**Issues that should be of utmost priority in Q1**

Many issues need to be tackled urgently in the next two months. These issues were planned to be part of the AAP but due to shifting circumstances they need to be moved up the priority list. This is mainly for two reasons. On the one hand, they will speed up the delivery of key programs on the ground, and on the other they will allow the team to concentrate on possible things to undertake when other activities are not possible at the moment.

The activities have been grouped in accordance with the main stakeholders that will be involved in them. This classification will facilitate the approach to the new cabinet members with clear priorities.

1. **Internal Trust Priorities:**
   1. Trust identity and key messages: This exercise was scheduled anyway for the first half of the year. But it now gains tremendous importance. First the team need assurance that what we are working for is still valid as a general direction, they also need to understand how to communicate it to outside partners.
   2. Better assessment and focusing of geographical expansion areas: through discussions with stakeholders and exploring potentials and needs for expansion.
   3. Preparations of fundraising strategies, funding proposals, fundraising tools, including web site, yearbook, etc.
   4. Internal training and defining new tools: Many of the new strategic issues that were planned need skills and capacities that are currently not available in the Trust. The training plans of most staff are lagging behind due to occupation in heavy planning works last quarter. So it is worthwhile to use the fact that many of the delivery programs are now slow to pick up on training needs, readying the team for the next bout of delivery expansion.
2. **Ministry of Education:**
   1. Expand access of the awareness programs: emphasis should be on including some component of debate and citizenship values in the employment awareness programs. Shabab and Massar are to develop some quick content for this component.
   2. Massar Touring program expansion: Again with an added emphasis on debate on citizenship issues. With the touring program's funding partners slowing down their commitment, the MoE should play a more active role in supporting the program.
   3. Reviewing the new curriculum on national education: Massar can help the Ministry to test and evaluate the new content for the curriculum.
   4. Rawafed's interactive theatre program should be expanded this year. We were planning to expand it to Homs, this is an opportune time to have the program engage children's fears and ambitions in this critical time.
3. **Ministry of social affairs and Labor:**
   1. Promoting the NGO platform as a viable partner for thinking through CS issues including the issuing of the new law, and setting up a framework for its new role. Funding for the platform from the EU is most likely be delayed now, we need to define new possibilities for funding beyond the current phase.
   2. Defining closer support to Shabab's Access to Employment programs. Shabab will concentrate on the level of awareness with MoE and Access to employment with MoSAL, other layers of Shabab's program will have to wait.
4. **Ministry of Agriculture:**
   1. Defining a joint approach for Firdos in the Eastern region.
   2. Engaging funds from IFAD to support Firdos's expansion.
   3. coordinating a joint platform for local development committees with other stakeholders.
5. **State Planning Commission:**
   1. Initiating the debate on the launch of the think tank: this is now of utmost importance. It was planned for the later part of the year. But as the planning will involve dialogue and debate on the nature of policy advocacy that the Think Tank will be doing, we feel that this debate will also be beneficial to bring many stakeholders form different points of view to the table to discuss how advocacy can better be dealt with.
6. **Central Bank:**
   1. Launching the MFI is now an urgent issue. The red tape presented has to be simplified (not removed or bypassed).
7. **Civil Society Partners:**
   1. Many of the discussions on new laws are excellent opportunities to push for a new type of partnership between government and CS. The need for positive and constructive debate is of the essence in the coming period of time. We feel that the Trust can play an important role to assure the government that the policies and laws are adequately tested and discussed.