

CiSPHA REGIONAL WEBINAR

Update on IDA 21 replenishment; Opportunity for health system strengthening?

On 27th July 2024, the Africa Civil Society Platform for Health (CiSPHA) held a Regional Webinar for representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in conversations on, **“Update on IDA 21 replenishment; Opportunity for health system strengthening?”** 45 participants from across Africa and the world joined the discussions. The webinar was moderated by Fitsum Lakew, AU Liaison manager and CiSPHA coordinator at WACI Health.

Xochitl Sanchez, Director at ACTION secretariat spoke on the outcome from the World Bank Group spring meetings and how they provided opportunities for CSOs and other stakeholders to push for priorities and an ambitious replenishment. She mentioned the flagships at the spring meetings which included the IDA global forum, the bank’s pledge to support UHC at country level and CSOs policy forum which allows them to have discussions with the World Bank directors. She spoke on the need to prioritize human capital in IDA. Xochitl also informed us of the bank’s revolution and what it means for IDA. She urged the CSOs to reach out to the Country representatives, IDA deputies, and World Bank directors to ensure their voices are heard.

“The bank is looking to simplify IDA. We need to declare what that means. We know it is to simplify processes, speed the pace of disbursements & reduce barriers to countries. What we know it does not mean is narrowing focus areas, reducing accountability and limiting ambition.”

~Xochitl Sanchez

The next speaker was Aggrey Aluso, Director at Pandemic Action Network Africa region. He gave an update on the IDA for Africa Heads of State Summit where a coalition for CSOs, youth, foundations and private sector was formed to champion IDA replenishment. The leaders also pledged to unlock the private sector potential and promised to be more disciplined in managing the finances. He spoke on how IDA can play a critical role in ensuring governments and donors increase investment in health. He emphasized the need for health to be a primary objective for development to avoid the reversal effects experienced during COVID 19 pandemic. He stated that CSOs should ensure that an ambitious IDA 21 replenishment does not come at the expense of other critical financing for Africa such as GAVI and Africa Development Fund.

“If you don’t invest in systems that can guarantee health security, all the important development issues that are supposed to reduce poverty can be reversed”

~Aggrey Aluso

Rosemary Mburu; Executive Director at WACI Health emphasized on the need for CSOs to take advantage of the CSO policy forum where they can write proposals in the next 2 months to the World Bank for different events on the sidelines of the World Bank and IMF meetings. She also encouraged CSOs to form partnerships to ensure their proposals are strong. She also emphasized the need for these proposals to reflect the bank’s policies and priorities. Lastly, she reminded CSOs of their important role of pushing for transparency and accountability at both country and global level.

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“As communities and civil societies, how can we continue to engage in this kind of conversation and tap more into IDA, World Bank financing, IMF and so on?”

~Rosemary Mburu

Highlights on the concluded World Bank Spring Meetings and key updates around the IDA 21 Replenishment: Advocacy opportunities for MPs and CSOs.

The World Bank spring meetings happened on 17th-19th April at the World Bank main offices in Washington DC. The meeting had several highlights which include the following;

- Discussions on the World Bank shift as part of its revolution which include the simplification of IDA, a new scorecard and inclusion of global challenges
- The IDA forum that allows engagement of partners in the IDA 21 process.
- CSOs open policy forum which is an open space that allows them to discuss their views on policies with the World Bank Directors.
- The World Bank president, Ajay Banga declared the bank’s support for UHC by supporting countries to reach 1.5 billion people with affordable and quality healthcare.

The IDA 21 replenishment is happening after the major Covid-19 pandemic that derailed development and the World Bank’s revolution. Some of the key updates around the IDA 21 replenishment include:

- The introduction of the terms focus areas instead of themes and lenses instead of cross cutting areas.
- The themes for IDA 21 replenishment include people, planet, prosperity, digitization and infrastructure.
- From the IDA forum, the need to elevate the impact of human capital to the highest level. It has been deprioritized and put under some themes instead of making it a stand-alone policy.
- There has been no robust civil society engagement.
- There is a push for a good accountability framework since what you cannot track & measure you most likely wouldn't have impacted.

The speaker emphasizes the need for CSOs to take advantage of opportunities to get involved in the IDA replenishment conversations and ensure critical issues are included before the next meeting in October, 2024. Some advocacy opportunities include;

- Champion for the IDA target to be reached.
- Contacting IDA deputies, World Bank directors and country representatives to have discussions on policy and critical issues. [World Bank directors](#) and [Country directors](#).
- Push for human capital to be included as a stand-alone policy in IDA 21 to ensure a lot of focus is on it.
- Push for alignment of goals with SDG goals and a good quality of investments to be made.
- Push for a whole of country approach not just high level leadership engagement.
- Push for the Brazil paper that targets insecurity and nutrition issues to be signed.

Highlights from IDA for Africa Heads of States Summit and the opportunity of IDA21 replenishment for strengthening PPR at national and regional level.

The IDA for Africa Heads of State Summit was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28th to 29th, April. The speaker highlighted reasons why IDA is important for Africa which include: 39 out of 75 countries that IDA supports are from Africa; 75% of the fund is given to African countries and

8 out of top 10 IDA borrowers are from Africa. Moreover, Africa is heavily affected by high disease burden.

The key outcomes from the heads of state summit include:

- Formation of a coalition of CSOs, youth, foundations and private sector to champion IDA replenishment.
- A call for the World Bank to strengthen IDA governance.
- A call for stronger contribution to IDA 21 replenishment.
- Pledge by African leaders to unlock the private sector potential.
- Pledge by African leaders to manage the financial resources well.

On the issue of health systems strengthening and PPPR, the speaker emphasized the following;

- The need for leaders to prioritize health in their development plans to prevent reversal of their development agenda due to health calamities.
- IDA's critical role of creating an enabling environment for increased investment in health by countries. IDA can encourage governments to invest in pandemic preparedness.
- Need to invest in systems that guarantee health security.
- African countries need to engage the whole of society approach to ensure the common threat across different sectors is found and dealt with.

* Resilience Action Network (RANA)- A new entity at Pandemic Action Network that seeks to be the advocacy hub for resilience issues such as Covid. They host webinars on conversations around PPPR and financing including IDA.

Remarks on CSO engagement with World Bank

- CSOs should take advantage of the CSO policy forum at the World Bank.
- They can form partnerships and write proposals that reflect the bank's policy to ensure the issues they want addressed on the sidelines of World Bank and IMF meetings are noticed.
- CSOs need to push for more accountability and transparency.

Important resources

- [A call for IDA to prioritize Nutrition and preparedness](#)
- [World Bank directors](#) and [Country directors](#).
- [World Bank Civil Society Forum](#)
- [Call for proposals for the World Bank civil society forum](#)
- [Resilience Action Network\(RANA\)](#)