Government of Nepal

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development

Local Governance and Community Development Programme

Name of Meeting

Technical Assistance Steering Committee (TASC)

15th TASC meeting

DATE: 11 MAY 2016

LOCATION: THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM, SINGHDURBAR

TIME START: 11:00AM END: 1:00 PM

COORDINATOR: Mr. RESHMI RAI PANDEY, JOINT SECRETARY/NPD. Mr. CHHABI RIJAL, UNDER SECRETARY/NPM

INTRODUCTION:

MoFALD officials and PCU experts in the 15th TASC meeting. The Agenda and proceedings of the meeting are as follows: Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey, National Programme Director and Joint Secretary MoFALD welcomed representatives from development partners,

Welcome remarks by NPD: Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey, Join the newly appointed Nation		AGENDA
Welcome remarks by NPD: Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey, Joint Secretary and National Programme Director LGCDP II welcomed all in the TASC meeting. He introduced the newly appointed National Program of Control of Contr	Main highlights of the presentation	DISCUSSIONS

the newly appointed National Progamme Manager of LGCDP –II, Mr. Chhabi Lal Rijal. Since, the NPM had just joined, the NPD chaired

the TASC meeting - generally chaired by the NPM NPM.	
. He then shared a	Data do Drient
genda for the meeting. This was followed by a presentation by the	*Vram

	programme recruitment facility Achievements under PPSF in 1st Quarter 2016	Status on Action on 14th TASC meeting
 Technical inputs provided to the 14th National Periodic Plan. Grievance redressing guidelines printed and disseminated Study on LB Equalization Formula Completed inputs being solicited before finalization. Study on the prospects of revising the MCPM indicators competed, inputs being solicited before finalization. 	- All Calibrates to be on board by 10" June 2010 -Candidate on board: DDCs-3, MUNs-4 -Written test completed: DDCs-10, Muns-28 -Date fixed for written test: DDCs-15, Muns-30 -On process: DDCs-47, Muns-155 Some of the key achievements in respective outcomes are as follows: Outcome 1: - The PCU also contributed to the revision of the 2015/16 ASIP to align with the available funds Ward Citizens Forum Categorization Directives finalized based on which 72% of WCF have been categorized.	Some of the key decisions that were complied with are as follows; -Data inconsistency corrected and DPs comment incorporated in Annual Progress Report 2015 - Narrative report of AWP 2016 prepared. -Preparedthe financial report showing budget by donor agencies and indicating the closing balance of December 2015. -Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2016 and first quarter work plan 2016 agreed in principle for execution.

PPSF expenditure status as of 31 March 2016	1 ToT and 2 training sessions based on the Integrated Training Manual on urban planning, building by- laws and building codes facilitated Web-sites of 68 DDCs updated. Out of 217 municipalities, 214 municipalities have new websites live from official standard domain DPMAS training conducted to the DDCs officials ICT training and activities were initiated at the new Municipalities. Outcome 2: Organized Orientation on Downward Accountability and use of SA tools Facilitated CSOs¹ Peer Review meetings Provide technical support to prepare 'Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) of MOFALD part Provided technical support in the revision process of District Annual Development Plan Guideline Outcome 3: Provided technical inputs to MTR team on various aspect of LGCDP implementation and performance Provided technical first quarter is 75%
	Outcome 2: - Organized Orientation on Downward Accountability and use of SA tools - Facilitated CSOs' Peer Review meetings - Provide technical support to prepare 'Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) of MOF/ - Provided technical support in the revision process of District Annual Development Plan Guidel
	Outcome 3: - Provided technical inputs to MTR team on various aspect of LGCDP implementation and perfo
PPSF expenditure status as of 31 March 2016	The expenditure status of first quarter is 75%
LGCDP (PPSF) audit 2015 Observation and Recommendation	PPSF had excellent audit report based on the audit conducted by third party auditors as part of the UNDP NEX audit. The NPD Sir shall share the final PPSF audit report to the development partners.
Update on MTR Review	Mid term review completed, draft report prepared. Final comments to be sent to MTR team by 15 th May.
Issues and Challenges	 Timely fulfillment of vacant positions at different level (LBs, RCUs, and PCU) Update and refresher training to professional staff on emerging issues Establishment of horizontal learning culture at different level; Develop and operationalize the Result Based Management Information System:

Develop and operationalize the Result Based Management Information System;

Develop and institutionalize the objectively verified robust monitoring system.

Key discussions and responses by the management

government will take up and what will be the government's share and what kind of support would be required of the DPs. activities have been changed and budget revised. Mr. Adhikari commented that it would be important to be clear on what the regards to conduct study on local body structure and facilitate the functioning of LLRC. The board requires explanation on why the In the changed context, how the activities were envisioned and how is it related to the work of the commission. For example, with budgetrevision proposed. The activities earlier were identified tentatively when there was no constitution and commission not formed. **DFID:** Mr Bishnu Adhikari noted with regards to proposed revision of the budget for next year, how the activities wereidentified and

regarding what kind of funds and technical expertise support would be required. **Mr. Yam Nath** Sharma added that it would be good to receive a clear line of indication from the government after adequate homework

the revisions based on priorities and needs to implement Federalism in the immediate scenario. Currently, funding gap is being analyzed based on which further resources for the commission will be explored. The team is making various sources - GoN and DPs. There is a likelihood that the budget proposed for LLRC may not be sufficient given the scope of work. was formed to undertake the task. The budget for LLRC was proposed to MoF. Resources for the commission are being explored from Mr. Gopal Aryal, Output Manager 9:In the earlier output group meeting, it was agreed to review the budget and activities. A team

The details of what kind of support would be required for LLRC will be shared later once there is clarity.

of the proposed activities is not being questioned rather in absence of the overall picture; the proposed activities may be irrelevant partners to fill the gaps. This will then allow to explore activities that can be supported from LGCDP. However, looking at these activities, is only after the GoN's funding analysis, a complete picture can be ascertained whereby support would be sought from development overall scope was identified. Once there is a concrete picture, activities that can be supported from LGCDP can be further explored. It it is difficult to comprehend how it will contribute to a complete picture. At the moment, it looks like individual activities. The rational **DFID:**It was discussed during the output group meeting that the Ministry could do a proper mapping regarding the needs of LRRC. An

additional human resources. Depending on the areas and issues that require further funding post GoN funding analysis, further UNDP:In the output group meeting, overall scenario was discussed, not just on funding but also with regards to technical support, Program Co-ordination w

commission. Expertise is sought for the conceptual framework of local level restructuring. Experts required are: Additionally, the Commission has demanded few experts from MoFALD as soon as possible. ToRwasdeveloped in this regardsby the Mr. Gopal Aryal, Output Manager 9: There had been a press conference on LLRC which outlined five thematic areas.

- Constitutional law expert (2)
- Financial resource management (2)
- Local government restructuring (2)
- GIS expert (1)

therefore request will be made accordingly. NPD: Activities will be gradually defined, and budget sought after the funding analysis. The activities will be further defined and

DFID: Is it possible to have an initial/tentative idea of by when this can be done, especially in light of the fact that there have been recommendations from the MTR and how the activities can be aligned with them?

Since it is a participatory process, beginning from Ilaka level, logistics support, human resources, managing different workshops and iv) Fiscal decentralization. V) Local Level Administrative restructure. i)concept, policy and strategy on LLRC, ii) Kathmandu valley/capital integration policy strategy, iii) Analysis of data and information, Mr. Gopal Aryal, Output Manager 9: LLRC has shared five broad areas of work. There are basically five working groups-thematic

UNDP:It would be important to note that if the request is ad hoc it may be difficult to plan for the DPs. The DPs often need clearance consultations meeting may be required. The GoN is soliciting various proposal from LLRC regarding delineation of boundary, administrative structure, financial and other policy related studies. Thus, there are number of areas where funding would be required.

from HQ for allocating resources, whichrequires time; thus sooner, the better.

UNCDF:

Series of recommendation were provided during output meetings with regards to PPSF activities. Once all the output meetings are concluded, thorough revision of PPSF activities will take place. Presented is glimpse of output 9 revision for



discussion only. An updated PPSF work plan based on revised ASIP will be shared soon. Some activities will be seen in this year's work plan as it is only upto 2016 and others will be seen in the next.

Ë A quick review of RRF was done. In the current version, there will be number of activities and chunk of budget that wil assurance was planned, etc-. Thus, some of these funding can be relocated or channeled into new identified activities. not be utilized. Activities such as, endline survey, perception survey, final review, provision for how the annual quality

DFID:

- When can be the updated PPSF workplan be finalized? The unutilized funding can be planned early on for future activities.
- challenge or issue. It is related to how activities will be prioritized and surplus budget utilized The MTR team very strongly flagged the TA and PPSF issue which has not been highlighted in the presentation as a

activities could be dropped or discontinued. There will be resources that will be remain under-utilized. In the current RRF, based on utilized in that regard. Once the output group meeting concludes by the end of the week, it will provide a tentative idea on the total MTR recommendations-if the GoN and DPs so agree, carrying out the recommendation will require resources. The funding could be the MTR findings. Accepted responses needs to be presented to the Sub-NAC and later to NAC. Based on what is accepted or not, **DP Cell:** Anil Chandrika from DP cell mentioned that a management response has not been prepared either from GoN or DPs side on

which can be used to fund the RCU and Danish resources committed to RCU may be freed up to cover the activities funded under natural option. There has been a saving of about USD 151,000 on DFID funds owing to staff departure and delays in recruitments, Hence the activities funded under the Norwegian funds may need to be funded under another fund code – Denmark being the more **UNDP:** Ms. Sachchi Karki noted that due to currency fluctuation, there has been a loss of above USD 100,000 on Norwegian funds. Norway. This is because, DFID funds are tied to human resource and operational costs only.

UNCDF: A presentation will be held soon to provide a clear summary of the savings.

now, it is a similar situation; currently, the document does not provide clear picture of the budget. **DFID:** Last PPSF board meeting was struggling with figures in terms of expenditure and savings, and what has been proposed. And

document. If the exercise is not done now, a lot of resources will remain unutilized. context. That is a different exercise. What is presented is regarding the current plan of ASIP. Changes will be in the overall PPSF project the overall RRF, certain activities envisioned at the beginning of the PPSF might have to be changed or dropped given the changed Anil: Presented figure 75% is of first quarter result-funding of the planned activities. It constitutes a small part of the entire budget. In

DFID: In order to have second quarter budget finalized, though the clamity on how much saving is there in the first quarter, what

quarter, where will the savings be plotted in the second or third quarter accordingly including the activities. other activities can be dropped or added in order to plan for the next quarter. The presentation should highlight savings of the first

UNDP: Mr. YamnathSharma clarified that there are two different things being discussed

- Exercise for the next year's annual work plan
- budget can be set aside. Once the funding gap analysis is done by the ministry for output 9 in terms of support to LLRC, it is stemming from the emerging context. Some of the activities originally proposed needs to be revised and budget adjusted. subject to discussion amongst development partners on how to best contribute and in what areas. For this, based on initial figures, there will be some savingswhich is subject to revision of the entire RRF. From UNDP side, Quarterly workplan- 2^{nd} quarter. Most of the activities will remain the same in the second quarter except for output 9

SDC: Mr.Prakash Regmi made note of following points:

- Reporting: The reporting seems to be very activity level and not sure how it is linked with the indicators of PPSF document.
- government would provide better picture. accordingly would allow DPs to at least define funding areas.As discussed earlier, funding gap analysis of LLRC by the initial plan of the draft roadmap that can highlight tentative HR requirement and other gaps that can be identified and proposed Support to LLRC: Receiving proposal from LLRC on ad hoc basis would lead to revising the PPSF activities regularly. Instead an
- tasks and support towards LLRC. If a ToR is developed for this technical committee, especially in the 14 earthquake affected however field observation from Ramechhap, Dailekh and Surkhet showed that LDOs seem to have limited knowledge of their Technical committee formed at DDC:LLRC provisions formation of district technical committee under the convenorship of LDOs,
- support should be ensured to LLRC. TOR of LLRC is much elaborate which envisions a lot of activities to be implemented at the local level. But, timeline is the biggest challenge. Thus, development partners are eager to support GoN in this regard. MoFALDshould come up with a roadmap so that LLRC can produce a report within the stipulated time. For that, as many districts, it would be much helpful as they are heavily under pressure due to the work of national reconstruction authority. <u>Timeline:</u>In next 10 months, LLRC is provisioned to provide recommendation to the GoN to implement the new constitution.
- <u>Process and ownership:</u> Involving all stakeholders is vital. How to ensure their ownership is important.
- <u>Programme Officers:</u> Recruitment seems not possible by July 2016. What is the plan of ministry to bridge the gap?



conceptual framework being designed which will be sent for comment. Orientation will be held at provincial level by July end. responsibilities are to work within the broad ToR. They have also been informed that LDO's detailed ToR is being prepared along with Mr. Gopal Aryal, Output Manager 9:LDOs have been informed that district technical committee has already been formed and their

NPD:

- Share UNDP Audit report to all DPs
- Transfer of UN vehicles to Federal division and M & E division
- PPSF account decision/Cheque signing- Proposed to transfer authority to NPM in order to create more ownership and accountability.

not have the authority to revise its guideline, such as handing over of PPSF account decision authority to NPM from NPD. UNDP: Ms. Sophie Khemkhadze underlined that LGCDP TA support is being implemented under NEX guideline. The TASC board does

observation is valid. Whether to have a blanket approach to endorse the work plan? there has not been ample discussion to revisit, drop and propose. Moreover, some of the MTR recommendation based on the the document shared, it is difficult to endorse. Mandate of the board is to propose and endorse. Looking at some of the activities, **DFID**: Key agenda of the meeting is to review the proposed quarterly plan and approve it along with the budget. However, based on

Anil: The presentation highlights PPSF second quarter work plan of ASIP 2015/16. Ongoing output meetings are discussing ASIP ASIP activities. Most of the activities still remain from JFA while most of PPSF activities are continued. activities of 2016/17.For PPSF AWP of 2015/16, half of the activities come from this year's ASIP while other will come from next FY

also based on MTR recommendation and the fact that the LLRC is already constituted, some of the activities endorsed by the PPSF AWP 2016 may need to be fine-tuned. What is being proposed was the fine tuning of the activities within the existing budget ceiling, in line with the consultations from the Federalism division. It was not proposing totally new activities. will pretty much remain the same. However, based on current output group meetings recommendation and ongoing revision of ASIP, UNDP:Ms. Sachchi Karki informed that what is being proposed is based on the agreed annual work plan. The activities for quarter 2

achieved in previous quarter, based on that what are the priorities for the next quarter. The result of PPSF is functionalizing Pillar 1,2,3. Norway: Mr. Bhola Prasad Dahal emphasized that discussion and agreed points from last PPSF board meeting is not reflected in the presentation. The point is to be specific on main priorities/concrete plans of the PPSF in the last quarter. What was delivered and

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quarter as well. Agreed decision needs to be followed. A concrete plan for the next quarter should be reflected. The Norwegian funding was not released in the first quanteer and looking at the report, it looks challenging to do the same in the next

created confusion in term of activities level reporting. direct implementation of activities. However, one of the project boards made a decision to link the TA contribution with broader LGCDP activities which would reflect the linkage between the two clearly. And thus, the reporting in the current format. It may have UNDP: Mr. Yam Nath Sharma noted that there are many activities level result activities in the report. Earlier, PPSF used to report on

Clarity on annual work plan to quarterly work plan: Principally, project board would agree to break down of activities on programme and policy level issues, another round of discussion is needed. Perhaps, a small taskforce can be formed is proposed. From this meeting, PPSF operational support activities should be endorsed as it affects the salary. For other quarterly basis except for substantial revision which would require further discussion. In terms of Output 9, exclusive revision

support could be more meaningful. align with the needs identified by the division. Thus, consent was sought from Federal division of the government and so that PPSF work of federalization division. Because of that, the work plan was shared with the federal division to reflect changes that could better to be fine-tuned is activities related to output 8 and 9. The agreed AWP already had certain built in activities that would relate to the UNDP:Ms. Sachchi Karki re-emphasized that what is presented is already in the agreed AWP 2016 for PPSF. The only thing that needs

studies, consultancies Anil: Pillar 1 and Pillar 3 will remain as it is. Only changes would be made in Pillar 2which is in terms of support related to policies,

every detail of ASIP is required to be presented in the TASC meeting. Even in the PPSF, highlight the priority areas for the next quarter. The progress report at the moment does not help to understand what was achieved last quarter. **DFID:** Mr. Bishnu Adhikari suggested discussing only those activities or areas that are to be endorsed in the Project Board meeting. Not

expenditure as well Norway: Make two or three action points for the next quarter and adjust budget accordingly. It will contribute to increase budget

contribute TA support to overall programme SDC: Perhaps, another discussion is required to agree on the modality of PPSF reporting and setting priorities and how to link

theoretical challenge. Quality of report has been concerning. How to explain TA contribution at the broader level? **UNDP:** How to distinguish the contribution made by TA and LGCDP activities? RRF also talks about operational support. It is a

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Anil: RRF is all about operational support.

A Results of the Allers and

to frequent staffs 'turnover; regular reporting has been interrupted from local bodies due to which RCUs are under tremendous presentation shall incorporate suggestions. On the other hand, GoN,budget cut has compromised activities. Limitations are there due NPD:The points have been well taken. Issue it to provide more elarity on specific TA contribution in the LGCDP programme. Next Sound of the state of the state

Norway:

funding is missing funds, whereas in the current financial reporting reflects 34,000 dollars. Either it is misreported or 10,000 dollar In January, financial report, the expenditure up to December, 44,000 dollars expenses was shown on Norwegian

In the first quarter, based on the compliance, financial reporting has to be made accordingly.

In January, the CDR was not finalized and the figures submitted were provisional. Nevertheless, figures that were submitted earlier support goes to the technical studies, policy development and field testing work -these have not moved hence the under delivery. will be double checked and informed back to the board. March 2016. Out of the total planned Norwegian funds, only USD 7,932 dollar has been spent in this quarter— as all Norwegian UNDP: The amount reflected in the document submitted during this quarter -USD 34,000 dollars - is based on the finalized CDR in

discussed in the TASC, the latter is the right figure as it was computed in March 2015. USD 34,771 was actually above the figures USD 34, 021 submitted after the TASC in January 2016. It was informed that as The verified information was shared on 13 May 2016. It was verified that the figures submitted during the TASC in May 2016

Mr. CP Sigdel: Mr. Sigdel made note of following issues:

Whether TA experts are working to meet the target of ASIP or are there separate indicators to measure performance?

staffs at RCUs and DGE/UGEs are still not able to travel to some parts of inner Teral post unrest. In addition, there are number of vacant positions of Context: It is important to acknowledge the context and environment TA staffs are working in the field. For instance, staffs

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oversight, etc. the local level with rigorous efforts from technical support, in terms of increasing people's participation in planning, civil Reporting: Perhaps, it needs to be more result oriented. However, there has been much changes that has been brought at

DFID: There should be exact clarity on what TA's actual contribution is in the LGCDP.

quality expertise amongst others. PPSF audit report has been hailed as one of the best with the few findings reported as low risk. NPD: TA support has contributed in the capacity development and supporting MoFALD in terms of reporting, policy advice, and hiring

Reporting is a collective responsibility. However, reporting issue has been consistently discussed without any improvement. SDC:MTR has been completed. A clear management response from both GoN and DPs is vital to create clarity and ways forward.

Raghu Shrestha: Perhaps, develop milestone in AWP trimester. It will be easier for PCU to report based on the milestone. Agree on

UNDP: Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, Deputy Country Director UNDP made note of following points:

- in smaller or bigger groups is required. Building consensus is vital. MTR recommendation: It has not yet been finalized. Next step is to prepare a management response- number of consultation
- <u>LLRC</u> formation is important step- PPSF could be instrumental in supporting LLRC. UNDP would be keen to supporting LLRC.
- more clarity, thus seek more competent advice on that. Perhaps bring in external M & E advisor to come up with indicators as project contribution to bigger GoN programme to bring LGCDP contribution is separately. However, collective effort is required to bring clarity. Current, RRF may not be sufficient-Quality assurance: It is the mandate of UNDP. The project complexity does not allow a clear delineation of what PPSF or
- the most accurate information. Nevertheless, figures will be double checked. Financial reporting: On 31st march is when the system locks the financial data anything submitted before is provisional. It is

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2nd quarter plan: Propose to approve outcome 1 and 3, continue discussion on outcome 2 for approval.

AOB: Baseline Survey report

Anil: Government has specified deadline by 15th March. Nothing has been heard from the firm. Cancel rest of the payments to the

Closing Remarks:

analysis which will provide a clear picture on areas where further funding will be required. President's speech-local election will be held in the month of November which means there are lot of work to be implemented by LLRC within limited resources and timeline, thus forward support would be required. As discussed, GoN will conduct funding gap feedbacks will be incorporated. LLRC has been formed. He acknowledged DPs interest to support it as per the need. As per the NPD:Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey acknowledged issues raised during the meeting and welcomed suggestions. It was also ensured that

Decisions

Decisions:

- Outcome 1 and 3 approved.
- € Under outcome 2, ongoing activities will continue. Activities proposed under outcome 2 have to be discussed
- ≝ Decided to transfer vehicles to LBFC and Federal Affair Division. Driver to be provided under PPSF for the transferred
- ₹ survey report within the deadline 15 march 2016, so decided to cancel the contract Approval of baseline Survey report: Nelson consulting firm could not submit final report on baseline and perception

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Mr. Shiv Raj Pokharel	17. Mr. Yam Nath Sharma	Ms. Martina Voss	10 Ivii. LlianathUpadhyaya	15 Mr. Hari Pyangani	wii: nairiesn Snarma	Mr Paract C	Mr. Surendra Rhandari	Ms. Pragyan Joshi	Ms. Puspa Tuladhar	Ms. Sachchi Karki	Wr. Prakash Regmi	Cara Cara	Mr. Bhola ed Dahai	Mr Yam Nath Shame	Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze		-	+	Mr. Chhabi Rijal	Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey	
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20. Mr. Raghu Shrestha CM Specialist COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION LGCDP COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICATION COMMUNICA
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