World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Ethiopia
Summary of Consultations with Regional Governments
April 9, 2026
Sky light Hotel

Consultations on the World Bank Group's proposed Country Partnership Framework (CPF) brought together 146 representatives from across all regions of Ethiopia and city administrations, representing key sectors. Participants shared their development priorities, challenges, and emerging opportunities, helping to shape a strategic, results-oriented partnership that reflects Ethiopia's diverse regional contexts and delivers sustainable, long-term impact.

Key Points Discussed:

Regional Development and Decentralization

Participants emphasized that regional consultations are essential for gathering development insights from the ground up. It was noted that Ethiopia's constitution grants regions significant responsibilities for delivering basic services like health and education, with a substantial portion of the national budget flowing through regional governments. A key objective highlighted was the need for the CPF to support development from the "region upward," building on regional experimentation and acknowledging diverse local contexts.

Infrastructure and Basic Service Delivery

Regional representatives raised critical concerns about deficits in basic infrastructure. These include the lack of electricity in most health facilities, damaged sanitation systems, and insufficient emergency transport capacity. The urgency of these investments is underscored by high stunting rates in several regions. Irrigation was identified as a systemic, long-term solution, given Ethiopia's water surplus, which could boost agricultural productivity, support electricity generation, and mitigate flooding.

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Participants stressed that access to finance remains a significant problem, particularly for the informal sector and small to medium-scale enterprises (SMEs). The discussion highlighted that while some regions have significantly untapped economic potential, investment has been hampered. There was a strong call for an urgent focus on creating jobs quickly to alleviate conflict pressures and address youth impatience, with the development of value chains in agriculture and livestock identified as a key priority.

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Women's Empowerment and Gender Gaps

There was consensus that despite women comprising over half the population, past projects have done little to address their specific challenges. Participants described compounding barriers for women, including cultural norms, limited education, and a lack of collateral for financing. They called for targeted CPF interventions, including dedicated funding for women-led businesses and a commitment to balancing cultural sensitivity with a willingness to challenge entrenched patriarchal norms.

Learning, Innovation, and Mobilizing Capital

The consultations underscored the role of regions as critical learning sites for development. Participants advocated for an adaptive approach that rapidly scales successful initiatives while promptly discontinuing ineffective ones, enabling home-grown innovations to be expanded efficiently. The World Bank was encouraged to facilitate peer-to-region learning to accelerate innovation and knowledge sharing. Additionally, it was noted that to sustain development at scale, there is a pressing need to attract additional capital into the country beyond the current IDA allocations.

Annex:

Number of Participants:	Participants:
146 participants	**Regional States** • Afar Region • Amhara Region • Benishangul Gumuz Region • Central Ethiopia Region • Gambela Region • Harari Region • Oromia Region • Sidama Region • Somali Region • South Ethiopia Region • Southwest Region • Tigray Region **City Administrations** • Addis Ababa City Administration • Dire Dawa City Administration

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