

Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting of the Joint Support Programme (JSP)

Venue UN Conference Hall
Date 30 October 2009
Time 1000 -1200hrs

Members Present:

1. Ms. Claire Van der Vaeren, UN Resident Coordinator
2. Ms. Karma Hamu, Head, LDD, GNH Commission (Chairperson)
3. Mr. Tek B. Chhetri, Sr. PO, LOD
4. Mr. Sangay Penjor, Sr. PO, GNHC
5. Mr. Phuntsho Wangyel, PO, GNHC
6. Mr. Karma Raptan, Head, UNDP
7. Ms. Thinley Om, APM, LGSP/LDD, GNHC
8. Ms. Chencho Gyalmo Dorjee, PO, UNDP
9. Mr. Ugyen Tshering Dorji, PO, DCD/GNHC
10. Mr. Tashi Dorji, PSO, UNDP

Resolution/recommendation of the LPAC

1. Development of Indicators & baseline in the RRF, JSP –The committee suggested that working on the indicator should be a continuous process to take on board the institutional requirement of different agencies (RGoB, LoD, UNDP/UNEP). The meeting decided that refining indicators and baseline should be completed within the inception phase (6 months from January 2010).
2. The Mid Term Review of JSP will allow adjustments based on the initial lessons learnt from the implementation of programme (2010 – 2011); this will also provide opportunity for programme re-alignment and course correction based on the lessons documented from the mid-term evaluation.
3. On the cross cutting issues – where gender integration has been highlighted in the JSP: The members raised the issue that gender integration has not been clearly concretized/reflected at the activity level. The members felt that mainstreaming gender will be crucial and an important tool to take on board gender concerns at the local level planning. The members were informed that the concern on gender mainstreaming has been reflected in the Local development planning manual which will be used as a planning tool by the LG and will therefore ensure gender integration of program activities at the local level.
4. UN Resident Coordinator remarked that there should be a highlight of HDR 2009 under the situation analysis.

5. The member from GNHC raised the issue that mainstreaming perspective has been differing to a large extent amongst various stakeholders. The picture is not clear on the process with respect to mainstreaming climate change, environment and poverty. He highlighted that the current Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming guideline once integrated/harmonized should serve as the guideline for other mainstreaming initiatives. It was suggested that the 10th Plan programme be scanned for any kinds of affect due to climate change based on the guideline developed by OECD.
6. On the coordination between JSP & LGSP, it was suggested that there should be more interaction between the LGSP and JSP on the project implementation, and not only restrict coordination at the working group level.
7. On the Capacity Development Grant (CDG) which was proposed under the JSP and its linkage to the initiative proposed under LGSP – it was concluded that JSP will build on the experiences of LGSP wherein there is a proposal to prepare the objectives and mechanism to provide and pilot ear-marked capacity development grant to LGs.
8. Fund flow to CSOs will have to be properly identified in the JSP within the legal remit of CSO authority.
9. The members suggested inclusion of a representative from Department of Local Government (DLG) under the Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs in the programme coordination and management in view of their important mandate in the capacity development of LGs.
10. Outcome of the JSP will be co-managed by Research & Evaluation Division (RED) of GNHC in place of PMCD.
11. Under Outcome 2 of Output 2.1, separate ECP guidelines will not be developed for LG instead ECP concerns will be incorporated into the existing Local Development Planning Manual (LDPM), which is expected to be out soon.
12. On the proposed dates for JSP Annual Work Plan preparation and Inception workshop, the members have agreed to convene in the 1st week of December. However, this will be confirmed on the convenience of various partners.
13. The proposed dates for PEI Phase I retreat – to document lessons learnt from REAP initiative and other processes will be confirmed by Phuntsho Wangyel after consulting with the REAP team.

Both the UN Resident Coordinator and Head of LDD remarked that JSP is an important programme in view of the involvement of two important development partners and various agencies from the government in the areas of Environment, Climate Change and Poverty. The GNHC on behalf of the government also assured its full commitment and coordination amongst various stakeholders towards successful implementation of the programme.