



Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
Local Governance and Community Development Programme

19th Technical Assistance Steering Committee (TASC)

Minute of the Meeting

DATE: 23 MARCH 2017

LOCATION: LGCDP MEETING HALL

TIME START: 4:00PM END: 5:00 PM

COORDINATOR: MR. RESHAM LAL KANDEL, NATIONAL PROGRAMME MANAGER

INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Resham Lal Kandel, National Programme Manager, welcomed representatives from development partners, MoFALD officials and PCU experts in the ad hoc TASC meeting. He informed that the meeting was called to discuss the emerging priorities in the changed context as well as to make broad decision regarding the adjustments required in the work plan and budget. The main agendas of the meeting were: update on the implementation of 18th TASC meeting decisions, interim arrangement of TA support at the provincial level, reallocation of Denmark budget, 2nd quarter work plan and orientation package for the officials of newly established 744 local governments.

| AGENDA | 1. Main highlights |
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| Update on implementation of the 18 th TA SC meeting discussion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepared work plan along with the corresponding HR plan and procurement plan 2017.-Prepared first quarter work plan-Prepared PPSF annual progress report 2016-MoFALD discussed with ADB to ensure there is no conflict or duplication with regards to hiring short term IT experts for MARS implementation |
| Interim arrangement of TA support at the provincial level in the changed context | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign additional roles and responsibilities to RCUs to support the local government units in the changed context,• Establish Provincial Level Technical Team in the premises of LDTA Surkhet to support province no 6, relocate Hetauda RCU office to Mujhaliya, Dhanusha LDTA premises to support province no. 2 and . Mobilize existing human resource from PCU and RCU to constitute the Technical Teams not only in the above two provinces but also in other provinces as required.• Design training modules for local government officials and elected representatives of local government and organize ToT to develop resource persons. |



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| <p>Proposed adjustment of Danish funds for the period April – July 2017</p> | <p><u>Reallocate the funds from the Government of Denmark for the following proposed activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide basic orientation to newly assigned Executive Officers • Prepare training modules for newly assigned gov. officials and elected representatives. • Prepare roster of resource persons to impart the training • Relocate RCU Hetauda office in LDTA Mujhaliya, Dhanusa • Establish Provincial Level office within the premise of LDTA Surkhet as an interim arrangement to support province no.6. • Cover the salary of PCU and DP Cell staff for Q2 |
| <p>Potential topics for the orientation to elected representatives and Executive Officers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federalism and local governance • Formation of local government • Function, power, and duties of local government and modus operandi • Legislative arrangement of local government • Judicial power and function of local government • Planning system • Fiscal system, structure and process in inter-governmental fiscal transfer in federalism • Local government operation • Inter-governmental relationship |

2. Discussions

Ms. Manju Lama, Denmark asked whether the presentation meant implementation of the first quarter work plan.

Raghu Shrestha, clarified that the compliance of the first quarter work plan meant that it had been prepared and approved.

Mr. Kandel mentioned that at present there is no RCU to support province no 6 and for province no 2 RCU meant for that province is working from the Hetauda. For the interim period, only RCU Hetauda will be relocated to Mujheliya while the new RCU office will be established in Surkhet to support province 6.

Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey, NPD: added that the programme shall examine all aspects of current coordination mechanism in terms of RCU set up and relocate the offices to best support the provinces during the transition period.

Mr. Yam Nath Sharma, UNDP: noted some RCUs such as RCU Hetauda and RCU Dhulikhel are currently overseeing districts that now fall outside their provinces. Hence, re-defining RCUs' geographical jurisdiction is also important.

Mr. Kandel informed that the management is currently working on adjusting RCUs jurisdiction. More detail restructuring will take place during the transition phase. For now, ToR of RCU staff will be revised along with PCU staff to work in the changed context. Offices will be set up at LDTA premises. In terms of office establishment cost, LGCDP will provide some basic logistics support only.

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Mr. Raj Kumar Dhungana, Norwegian Embassy: congratulated the Ministry in the pretext of local election announcement and implementation of federal structure, which is an achievement for all involved in the governance sector-government and donors alike. He further mentioned that setting up new RCU at province no. 6 is timely and necessary in the changed context. He however cautioned on the budgetary implications. He noted that the role of RCU will be critical in the changed context. He emphasized considering previous concerns regarding the functionality of RCU, how will it be restructured to make it more competent to support the new structure and enquired on how the role will change. He underlined the importance of addressing these issues..

Likewise, he advised that the quality of the training to be provided to local officials should be well thought out and planned to not miss important elements. First, three days seems to be limited time. Also, the curriculum of the training should incorporate components, such as inclusivity, children rights, gender, also since it is pre-election time. He enquired how the programme envisions to incorporate these aspects in the training.

Regarding the quality of training Mr. Kandel noted that Section 302 of the new constitution enshrines that municipality and rural municipality can exercise all powers provided to municipalities by any prevailing law or by the government executive order. It means there is already sensitivity towards gender and inclusion. Right now, establishing office and providing basic orientation is of primary importance. Having said that, all these aspects will be considered while preparing training modules for the local officials. Mr. Kandel also shared that relevant topics will be included in the training modules and that the trainings will be provided to newly recruited government staff.

Mr. Gareth Rannamets, **DFID** welcomed proposed changes, and stated that LGCDP and PPSF resources should be utilized as far as possible to support the Ministry in the changed context. He asked who would be designing and delivering trainings to the local officials and whether consultants would be hired for the design and or, partners such as staff college or LDTA would be responsible?

Mr. Kandel informed that MToT is ongoing for three days. The trainers will be then sent to various provinces, urban and rural municipality to provide the training. LDTA is the main vehicle as it is the national service provider. Possibility of Staff College can also be examined. Establishing and empowering provincial training centers is one of the core priority of the government. Thus, LDTA including the provincial training centers must be empowered and upgraded in the forefront of locally elected representatives. He noted that it is currently the official institution to design the curriculum.

Ms. Lama added that Denmark has no reservations on the reallocation of its fund. However, there needs to be further discussion on what activities need to be carried on and what needs to be completely discarded - as some of the activities outlined in the work plan do seem relevant in the changed context. Of the total budgeted USD 1.4 million of Denmark fund for the work plan until July 2017, the reallocation is of USD 400,000 meant that the remaining USD 500,000 is likely to be spent which may seem ambitious. She acknowledged that the programme has been proactive in proposing changes as per the new context and revisiting the work plan, however, she noted that detailed discussion is required on the changes to be made in the work plan.

It was noted that once an agreement in made principally on the reallocation of Denmark fund, the detail activities will be discussed in the next TASC meeting.



Mr. Anil Chandrika, stated that the objective of the meeting is to have principle agreement on the reallocation of Denmark fund while the regular TASC will have detailed discussion on the work plan revision. Meanwhile, he also shared that a consultant has been hired to re-examine the TA arrangement in the transition phase that will also provide scope into detailed capacity building and capacity assessment in the future.

AoB: Mr. Pandey, NPD acknowledged LLRC's role in the restructuring of the local level units with timely submission of the report. He further noted that the programme also played important role in supporting LLRC, especially by providing technical experts- ICT volunteers, GIS and Federalism expert. Additionally, he noted that despite unfavorable circumstances, local level restructuring completed and local election has been announced. Meanwhile, normal local bodies' functions and service delivery remains uninterrupted. He also acknowledged the discontinuous support throughout.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the programme is in the process of documenting and publishing LLRC prepared database including GIS maps for institutional memory and will be made publicly available. In this regard, programme resources will be utilized in doing so.

Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, **UNDP** welcomed the timely meeting to approve new priorities in order for LGCDP to adapt to the changing context. She also thanked Denmark for the flexibility in allowing reallocation of its fund, also owing to changed context. She agreed to others in noting that, DPs are interested in supporting the training to be provided to local officials, and thus as much detail about the training should be discussed because the quality of training matters in shaping of the new officials.

Ms. Kemkhadze remarked that once the elections are completed, 37,000 new elected officials will be onboard. Hence, it is very much appreciated of the programme in adjusting its priorities and therefore is a forward thinking strategy to set up new office at province 6 to better support the provincial government.

She mentioned that UNDP Nepal is preparing its Country Programme Document for five years (2018-2022) in which federalism and governance are the priority areas of work. Thus, UNDP looks forward to work with and support the ministry.

Finally, Mr. Kandel thanked all participants for active participation and valuable suggestions.

3. Decisions

- Review and revise roles and responsibilities of RCUs to support local government activities in the changed context.
- Relocate RCU office in Hetauda to Mujheliya, Janakpur to support province -2, set up Provincial Technical Team office in Surkhet to support province 6.
- Mobilize existing human resource from PCU and RCU for Provincial Level Technical Teams, Surkhet.
- Reallocate Denmark funds in work plan 2017 in the proposed activities ; detail activities and budgets will be shared in the next TASC meeting
- Design training modules for local government officials and organize ToT to develop resource persons.



ATTENDANCE LOG

| S.N | Name | Designation | Organization |
|-----|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Mr. Reshmi Raj Pandey | National Programme Director | LGCDP |
| 2. | Mr. Resham Lal Kandel | National Programme Manager | LGCDP |
| 3. | Mr. Gareth Rannamets | Governance Advisor | DFID |
| 4. | Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze | DCD | UNDP |
| 5. | Mr. Yam Nath Sharma | ACD | UNDP |
| 6. | Ms. Vibeke Sorum | First Secretary | Royal Norwegian Embassy |
| 7. | Mr. Raj Kumar Dhungana | Governance Advisor | Royal Norwegian Embassy |
| 8. | Ms. Archana Aryal | Programme Analyst | UNDP |
| 9. | Ms. Pragyan Joshi | Programme Officer | UNCDF |
| 10. | Mr. Surendra Bhandari | AFO | LGCDP |
| 11. | Ms. Martina Voss | PO | UNV |
| 12. | Ms. Manju Lama | Resident Advisor | DANIDA |
| 13. | Mr. Yam Nath Neupane | PFM Specialist | LGCDP |
| 14. | Mr. Shiv Raj Pokharel | Governance Specialist | LGCDP |
| 15. | Mr. Raghu Shrestha | CM Specialist | DP Cell |
| 16. | Ms. Reshu Karki | Communication and Documentation Officer | LGCDP |
| 17. | Mr. Mohan P Dhakal | PFM Specialist | LGCDP/DP Cell |
| 18. | Mr. Anil Chandrika | DP Coordinator | DP Cell |

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