

PANEL CONCLUDES ITS FIRST PILOT

**NIGERIA: LAGOS METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE PROJECT
(LMDGP)**

On September 3, 2014, the Inspection Panel briefed the Committee on Development Effectiveness (CODE) of the World Bank Board on the first experience under the Pilot of a new approach to support early solutions in the Inspection Panel process. The briefing outlined the implementation of this first Pilot, together with its achievements, challenges, and lessons for future Pilots. As set forth in the document on the Pilot approach presented to the Board of Executive Directors in November 2013, the results and effectiveness of the Pilot will be assessed by the end of 2015.

The case was based on a Request for Inspection received on September 30, 2013 alleging that the demolition of hundreds of homes in Badia East as part of a housing development project financed by the Lagos State Government “*without prior consultation, notice, compensation or resettlement*” led to the “*impoverishment and insecurity*” of thousands of people. It was alleged that this was a result of World Bank’s failure to ensure that the Lagos Government complied by the commitments under the Financing Agreement for the LMDGP even though the evictions were not financed by the project itself. After consulting with the Requesters and Bank Management, the Panel decided to consider this case under the new Pilot approach on the basis of the Action Plan provided by Bank Management and agreed by the community and their representative. The main concern and the focus of the Action Plan centered on the urgent need to deliver immediate compensation to the evictees, taking into account that the Project was closed the same date of the receipt of the Request by the Panel and that the Lagos Government essentially perceived the evictees as illegal squatters.

As of the present, the great majority of affected people have already received compensation, and Bank Management is committed to following up until the completion of the process. This accomplishment was a result of the intense work by the Bank, the Requesters, their representatives, and the Lagos State Government. On July 10, 2014, the Requesters expressed their satisfaction with the Pilot and Bank Management formally committed to maintain oversight until the full completion of all payments, to resolve all outstanding grievances, to facilitate participation in vocational training facilities, and to inform the Board on final implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan. On July 16, 2014, the Panel informed the Board that based on the satisfaction of the community members, it would not register the case.

In the Panel’s view, the Pilot proved to be both efficient and effective in redressing the grievances of affected people by focusing Bank efforts on solving the critical needs of thousands of evictees, while maintaining consistency with the Resolution that established the Inspection Panel. The Panel recognizes that there are important lessons for the application of future Pilot cases. The case also highlights the challenge of resettlement of slums in rapidly growing cities in a sustainable manner. The full Notice of Non-Registration can be accessed through [http://ewebapps.worldbank.org/apps/ip/PanelCases/91-Notice%20of%20Non-Registration%20\(English\).pdf](http://ewebapps.worldbank.org/apps/ip/PanelCases/91-Notice%20of%20Non-Registration%20(English).pdf).

For complete set of documents on the case related to Nigeria Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project, please go to this link: <http://ewebapps.worldbank.org/apps/ip/Pages/ViewCase.aspx?CaseId=94>

For more information about the Inspection Panel, please visit: www.inspectionpanel.org