

Meeting of the LPAC
Tuesday, 28th December 14:00 – 15:00, 3rd floor Meeting

Present:

Chair – Mohamed El-ghannam, Governance Pillar
Abdi Hassan – Presenter, ERPAP
Lionel Laurens – Member, ERPAP
Maha Al-Nuaimy – Member, Governance Pillar
Christine Fowler – Member, Governance Pillar
Gulfia Shienko – Member, PSU

Ex-Officio:

Khaled Ehsan – Secretary



WATER AND SANITATION MASTER PLANNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The project, where UNDP plays a lead coordination role, was developed with the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW Baghdad and MMPW KRG), the Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Governorates of Anbar, Suleimaniyah, Thi-Qar and other 3 adjacent governorates. It aims to develop an integrated approach through joint UNICEF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT and WHO participation, where the capacity of the four agencies contributes to addressing the complex causes affecting access to potable water and adequate sanitation in six Iraqi governorates. Specifically, the project objectives are to:

- improve living conditions in the governorates of Suleimaniyah, Anbar and Thi-Qar Governorates and three adjacent ones by supporting local authorities, in partnership with the local communities, in planning, managing and sustaining existing water and sanitation services; and
- expand coverage of services to the local population through effective mobilization and utilization of governorates' budget resources.

The projects outputs will contribute to:

- The Sector Outcome 3: Capacities for effective management of WatSan sector enhanced; and
- The Integrated Programme Outcome: Water, wastewater and solid waste sectors management and planning capacities strengthened in 6 governorates.

Some of the key outputs include formulation of WatSan master plans for the three governorates, together with capacity strengthening of counterparts in such a manner that enables updating; strengthening the capacity of counterparts in three neighboring governorates to develop WatSan master plans; development of Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plans for the three governorates; strengthening the counterparts' capacity in six governorates in WatSan and solid waste management; hygiene education programmes with quality surveillance; enhanced access to safe water and improved sanitation services through the provision of specialized equipment and machinery; water tankers, sewage tankers, jetting vehicles; and improved collection of solid waste in selected locations in Anbar, Thi-Qar and Suleimaniyah Governorates through the provision of garbage containers, and compactors.

In terms of UN collaboration, UNDP and UNICEF will ensure the formulation of water and sanitation master plans for Suleimaniyah, Anbar and Thi-Qar governorates jointly with technical departments, and capacity development of Water and Sewerage Authorities in the said governorates and three adjacent governorates; UNICEF and UN-HABITAT will jointly ensure that solid waste management master plans are developed for the three Governorates and capacity building is undertaken for solid waste sector across the three governorates and the three adjacent ones; and WHO will ensure that adequate hygiene education is provided through Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) campaign, implemented jointly with sanitary inspection of water sources and capacity building on water quality surveillance for concerned authorities in the six governorates.

Sustainability is to be ensured through the technicians of the targeted governorates who will be able to lead Master Plan in the future. Out of a total budget of slightly over \$10 million over two years, UNDP's share is US\$3.9 million. Around \$80,000.00 have been set aside for evaluation.

Issues:

1. **Selection criteria for choosing governorates** – both the criteria and process for identifying the six governorates are not described in the project document (e.g. why Basra?). Even if the selection was a political decision by GoI, there should be clarity, or else UNDP's accountability may be compromised.
2. **Conflict lens** - Specificity pertaining to Iraq is entirely missing in the introductory section of the document, yet security aspects are likely to influence the initiative and, therefore, should be highlighted.
3. **Ownership and sustainability** – these issues need to be fully articulated in the project document.
4. **Procurement** - while it may be argued that some level of procurement is necessary and even desirable, there is no analysis to justify the significant level of UNDP's procurement; that the Ministry of Municipality has "requested" four tankers for six governorates is not a sufficient explanation given UNDP's increased focus on capacity development – as opposed to traditional forms of technical assistance covering equipment and infrastructure. The document should provide relevant analysis and information to *justify* UNDP's approach in this particular case. Moreover, it is not clear whether the project is pitched at the national level or the local level since procuring equipment is decided by Ministries --- not at the local level.
5. **Coordination, management & rules of engagement** – how would these be played out in each governorate? The basic parameters are missing – e.g. who will make decisions on issues pertaining to WATSAN services? Since UNDP can pay for equipment and infrastructure beyond the mandate of local authorities, the decision-making processes and coordination mechanisms require elaboration, including the role of local authorities in the planning and operationalization of the project, the role of the project board in internal control frameworks, and UNDP's role in financial reporting as each UN agency has a separate agreement with the ITF and quality assurance.
6. **Lateral linkage with other UNDP projects** - as UNDP's Public Sector Reform and Local Governance & Decentralization initiatives are likely to trigger fundamental reforms in the water sector, the project document should try to highlight relevant linkages with these Governance initiatives (Maha Al-Naumei to provide information). There is also no reference to UNDP's Budget Execution programme that also has a bearing on WATSAN.
7. **Integrated water management** - the project focuses on integrated waste management, and not water, without providing a rationale.
8. **Gender** - specific activities on gender, especially those relating to participation and decision-making, are missing in the document.
9. **Joint workplan** -- the results and resources framework should reflect a joint workplan identifying key activities so as to help promote synergies and avoid duplication.
10. **M&E framework & risk log** - given UNDP's role as the lead coordination agency, reference to an M&E plan focusing on joint monitoring and reporting is critical, but missing. There should be an agreed risk log for Atlas (e.g. how the ensuing election might impact on delivery).
11. **Role of civil society** – this is conspicuously missing in the document.

- 12. **Budgetary issues** – if the project runs for 24 months, it would need to maintain staff for 18 months with no cost extension. The travel costs are greatly underrepresented and need to be revised and the respective roles of project manager and project officer should be clarified and appropriately budgeted.
- 13. **Timing of the LPAC** – this is inappropriate as the project document has already been signed with Gol; it should have happened at a much earlier stage of the project formulation.

Decision 1: The UNDP components of this project should be presented through the standard project document template, which should be used to respond to UNDP's quality assurance requirements and enhance the partnership strategy with the UN and national partners.

Decision 2: An addendum responding to the issues raised by the LPAC to be developed and attached to the original project document and submitted to the LPAC Secretary.

Decision 3: On this basis, LPAC recommends the project be approved.

Recommendation Approved:

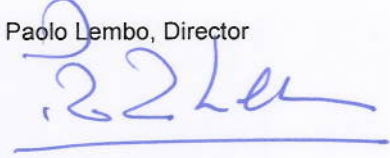
Mohamed El-ghannam, LPAC Chair



Date: 17/2/2010

Endorsed:

Paolo Lembo, Director



Date: