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**To Whom It May Concern**

**TESTIMONIAL REGARDING WORKSHOP ON PARTICIPATORY MONITORING & EVALUATION TOOLS**

**Jointly Conducted by the World Bank and the Public Affairs Foundation, Bangalore, India**

**Al Sokhna, Egypt, 22nd - 26th May 2016**

**Background:** The World Bank's (WB) Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Strategy and their Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with Egypt identified economic and social inclusion, as well as governance, as key pillars for achieving sustainable growth and reducing poverty. In this respect, the CPF noted and that delivery of infrastructure and social services is significantly facilitated through transparency, citizens' engagement, and accountability.

**Partnership with Egypt's Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC), Government of Egypt (GoE):** IDSC is a premier policy and strategy think tank of GoE's Ministry of International Co-operation (MOIC), and reports directly to the Office of the Prime Minister and to the Egyptian Cabinet of Ministers. IDSC's core objectives include policy research and advice; dissemination; engaging societal partners; monitoring the effectiveness of GoE's programs; and engaging in regional and international partnerships to fill an 'advocacy gap' and facilitate impartial, evidence based, and credible policy advice to decision-makers. As part of a two-year MENA multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) grant and motivated by the CPF's vision on citizen engagement, the WB provided technical assistance to support IDSC in their efforts with Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E) of GoE programs.

**Workshop / Clinic on Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation (PM&E):** WB invited the Public Affairs Foundation's (PAF) to partner with them to jointly conduct a 5-day custom designed, hands on Workshop / Clinic for a group of 40 senior personnel of the M&E and other cross functional teams of IDSC and MOIC. PAF was specifically chosen for this purpose recognizing its rich and extensive experience in undertaking regional and national studies in India and overseas using citizen report card (CRC) and other Social Accountability (SA) tools, and in conducting capacity building training workshops on these tools in several countries across the developing world,

The customised Workshop / Clinic PAF provided participants with an understanding of the concept of social accountability; gave them an overview of the various tools available; and conducted a two-day hands-on and interactive technical training on the CRC methodology; WB's focus was on Community Score Cards, Impact Evaluation, Social Impact Assessment. WB and PAF complemented all these with international best practices and real-life examples of projects undertaken for, and benefits derived by, various stakeholders in various parts of the world.

Participants were able to gain a deeper interest to learn more about these tools; understand how these tools can complement ones that they are already familiar with; appreciate how utilisation of the more comprehensive set of tools can assist them provide IDSC/MOIC's stakeholders - the Cabinet and various Ministries - with more robust, evidence (users' voice) based research that will help inform policy, enable improvements in service delivery, and strengthen governance, in their own contexts; and build capacities to train others in IDSC/MOIC and in the client Ministries, to institutionalise evidence based research using the entire range of tools.

World Bank acknowledges PAF's contributions to facilitating an effective Workshop that was greatly appreciated as evidenced by the high scores in participants' evaluations. The training has enabled IDSC to include in their approach more consideration for quantitative and qualitative methods, and for reaching out, engaging, and collaborating with the various Ministries and agencies they support.



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