



**LGCDP II- Transition to Sub-National Governance Programme
Policy and Programme Support Facility (PPSF)**

**Minutes of the
Twenty-Fifth Technical Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC) Meeting
18th September 2018**

Background

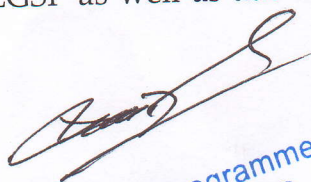
The 25th Technical Assistance Sub Committee (TASC) meeting of the Local Governance and Community Development Programme Transition to the Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme II (LGCDP II-PLGSP) was held on 18th September 2018 under the chair of Mr. Suresh Adhikari, Joint Secretary/ Spokesperson, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), to discuss on Policy and programme support facility / United Nations Joint Programme (PPSF/UNJP) work plan July – December 2018, status of trigger results of PLGSP, audit arrears and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) localization. Mr. Adhikari welcomed all the participants and requested for active participation.

Agenda.

1. Update on the status of 24th TASC meeting decisions
2. PPSF work plan: July -December 2018
3. Financial status as of July 2018
4. Status on audit arrears
5. Implementation status of trigger results of PLGSP
6. Preparation of operational guidelines of Innovative/ Competitive Fund
7. Highlights on Local Government Institutional Self-Assessment (LISA)
8. Highlights on GESI localization
9. AoB: Transfer of LGCDP vehicles to the Government of Nepal

Presentation

Mr. Resham Kandel, National Programme Manager, highlighted in brief the progress status of the 24th TASC meeting decisions, PPSF work plan July – December 2018, financial status of PPSF, status of trigger results of PLGSP as well as audit arrears. Following are the highlights:


National Programme Director
LGCDP



1. *Decisions of the 24th TASC meeting:* The decisions made in the meeting were: Endorse extension of the LGCDP II- TSNGP for six months by the National Executive Committee, and request MoFAGA to organize the Fiduciary Risk Management meeting. Both of the decisions have been complied.
2. *PPSF/UNJP work plan July – Dec 2018:* Major activities proposed in the work plan include, carrying out comprehensive need assessment of local governments, preparing of the operational guidelines of innovative/ competitive fund, preparing completion report of LGCDP II- TSNGP, piloting of Local Government Institutional Self-Assessment (LISA) and finalizing the PLGSP programme document. The estimated budget for six month is USD 1.04 million.
3. *Status of trigger results of PLGSP:* A process has been initiated to conduct capacity needs assessment of local governments jointly with the World Bank. A conceptual framework of LISA has been prepared and shared with Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Municipalities, Chief and Deputy Chief of Rural Municipalities in an interaction programme organized by MoFAGA. Finalization of LISA framework and questionnaire is in progress.
4. *Status of audit arrears:* As of 16 July 2018, a total of NPR 491 million has been settled out of NPR 1.26 billion audit arrears. Amount of audit arrears yet to be settled is NPR 775 million.

Ms. Indra Kumari Thapaliya, Under Secretary, GESI Section of the Ministry, highlighted on the concept note of GESI localization. The proposed activities for GESI localization include orient Deputy Mayors and Vice- Chairs on their role and responsibility, enhance the capacity of Social Development Section of LGs for effective implementation of GESI, establish functional relationship in policy coherence between three tiers of government for effective implementation of GESI related activities and develop the coordination and partnership with GESI working group, sensitize political leaders, business communities, schools and social workers on Gender Equality Seal (GES) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

Mr. Kandel put forward a proposal to handover LGCDP II vehicles (Reg No: 66-1-1740, 66-1-3204, 66-1-1050, 66-1-3205, 66-1-1700, 66-1-1781, 66-1-1736) from UNDP to the Government of Nepal to ultimately transfer to the Office of Chief Minister and Council of Ministers (OCMCM) of all the provinces as an initial step to involve OCMCMs in implementation of upcoming Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme. As Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration planning to



place the Provincial Program Implementation Unit (PPIU) of PLGSP in the OCMCM, it is expecting that the transfer of vehicles to OCMCM fulfils their immediate requirement and creates enabling environment for smooth implementation of the program in near future.

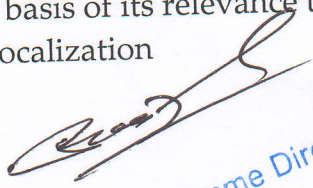
Discussion

Ms. Vivian Opsvik, Norwegian Embassy, made a query on Ministry's strategy on the audit arrears as well as plans or incentives for the settlement of audit arrears. Ms. Opsvik also highlighted the urgency of conducting the fiduciary risk assessment that will need to be done immediately with priority before the difficult situation arises. She suggested to establish a working group to facilitate in GESI localization.

Mr. Rajkumar Dhungana, Norwegian Embassy, pointed out that remaining time period to complete the activities included in work plan is short therefore it would be beneficial to revise the work plan with prioritizing the activities which are important without compromising the outcome.

Mr. Yam Nath Sharma, UNDP, mentioned that concept of LISA should be clear before piloting in local governments. He mentioned that in addition to the need assessment of the local governments in partnership with the World Bank, the Georgia State University (GSU) has been asked to carry out two additional activities upon the request of the Ministry. They are: providing comments and feedbacks on the concept note on the establishment of the Provincial Centres of Good Governance (PCGGs) to be developed by the Ministry and developing a policy paper on the horizontal cooperation between and among the local governments. He pointed out that undertaking the activity on stocktaking and envisioning of ICT in LGs might not be possible at this point and suggested to prioritize the activities from the work plan as there is limited time and limited staff in LGCDP currently,

Mr. Gareth Rannamets, DFID made a query on the possibility to have third party engagement in LISA for quality assurance. He also raised a concern on working on audit arrears with setting a priority as this would hamper the funding for the upcoming PLGSP. Mr. Rannamets also raised his concern on the number of activities that will need to be completed to meet the trigger results by end of December, hence also stressed the need to prioritise the activities on the basis of its relevance to trigger results. He also queried on the modality for the GESI localization


National Programme Director
LGCDP

Remarks by Ms. Ayshanie Hedagangoda Labe, Deputy Country Director, UNDP

Ms. Ayshanie congratulated Ministry for doing so much activities even in limited time with limited team and thanked for taking initiation of preparing the draft PLGSP document. She hoped that on comments from DPs will be collected by the end of the week. Similarly, she also highlighted that achieving trigger results is critical and prioritization of the activities based on the need is essential as there is only one working month left for the conclusion. Further she also emphasized that UNDP is very happy that GESI elements is included in the program document and stressed the need for bring policy coherence into local activities as it will be challenging in upcoming days.

Lastly, Ms. Labe thanked all participants and expressed her happiness to work together in upcoming days for the programme progress.

Conclusion

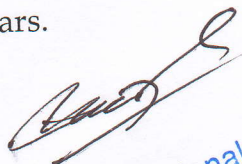
Mr. Suresh Adhikari thanked everyone for contributing to the floor discussion and addressed the queries raised. He mentioned that the then DDCs had right to collect tax and fee and collected huge amount of amount which is lying in their account. Currently the fund is transferred to DCCs and Ministry has decided to build infrastructure for local government utilizing that amount.

On localization of GESI components, Mr. Adhikari informed that Ministry has urged local government to integrate GESI issues and plan in their budget and most of the local governments have disbursed resources for GESI related activities. Further Mr. Adhikari mentioned that Ministry has provided different model Acts and regulations to local government. Mr Adhikari requested development partners to scale up the budget for PLGSP.

Finally, he thanked all the participants for active participation in discussion.

Decisions

- 1) Approved the PPPS/ UNJP work plan: July – December 2018 and close the old project ID 106350 of UNDP.
- 2) Decided to form a joint Working Group for finalization of concept note on GESI localization.
- 3) Decided to request MoFAGA to formulate a strategy and action plan to settle audit arrears.




National Programme Director
LGCDDP

- 4) Decided to request Programme Coordination Unit to prioritize the activities included in work plan July – December 2018 and act accordingly.
- 5) Endorsed the proposal to handover seven vehicles of LGCDP II to the Government of Nepal.

Participants

SN	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION
1.	Mr. Suresh Adhikari	Joint Secretary	MoFAGA
2.	Mr. Resham Kandel,	Under Secretary/National Programme Manager	MoFAGA/LGCDP
3.	Mr. Amrit Lamsal	Under-Secretary	MoFAGA
4.	Ms. Indira Kumari Thapaliya	Under- Secretary	MoFAGA
5.	Ms. Ayshanie Hedagangoda	DCD	UNDP
6.	Mr. Gareth Rannamets	Governance Advisor	DFID
7.	Ms. Vivian Opsvik	1 st Secretary	Norwegian Embassy
8.	Mr. Raj Kumar Dhungana	Governance Adviser	Norwegian Embassy
9.	Mr. Yamnath Sharma	ACD	UNDP
10.	Ms. Kalpana Sarkar	Programme Analyst	UNDP
11.	Ms. Pragyan Joshi	PO	UNCDF
12.	Ms. Puspa Tuladhar	Programme Analyst	UNDP
13.	Ms. Sudip Pokhrel	Gov. Advisor	DFID
14.	Mr. Anil Chandrika	DP Coordinator	DP Cell
15.	Dr. Raghu Shrestha	CM Specialist	DP Cell
16.	Mr. Barun K. Adhikari	M & E Specialist	LGCDP II - TSNGP
17.	Mr. C.P. Sigdel	SM Specialist	LGCDP II - TSNGP
18.	Mr. Mahendra Puri	Acc. Officer	LGCDP II - TSNGP
19.	Mr. Bikram Khatiwada	UNV Program Coordinator	LGCDP II - TSNGP
20.	Mr. Besh Raj Khanal	Admin Officer	LGCDP II - TSNGP
21.	Mr. Nagesh Badu	E-gov specialist	LGCDP II - TSNGP
22.	Mr. Surendra Bhandari	AFO	LGCDP II - TSNGP
23.	Ms. Prakriti Nepal	PA	DP Cell


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