
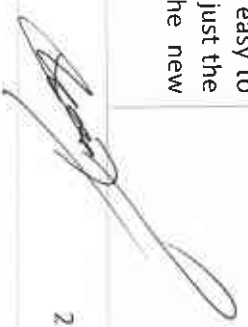



Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
Local Governance and Community Development Programme-II
TASC Meeting Minute

Meeting: 8th TASC meeting
 Date: 31st December 2014
 Venue: PCU/LGCDP
 Time: 13: 00- 15:00
 Chair: Mr. Purusottam Nepal, National Programme Manager/Under Secretary


Agenda	Discussion	Actions
<p>Mr. Purusottam Nepal, chair of the TASC/NPM welcomed the participants and briefed about the agenda of the meeting which includes PPSF-AWP 2015 and ToR of Programme Recruitment Facility</p> <p>1. PPSF Annual Work Plan</p> <p>PPSF – AWP 2015 is prepared on the basis of Annual Strategic Implementation Plan 2014/15 and resource and results framework of UNJP programme document and LGCDP-II programme document</p>	<p>It was informed that outcome 1 entails three components-PCU, RCU, and Technical Assistance via (DGEs/UGEs) to LBs. The hiring of professional and support staff is almost completed. The recent on-site mentoring of DGEs/UGEs in 11 places showed capacity gaps of DGEs/UGEs. In most of the places, LBs have owned DGEs/UGEs while in some areas more sensitization is needed.</p> <p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>At present, two Monitoring and Reporting Officers positions at RCU and one at PCU are vacant which has created a reporting gap. A mid-level expert with engineering background might be required to hire which needs further discussion.</p> <p>Furthermore, it was underlined that there are two specific areas which needs further capacity building and discussion</p>	

	<p>i) LIP coverage and limitation; ii) LED coverage: whether to introduce LED in new municipalities or only in the old municipalities.</p> <p>It was noted that there is lack of sufficient funds in these areas. A study is planned regarding LIP/LED. The study will provide recommendations which can perhaps provide a way forward for the LIP/LED activities. Currently, the eventual outcome and sustainability are some of the pressing issues of LIP/LED.</p>	
<p>Outcome 2:</p>	<p>One of the main focus areas of Outcome 2 is to strengthen overall capacity of MoFALD to manage TA. In this regard, capacity development activities carried out in 2014 which includes - exposure visit in Australia on fiscal decentralization section, local level planning (LLP) training, GIS training, mentoring of TA staffs, induction training of DGEs/UGEs, and regional consultative meetings.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3:</p>	<p>Representative from DP-cell has requested for driver which is currently being explored from the existing UNDP roster.</p> <p>It was reported that two well experienced and qualified drivers working in Doti and Surkhet under GIZ project- SUNAG are available because SUNAG is closing from 31 December 2014 and proposed to include in the UNDP roster.</p>	<p>Actions: It was decided to put in a request to UNDP HR to include the names of these drivers in the roster.</p>
	<p>Representative from DFID noted that a concrete plan is required alongside budget readjustments in PPSF AWP 2015 and requested for comparative expenditure status.</p> <p>UNDP informed that current AWP is based on the ASIP 2014/15 and Resource and Result Framework (RRF) of UNJP.</p> <p>Representative from Norway pointed out that expenditure status would make easy to discuss in detail on budget required and availability. It would also help to readjust the budget and priorities depending on the immediate need. For example, the new municipalities support is a pressing issue.</p>	



<p>NPM mentioned that a process has been initiated to recruit Engineers through RCUs for 72 new municipalities and pointed out that further discussion is needed to support the 61 new municipalities.</p>	<p>NPM emphasized that AWP budget should at least be provisionally approved due to start of the new fiscal year and salary to be paid to TA staffs. However, substantial discussion will be undertaken in regard to AWP and setting priorities. There are currently two main issues:</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Municipality reform not foreseen while formulating LGCDP II programme document.2. Total TA fund- US\$ 13.5 million needs to be revisited and how to support the new municipalities. <p>Representative from DP Cell highlighted that the present situation provides two opportunities-</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. PPSF AWP 2015 is as per the approved ASIP until July 2015.2. ASIP 2015/16 will provide an opportunity to revisit priorities such as new municipalities and others. <p>Representative from Norway mentioned that new activities should not be added to the PPSF AWP until July 2015 while the ongoing activities shall be principally approved.</p> <p>Furthermore,</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Capacity assessment of TAs (Pillar 1) to be revisited in the new ASIP. Some pressing needs can be addressed or endorsed by sub NAC or NAC.ii. New municipalities' plans-issues, challenges to be incorporated in the new ASIP <p>Mr. Ramesh Adhikari highlighted requirements of new municipalities such as land use plan, transportation plan, and solid waste management. He also explained that office building, equipments, and vehicles are immediate needs of new municipalities. The new Municipalities' need assessment concept note is generic and has to be dealt on case by case basis.</p> <p>Representative from Norway noted that if JFA funding may support assessment of new</p>	

	<p>municipalities, why PPSF funding required for the same.</p> <p>Mr Purusottam Nepal pointed out that PPSF funding cannot be used to support the new municipalities because it is not budgeted as per the ASIP.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>1. PFM</p> <p>Mr. Nepal informed that regarding recruitment of PFM expert for RCU through agreement with University shall not happen due to lack of consensus within the MoFALD. The idea is to hire fresh graduates with salary in the range of NPR 40,000. Representative from Norway recalled the hiring of national volunteers through agreement with National Development Volunteer Service/NPC. However, NPM noted that such arrangement is not possible via JFA. Representative from UNDP however noted that the practical limitations in such a scenario - hiring personnel under UNDP contract by paying NPR 40,000 salary is not feasible and neither a permanent position is possible.</p> <p>2. WBRS/Unified Planning and Reporting:</p> <p>The committee noted the importance of web-based reporting system introduced by MoFALD. The designated technical expert for web-based reporting system provided by UNICEF is being discontinued post Dec 2014 and thereby the unified planning and reporting system shall not be feasible in absence of the technical experts. Quality assurance mechanism- a framework prepared. An approval may be required in implementing the framework.</p> <p>3. PPSF Reporting: A dedicated personnel for PPSF reporting is crucial for effective documentation and reporting.</p>	<p>It was agreed on principal the requirement of PFM experts. Further discussions required in this area.</p> <p>Planning meeting between Anil, Raghu and Ramesh Achikari, 3rd Jan, 2:00pm.</p>
	<p>DECISIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The PPSF AWP 2015 agreed in principle but need further discussion. 2. The next meeting of TASC will be held within a week to further discuss on PPSF –AWP 2015 on the basis of PPSF financial expenditure narrative of 2014 and current implementation status-. 3. Support for new municipalities shall be discussed in the next TASC meeting. 	



4. Propose to send a formal request letter to GlZ for contract extension of Mr. Arun Regmi by a year as a part-timer as it was provided in last 5 months.

Participants List:

S.N	Name of the Participants	Designation	Organization
1	Purshottam Nepal	NPM/Under Secretary	LGCDP/MoFALD
2	Ramesh Adhikari	Under Secretary	MoFALD
3	Ram Krishna Lamichhane	Section Officer	MoFALD
4	Bhola Pd Dahal	Governance Advisor	Norway
5	Yam Nath Sharma	ACD	UNDP
6	Reshu Karki	Communication and Documentation Officer	LGCDP
7	Arun Regmi	Governance Advisor	LGCDP
8	Surendra Bhandari	AFO	LGCDP
9	Pragya Bashyal	Programme Analyst	UNDP
10	Pragyan Joshi	Programme Officer	UNCDF
11	Bishnu Adhikari	Governance Advisor	DFID
12	Anil Chandrika	Programme Specialist Coordinator	DP Cell
13	Raghu Shrestha	C&M Specialist	DP Cell

