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**LGCDP II- Transition to Sub National Governance Programme  
Policy and Programme Support Facility (PPSF)  
Twenty-Sixth Technical Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC) Meeting**

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**Meeting Minute**

**Background**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Technical Assistance Sub Committee (TASC) meeting of the **Policy and Programme Support Facility** of the Local Governance and Community Development Programme II- Transition to Sub National Governance Programme (LGCDP II-TSNGP) was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018 under the chair of Mr. Purusottam Nepal, National Programme Director / Joint Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration to discuss on work plan of PPSF for the period January – June 2019, status of audit arrears, highlights on Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP) as well as Local Government Institutional Self – Assessment (LISA). Mr. Nepal welcomed all participants and requested for active participation.

**Agendas.**

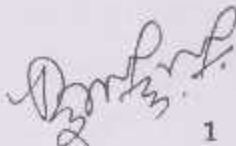
1. Status of the 25<sup>th</sup> TASC meeting decisions
2. PPSF work plan: Jan – June 2019
3. Financial status as of November 2018
4. Status on audit arrears
5. Implementation status of the trigger results of PLGSP
6. Highlights on LISA
7. AoB

**Presentation**

Mr. Resham Kandel, National Programme Manager, highlighted in brief the status of the 25<sup>th</sup> TASC meeting decisions, PPSF work plan, financial status, status of audit arrears, status of trigger results and PLGSP. Following are the status on the above-mentioned aspects:

1. Status of the 25<sup>th</sup> TASC meeting decisions

The decisions of the 25<sup>th</sup> TASC meeting includes formation of joint committee, preparation of GESI localization concept note, formulation of strategy and action plan to settle audit arrears, preparation of work plan for the period July-December 2018, and handover of seven vehicles of

  
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LGCDP II to the Government of Nepal. The Programme Management has completed all the tasks as per the decisions of the 25<sup>th</sup> TASC meeting.



## 2. PPSF work plan January – June 2019

Mr. Kandel highlighted in brief the major activities proposed for the period January to June 2019 which includes orientation for provincial and local government, capacity needs assessment of provincial and local government, findings on fiduciary readiness to implement PLGSP, development of M&E framework of PLGSP, publication, and distribution of program completion report of LGCDPII and stocktaking of selected local government in state of ICT development. The estimated budget for the period Jan- June 2019 is US \$ 1.074 million and the remaining balance as of December 2018 is estimated to be US\$ 335 thousand so additional fund amounting to US\$ 738 thousand is required

## 3. Financial status as of November 2018

The total fund received from development partners under PPSF is USD 15.26 million and the expenditure as of November is USD 14.60 million.

## 4. Status on audit arrears

The total audit arrears of LGCDP is US\$ 11.19 million of which US\$ 4.3 million (39%) is settled as of November 2018 settlement which includes settlement of audit arrears of PCU (91 %), LGAF (89%) and DCC (16%).

## 5. Implementation status of the trigger results of PLGSP

The main achievements under trigger results of PLGSP includes signing of contract between Georgia State University and UNDP for subnational governments capacity need assessment and development of Local Government Institutional Self-Assessment (LISA).

## 6. Highlights on LISA

The main objective of LISA is to assess organizational strengths and weaknesses of local governments by themselves and to take necessary measures to improve the institutional capacity for effective service delivery. LISA is developed by including following ten sectors viz. i) governance system, ii) organization and administration, iii) annual budget and plan formulation, iv) financial management, v) service

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delivery, vi) judiciary function, vii) physical infrastructure, viii) social inclusion, ix) environment conservation and disaster management, x) cooperation and coordination

### Discussion

Mr. Gareth Rannamets, DFID informed that the DFID resources about 550 thousand pounds would be available for the transition for PPSF for next six months (with the caveat that the earliest disbursement would be in April, the next UK Financial Year) He positively commented on the extension of Provincial Coordinator and suggested if the alignment can be done with PLGSP. However, he also urged clear communication to all staff that this is a temporary extension and that staff would need to compete for new positions under PLGSP. He also stressed the importance to clarify in writing the priority tasks for the PSU Coordinators over the next 6 months so they can be held accountable for delivery. He made clear that a high-quality Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is very important for the development partners and requested that a firm or individuals with the right skills be contracted. He welcomed the allocation of PPSF funds for the Provinces but requested that a specific limit be placed on how much each Province could spend on hardware, as part of guidance from the PCU sent to the Provinces for use of this fund. He welcomed allocation of funds for elimination of audit arrears and requested a strategy to made clear how these funds would be using to achieve this objective. Finally, he mentioned that when piloting the LISA, it may be better to move cautiously in terms of promoting competition amongst local governments: first priority is to ensure the tool is robust, relevant, reliable and well accepted by local governments. Testing this will require an independent assessment after the pilot to see what lessons should be learned.

Mr. Prakash Regmi, SDC, informed that the objective of LISA is learning and reflection which is somehow is missing in the presentation slides. He suggested for conducting LISA by local government and Council can follow the check and balance approach. He informed that Swiss Development Cooperation has signed cost sharing agreement to support the Capacity Needs Assessment through the PPSF TA mechanism.

Ms. Vivian Opsvik, Norwegian Embassy, asked UNDP to submit progress updates, financial report and other documents before the meeting to be able to assess the documents and to make constructive comments in the meeting. Similarly, she asked MoFAGA to include some lessons learned of LGCDP II in the fiduciary risk assessment of PLGSP, share the latest audit reports of LGCDP II. In addition, she asked UNDP to submit certified financial statement and the final report of LGCDP II, PPSF by July 2019 to close the project. In the bridge period Jan-July 2019, she asked to include activities that fulfil the requirements of LGCDP II closure. Finally, she clarified



that the Norwegian fund cannot be used after 31 December 2018 in LCDDP II PPSF therefore as agreed; the unspent balance from the Norwegian contribution to the project should be returned to the Norwegian MFA.



Mr. Yam Nath Sharma, UNDP, appreciated the extension of PLGSP bridging TA and thanked the Government and DPs for trusting UNDP. He committed that annual progress report, financial report and audit report of PPSF will be submitted in April 2019. He suggested the budget allocated in the work plan for the provincial governments be worked out in consultation them. Given the important role of the Provincial Academy of Good Governance (PAGGs), priority could be given the work around the PAGGs. He mentioned that there is need of orientation for the Provincial Coordinators on making them understand on their role in the changed context.

Ms. Pragyan Joshi, UNCDF suggested as if there could be involvement of UNCDF is PCGG establishment as some lesson was drawn from the piloting of RIAP. Since this can be important for the establishment in the future, if this can be used for TA in PCGG establishment. Ms, Moon Gurung, UNV, suggested that it would be beneficial to have ICT team as regular.

### **Response on Queries**

Mr. Purusottam Nepal responded that there is an ongoing debate on whether the Public Account Committee of local level or central level should receive the report of the LISA. If done by the central level, there might be some difficulties. Therefore, Ministry is trying the link this with the local committee. Questions that arise for self-assessment is on its effectiveness as it might include biases from local government. Therefore, there is need of check of balance approach. LISA has three sectors which will be divided into 100 marks. First one is overall scenario is 20%, process indicator 35 % is allocated, for result indicator 45% is allocated. This will be an indicator that will be self-assessed by the local government which will be linked with capacity building.

Usually, the OAG does the audit by the end of November, and they are in the field for assessing FY 2017/ 18 audit report.

Regarding the activities of the work plan of TA, the common understanding is that Norway fund will be used until 31th Dec 2018 and the DFID funds if spent will be carried forward for the bridging period.

### **Conclusion**

Mr. Purushottam Nepal, NPD, thanked for the support for PLGSP bridging gap. He agreed on all the suggestion given in the meeting and thanked Norway and DFID for

their support to the PPSF and the expressed appreciation and thanked DFID for their commitment to fund the bridging period. The NPD also thanked the embassy of Switzerland for their contribution to PPSF to meet the funding gap to complete the Capacity Needs Assessment. Also agreed on providing the financial update as discussed. Finally, he thanked all the participants for active participation in discussion



### Decisions

- 1) The Committee welcomed the decision of the 11<sup>th</sup> NEC to use the Policy and Programme Support Facility to support the PLGSP startup activities through a bridge funding made available by DFID Nepal. Approved the PPSF/ UNJP work plan: Jan -June 2019, ensuring that spending is kept within the limit of funding available (GBP 550k + balance of PPSF).
- 2) The Committee further recommended the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) to consult with all the seven provinces on specific support that may require by each province for startup of PLGSP, including a limit on spend on hardware recommended by PCU, and incorporate those in the WP.
- 3) The Committee recommended PCU to expedite commissioning of support for the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, ensuring high quality technical experts are hired who can accomplish task to appropriate level with minimal delay, ensuring timely PLGSP start-up
- 4) The Committee recommended the PCU to update and follow up the existing Audit Arrear Settlement Action Plan and also share the updated plan with the concerned JFADPs.
- 5) The Committee recommended the PCU to provide all necessary reports including the financial report at least seven days before the TASC meeting, which will allow member to make informed decisions.
- 6) The Committee puts on record its appreciation the contribution made by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to support the Capacity Needs Assessment through the PPSF TA mechanism and also appreciate the commendable work of ICT experts and recommends the continuation of this support during the startup period.

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**Participants**

SN	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION
	Mr. Purusottam Nepal	Joint Secretary/ NPD	MoFAGA/LGCDP
	Mr. Resham Kandel,	Under Secretary/National Programme Manager	MoFAGA/LGCDP
	Mr. Gareth Rannamets	Governance Advisor	DFID
	Mr. Prakash Regmi	Senior Programme Officer	SDC
	Ms. Vivian Opsvik	1 <sup>st</sup> Secretary	Norwegian Embassy
	Mr. Yam Nath Sharma	ACD	UNDP
	Ms. Kalpana Sarkar	Programme Analyst	UNDP
	Ms. Pragyan Joshi	PO	UNCDF
	Ms. Moon Gurung	UNV Coordinator	UNV
	Mr. Anil Chandrika	DP Coordinator	DP Cell
	Dr. Raghu Shrestha	CM Specialist	DP Cell
	Mr. Barun K. Adhikari	M & E Specialist	LGCDP II - TSNGP
	Mr. Mahendra Puri	Acc. Officer	LGCDP II - TSNGP
	Mr. Besh Raj Khanal	Admin Officer	LGCDP II - TSNGP
	Mr. Nagesh Badu	E-gov specialist	LGCDPII-TSNGP
	Mr. Surendra Bhandari	AFO	LGCDP II - TSNGP
	Ms. Prakriti Nepal	PA	DP Cell

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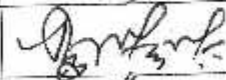






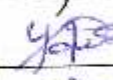
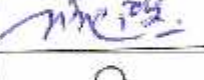

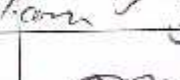

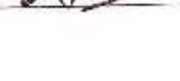

# Local Governance and Community Development Programme II (TSNGP)

## TASC meeting Attendance Sheet

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

Time: 9.30:00- 11:00

Venue: DCC, Meeting Hall, Babarmahal

S.N	Name of the Participants	Designation	Organization	Contact No	Email Address	Signature
1.	Purusottam Nepal	Tain Secretary NDD	MOFAGA			
2.	Resham Lal Kandel	Under Secretary NPM	MOFAGA LGCDP			
3.	Anil Chandra	Director	LGCDP			
4.	Ganesh Kumar	Governance Adviser	DFID			
5.	Prakash Regmi	SPO	SDC			
6.	Yam N. Sharma	ACD	UNDP	9851083314		
7.	Barun K. Adhikari	LGCDP	MCF Specialist	9851012749		
8.	Ranju K.C.	LGCDP	C.O.	9841515731	suranjukc@gmail.com	
9.	Prakriti Nepal	LGCDP	PA	9841526545		
10.	Pravin Boudel	"	ICT expert	9841413138		
11.	Nagesh Bhatta	"	IT specialist	9851176082	bhattan@lgcdp.gov.np	
12.	Mathendra Prasad	"	Acc. officer	9857203137		
13.	Lila Kr. Majhi	"	Accountant	9842557704	majhilila@gmail.com	
14.	Bishwa Nath Acharya	"	computer expert	9840552186		
15.	Suresh Bhandari	"	AFO	9849205207	bhandaris@lgcdp.gov.np	



16.	Lilanarth Upadhyaya	NA. Su	LGCDP				<u>Ankur</u>
17.	Kalpana Sarker	Programme Analyst	UNDP				<u>Sam</u>
18.	Ujjwal Ghosh	1st secretary	Emb. of Norway				<u>Ujjwal</u>
19.	Raghu Shrestha	C.M. specialist	LGCDP				<u>Raghu</u>
20.	Moon Gurung	PA	UNW				<u>Moon</u>
21.	Prayan Joshi	Prog. Officer	UNDP				<u>Prayan</u>
22.	M. H. Mahajan		LGCDP				<u>M. H. Mahajan</u>
23.	Prem Bajaj						<u>Prem</u>
24.	Gokarna Poudel	Driver	LGCDP				<u>Gokarna</u>
25.	Chandraayan Shrestha	"	"				<u>Chandraayan</u>
26.	Krishna Desher	"	"				<u>Krishna</u>
27.							
28.	Pooja P. Mahajan						<u>Pooja</u>
29.	Lakshmi K. Mahajan						<u>Lakshmi</u>
30.	Ramesh Shari						<u>Ramesh</u>