

ARTF Strategy Group Meeting

June 27, 2015

Summary of Discussion

The ARTF Strategy Group Meeting was held on June 27, 2015 with participation from donors and the Ministry of Finance. The World Bank Operations Manager, Stephen Ndegwa and Senior Operations Officer, Ditte Fallesen chaired the meeting. Stephen Ndegwa opened the meeting by introducing Wezi Msisha, the new World Bank Senior Operations Officer for the ARTF, who will be replacing Ditte Fallesen starting August 1, 2015.

The 6-months schedule for Strategy Group: The main agenda involved discussions about the meeting schedule for the ARTF Strategy Group from July to December 2015. The meeting agreed on the following topics:

- Incentive Program Update: The Incentive Program will be finalized tentatively by August, 2015 after government approval. The IP Working Group has agreed on reforms and discussions with Government are ongoing.
- The World Bank's Systematic Country Diagnostics: Key findings of the World Bank's Systematic Country Diagnostics, carried out in preparation for the new World Bank Country Partnership Framework (CPF), will be shared with the Strategy Group tentatively by end of July. During the CPF exercise, The Bank will have extensive consultations with government and donors.
- The Strategy Group will be briefed on project progress during the bi-annual Implementation Support Missions held for each of the ARTF projects. These briefings will happen be additional to Strategy Group Meetings.
- Gender Working Group (GWG) Update: Donors will regularly brief the Strategy Group on the issues discussed at the GWG meetings.
- Programmatic Approaches: Government will present their vision on Programmatic Approaches.
- ARTF Results Workshop: The workshop will be structured around the findings of the ARTF Scorecard, to be published around September 1, 2015, and will serve to inform the annual review of the ARTF Financing Strategy.
- Update on NSP/rural development: Government and the World Bank will update donors on the status of the next phase of NSP.

In addition, The Ministry of Finance noted three issues, which the new Government would like to table for discussion:

- Publishing ARTF results ;
- Capacity building a top priority of the new Government. All the ARTF projects result in increased capacity of the project staff and the Government is keen to discuss and explore ways to transfer this capacity to the Government by integration of project staff into the Government Structure (Tashkeel); and
- The role of the ARTF and its portfolio in addressing poverty alleviation more effectively.