

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

Name of Meeting

Technical Assistance Steering Committee (TASC)

11th Meeting

DATE: 28TH JUNE 2015

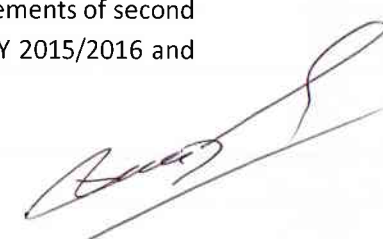
LOCATION: MINISTRY OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT, SINGHDURBAR

TIME START: 11:00AM END: 13:30AM

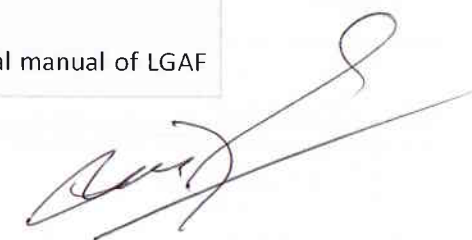
COORDINATOR: MR. PURUSOTTAM NEPAL, UNDER SECRETARY/NPM

INTRODUCTION:

On behalf of MoFALD, LGCDP, Program Manager Mr. Purusottam Nepal welcomed all Development Partners Representative, MoFALD Officials and PCU Experts in the 10th TASC meeting. The TASC met to discuss action taken on the 9th TASC decisions, progress and achievements of second quarter 2015, proposed activity under ASIP supported by all the TAs (PPSF, CDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, PFMA, SPMP, SALG, SBLL) FY 2015/2016 and relocation of UGEs to new municipalities.



AGENDA	DISCUSSIONS
Main highlights of the presentation	
STATUS ON THE ACTION TAKEN ON THE NINTH TASC	<p>1. PPSF Audit Report 2014: It has been completed and will be shared with all PPSF DPs.</p> <p><i>Norway:</i> It was underlined by the representative from Norway that there has to be a single audit for PPSF as per the programme document.</p> <p><i>UNCDF:</i> It was clarified that PPSF audit was done jointly by the same company. However, management responses needed to be separate for each organization within the PPSF.</p> <p>2. UGEs Deployment to new municipality: The status was no action taken yet.</p> <p>Participants expressed concerns whether there has been ample consultations done with UGEs regarding the transfer as their approved ToR does not reflect proposed scenario. It was noted by NPM that municipal management did not agree for change in the ToR.</p> <p>3. Staff related: NPM informed that there is currently high turnover of staffs – there are number of positions vacant at RCUs, especially MROs, four positions vacant at PCU (capacity development, Social Mobilization, PFM, Governance expert); ToR revised these four positions. Participants raised concerns that the discussion on hiring of PFM has been ongoing for a longest period.</p> <p><i>Norway:</i> There was supposed to be a decision regarding it during the last TASC meeting. It was agreed that a NPPP-IV level position will be hired from direct head hunting.</p> <p><i>Output-4 Manager:</i> Perhaps, it is time to analyze appropriate methodology to hire technical assistance. Current, method is lengthy and time consuming. If PFM expert hiring resumes in the next FY, the position should be ensured for a year at least. If the hiring does not take place within next 3 months, the position might not be needed.</p> <p>NPM: Negotiations have failed with probably candidates due to disagreements in remuneration. Also, the requirement of chartered accountant (CA) background for PFM expertise is also a hurdle as CAs are not allowed to work fulltime.</p> <p>UNDP: The PFM position is critically needed. Lack of open announcement perhaps limited the options.</p>
PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF	<p>Output 1: Some of the main progress highlighted was Social mobilization handbook updated, operational manual of LGAF</p>



SECOND QUARTER
2015

secretariat 2014 produced, a total of 17 full time staffs are on board and delivering results.

Output 2: RCUs functional with total of 36 professional staffs; all on board except Monitoring and Reporting Officers. Roaster is currently complete. Discussion is ongoing whether to use consulting services to hire Monitoring and Reporting Officers.

Output 3: A total of 133 professional staff (DGEs and UGEs) continues to work closely with the local bodies. However, recently, D/UGEs turnover has been high. There is currently no roaster for UGEs.

Output 4: 1500 VDCs secretaries trained in accounting software and have been installed in 1100 VDCs. The name of VDCs that has installed accounting software will be circulated after one month. The TOR for local equalization formula based on geographical location and revenue optimization was finalized.

Note: MIS specialist's position needs to be continued, whether to include from PPSF funding requires discussion.

Output 5: The key highlight was PRF report have been completed and have come up with recommendations that requires discussion from all stakeholders.

Output 6: The key progress were: MCPM results, two experts engaged for outlining recommendation in forming the fiscal decentralization road map for Nepal and for the restructuring of the local body fiscal commission and development of national fiscal commission. Two senior consultants hired to stock take best model of LED/PPP interventions in Nepal, gathering lessons learned and current LED initiatives. Organized 2 consultations and sharing seminars with CA members and parliament development committees on provision of LBs in new constitution.

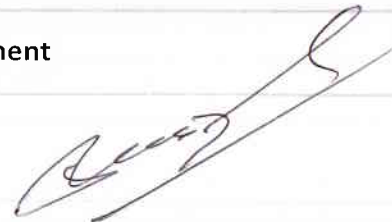
UNWomen: MCPM assessment – what is the grant provisions for those failed and success?

NPM: The recommendation of the new grant allocation formula study is under consideration with high level officials in MoFALD and is yet to be finalized. LBFC via JFA will provide support to orient failed VDCs towards passing MCPM.

Output 7: Key progress include additional technical assessment for the PFM specialist position for the DP cell was held, 3 have been qualified for interviews.

Output 8: AQAA assessment completed. Baseline perception survey finalized; presentation planned with GoN counterparts are yet to be finalized. However, M & E division's ownership needed. It is stuck and yet to be finalized.

Key discussions and responses by the management



NPM: It was informed that PEFA assessment field work has been completed. More exercise needed for quality assurance instructions. Regarding PETS study, RFP has been issued and is under process. Likewise, with regards to updating internal audit guidelines of DDC and VDC, there are plans to train all the auditors. MTBF is supporting in finalization.

Align Partner reporting compliance: It was re-emphasized by the NPM that thus far, there is no status of financial expenditure provided by the align partners. If it's not complied with, it will be hard to track progress, and does not make sense to put in LGCDP blanket. It was underlined that all LGCDP partners need to comply with reporting as per the requirement of Ministry of Finance. So far only physical progress has been received. Lack of aligned partners' physical and financial progress affects overall LGCDP programme progress reporting.

UNICEF: It was clarified by UNICEF that aligned partners have complied with requirements as per the TOR and agreed MoU. Again, on the question of reporting, there needs to be a standard format that has to be MoFALD created and owned.

SDC: MoU and bilateral agreement should indicate reporting format. Align means contributing to 1 or few indicators. Send letter to align partners to alert them of reporting and requirements.

Programme Recruitment Facility (PRF): The team has completed the study and come up with three main recommendations – fulfill existing vacant positions, create new required positions for programme period, hire of need based technical experts. However, GoN and development partners need to further discuss on the recommendations.

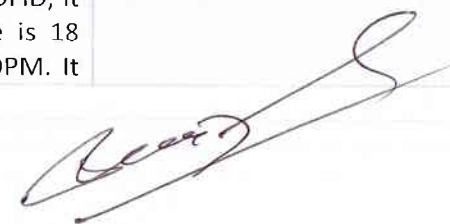
Norway: The report does not provide detailed discussion on how to hire international experts under UNDP Nex. MoFALD needs to take ownership of the report and implementation of PRF. It is important to first have ministry's stand on PRF so that DPs can have a discussion on that and come to an agreement.

Denmark: PRF is envisioned within MoFALD's structure. Hence, further discussion requires MoFALD's view first.

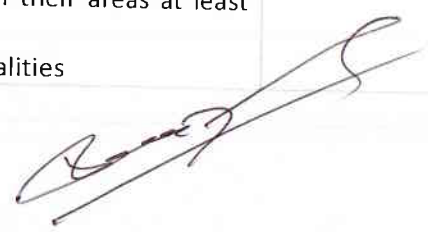
UNDP: The representative informed that the first draft of the PRF was not of acceptable quality and hence not shared with other DPs. There has to be a working level meeting to come up with options. The report does not envision expensive recruitments. Thus, in depth discussion is needed to expedite and have harmonized options.

Align Partners presentation

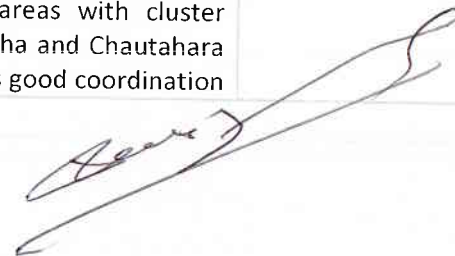
CDP	CDP is a part of Non-state led service delivery component of LGCDP II. Funded by DFID, it has been planned for three years under £20 million (2015-2018). The coverage is 18 districts. RRN is the lead organization along with consortium partners WFP and OPM. It
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	<p><u>contributes to output 1, 2, and 4 indicators.</u> Following are some of the expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved employment opportunities for 4,500 households (targeting women and Dalits); vocational training for 4,000 rural poor and excluded youths; and 300,000 person-days of employment in the poorest and most difficult districts; • 200 trail bridges and culverts, helping needy communities link to markets; • 200 improved water supplies, and sanitation for 12,000 households; • 600 disaster-resilient school class rooms benefiting more than 30,000 students and 100 disaster-resilient sub-health posts; • 250 other rural infrastructures like irrigation channel improvement, micro hydro, community building etc. will build. • Improved employment opportunities for targeting women and Dalits through on and off farm livelihood supports to 3000 households • vocational training for 4,000 rural poor and excluded youths • 4000 new Citizen Awareness Centre (CACs) will be established and conduct REFLECT sessions to make able to demand better services by more than 100,000 people (mostly women) • Formation/strengthening of Local Disaster Risk Management Committee at least in 54 local bodies 	
<p>UNICEF ALIGNED PROGRAMME WITH LGCDP</p>	<p>UNICEF Aligned programme <u>contributes to LGCDP Output 1, 7 and partially 6.</u> Key targets under each output are as follows:</p> <p>Output 1: Bal Bhela , Child Club strengthening and Social mobilization</p> <p>Output 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth registration of 80% of children under five by end of 2016/17 • Support for Social Protection training – LDTA <p>Output 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 % DDCs and 95% municipalities have current periodic plans by 2016/17 • LBs meet with local representatives of other line ministries, INGOs, NGOs and other actors (child club network, women network and DAG)working in their areas at least twice annually. • CFLG adoption initiated and completed in 20 districts and municipalities 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 districts and 15 municipality declared child friendly • At least 35 % of capital fund of LBs are allocated and spent on targeted group annually • At least 15 priority DDCs, 7 municipalities and 800 VDCs incorporated children's needs: 	
<p>UNFPA ALIGNED PROGRAMME WITH LGCDP II IN 18 DISTRICTS</p>	<p>The aligned programme <u>contributes to LGCDP output 1, 6 and 7</u>. Key milestones under each output are as follows:</p> <p>Output 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare child marriage and violence free model VDC • One Stop Crisis Management Centers (OCMCs) in UNFPA programme districts functional • Enhanced capacity of out of school girls through leadership and institutional development to reduce GBV and seek health care services following SGBV <p>Output 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Capacity of HFOMC, health facility staff and FCHVs • Utilization of maternal health care services • Strengthened Adolescent friendly health service centers in 10 districts <p>Output 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDDP available in 11 districts • 150 officials from DDC and district line agencies trained on DPMAS. • Increase participation of youth networks in District Council and DIPFC Meetings 	
<p>UNDP BRIEF ON STATUS OF EARLY RECOVERY CLUSTER AND CASH FOR WORK PROGRAMME.</p>	<p>Ms. Sophie Kemkhadze, CD ai, UNDP highlighted on the status of early recovery cluster and cash for work programme and mentioned that humanitarian system was activated immediately after the 25th April earthquake and cluster systems were activated, and early recovery cluster is one of them. Early Recovery Cluster is lead by MoFALD and Ministry of Urban Development and co-lead by UNDP. Key priorities are- debris management, rehabilitation of infrastructure at the local level and restoration of basic services. Early recovery cluster developed projects around those key priorities and included in the flash appeal. Three sub groups were set up in each of the priorities areas with cluster representatives. ER continues to operate in three VDCs: Charikot, Gorkha and Chautahara of Sindhupalchowk districts under cash for work programme. It provides good coordination</p>	



mechanism. In terms of reconstruction, schools and hospitals are the main priorities whether it is a permanent or temporary reconstruction. She also mentioned that cash for work is implemented through LGCDP mechanism and in partnership with MoFALD. Initially, it started as a small pilot activity and is now expanding into three VDCs of Sindhupalchowk. For this purpose, technical assistance is provided via 80 engineers mobilized as UNVs.

It was further informed that the early recovery as a formal component within LGCDP will be proposed as an agenda in the upcoming project board meeting.

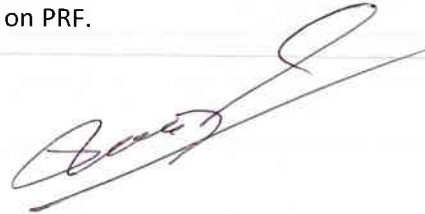
Denmark: How much more money is required in the PPSF? If the current resources can be utilized or might need additional resources?

UNDP: It was informed that for the early recovery/cash for work programme, additional money will be brought to LGCDP. The idea is to use existing structures only.

NPM: There will be no additional resources for RRF implementation. The component will only use the LGCDP framework and not the resources. UNDP will prepare concept note, budget to include in PPSF and whole TA.

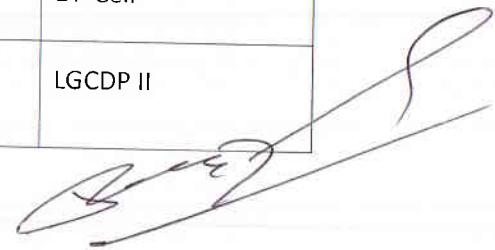
Decisions

1. **PPSF Audit:** Once management responses have been prepared by each organizations regarding PPSF Audit, it can be consolidated into one single response.
2. **UGEs transfer:** Map all UGEs current status first in order to take necessary decisions on the transfer.
3. **Vacant PCU Positions:** A decision was taken to advertise vacancy announcement for the four vacant PCU positions. Hiring to take place before the next meeting
4. **Align partners reporting format:** Hold half day workshop to develop a standard reporting format for align partners's reporting of its physical and financial progress. Participants would be representative from development partners and GoN.
5. **PRF:** Form a task team at Sub-NAC to have further discussion on PRF.



ATTENDANCE LOG

<i>S.NO</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DESIGNATION</i>	<i>ORGANIZATION</i>
1	Mr. Purusottam Nepal	Under Secretary/Programme Manager	MoFALD/LGCDP II
2	Mr. Subas Chandra Siwakoti	Under Secretary (Account)	MoFALD
3	Mr Ram Krishna Lamichhane	Admin Officer	MoFALD
4	Ms. Sophie Khemkhadje	Deputy Country Director	UNDP
5	Mr. Govinda Adhikari	Governance Advisor	DFID
4	Mr.Bishnu Adhikari	Governance Advisor	DFID
5	Mr.Saroj Nepal	Sr. Programme Officer	Embassy of Denmark
8	Mr.Bhola Prasad Dahal	Governance Advisor	Norway
9	Mr. Yam Nath Sharma	Assistant Country Director	UNDP
10	Ms. Pragya Bashyal	Program Officer	UNDP
11	Ms. Pragyan Joshi	Program Analyst	UNCDP
13	Mr. Anil Chandrika	Coordinator	DP Cell
14	Dr. Raghu Shrestha	Evaluation and Monitoring Specialist	DP Cell
15	Ms. Reshu Karki	Communication and Documentation Officer	LGCDP II



16	Mr. Mahesh Pokharel	Procurement Specialist	LGCDP II
17	Mr. Prakash Regmi	SPO	SDC
18	Ms. Sangita Yadav	PO	SDC
19	Mr. Bijay Lama	Deputy Representative	UNFPA

