shared their feedback on the IDA21 policy content which has five focus areas of People, Planet, Prosperity, Infrastructure and Digitalization, and four lenses of More and better jobs; Gender; Fragility; and Private investments.

Following are the inputs made:

FOCUS AREAS

PEOPLE:

- **Improve life conditions in cities** and low-income countries – what is IDA's alternative way to reach this goal.
- **Consider children** – worldwide they account for 1 billion of people on this planet.
- **Inclusion of people with disabilities** - IDA should ensure governments work on this.

PLANET

- **The real threat of climate change to small economies globally** – the Bank should address this risk with responses tailored to each country.

PROSPERITY:

- **Household and local private sector debt** – These levels of debt should be addressed in addition to national public sector debt.

LENSES

Fragility:

- **The new geography of poverty caused by conflict and fragility** – this must be taken into account for interventions to be effective.
- **Role of NGOs in reaching the most vulnerable in FCV contexts** - NGOs like the International Rescue Committee and others can help de-risk the delivery of development programs, helping to close the disbursement gap in conflict settings. Can help reach those most vulnerable and at risk of extreme poverty, particularly the high number of refugees, migrants, and other displaced populations across Latin America who are at highest risk of falling through the cracks of government responses.

BETTER BANK

Scorecard – Overall appreciate and welcome the scorecard. Disaggregation in measuring impact is good but how are the local communities going to be involved in this process given that the Bank mainly works with government.

OTHER ISSUES RAISED

Several points on engaging CSOs from decision-making to project implementation, and strengthening their capacity:

- We appreciate the opportunity to be consulted on at this phase of the IDA replenishment process. But much more critical is the opportunity to be involved in the actual decision making. Can IDA lead the way in not only enabling consultation with civil society but be the first one to make a breakthrough in having civil society at the table when decisions about replenishment, allocation, and setting of priorities are being made.
- Engage civil society in overseeing and actually providing guidance and management of projects on the ground. Integrate CSO expertise in at every stage, from program design to assessing people's needs to delivery models that are accessible to the most vulnerable.
- How does IDA intend to support the institutional capacity reinforcement of NGOs to be really able to reach results?

Call for more funding for IDA

- We look to the bank to recognize partnerships, including with NGOs, to ensure that IDA 21 best delivers on this new geography of poverty.
- We call on the donors as allies of IDA and the bank to provide the funding to fully realize ambitions.

OVERALL RESPONSE FROM BANK MANAGEMENT ON CSO ENGAGEMENT IN OPERATIONS

- The Bank is involving NGOs at three levels:
 1. **Replenishment package:** Ensuring CSO voices are heard at design level and this is being ramped-up in IDA21.
 2. **Country partnership framework:** deep consultation with various stakeholders in-country including CSOs to ensure the strategy or a work program is not just informed by our dialogue with government
 3. **Project level:** Investment project that we design engage local communities to ensure both design and implementation are of high quality. There is third party monitoring happening in many of our projects.