

Governance for Local Economic Development Programme

Programme Board Meeting Minutes

Date : Monday 9th November 2015

Venue : Minister's Meeting Room, Ministry of Public Administration and Management

Time : 2.00 p.m. – 3.30p.m.

Co-Chairs

Mr. J.D. Dadallage, Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and Management

Mr. Jorn Sorensen, Country Director, UNDP

Participants:

Government Officials

Hon. Minister Ranjith Maddumabandara, Minister Public Administration and Management

Mr. Prageeth Gunasekara, Assistant Director, Department of External Resources

Mr. T. Liyanapathirana, Deputy Project Manager-GLED/ Chief Accountant – Home Affairs

Development Partners

Ms. Vidya Perera, Senior Advisor, Royal Norwegian Embassy

Mr. Fabrizio Senesi, Programme Manager, European Union

Mr. Madhawa Hettiarachchi, Data Management Assistant, Food and Agriculture Organization

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Rajendrakumar Ganesarajah, Assistant Country Director

Mr. U. Mohamad Muzain, Project Manager GLED

Ms. Thurangani Dahanayaka, Programme Associate

Mr. Asitha Kodithuwakku, Livelihood Specialist

Ms. Nirasha Jayetileke, Communications and Reporting Specialist

Mr. Buddhika Udayajith, Project Support Officer

Ms. Anishka De Zylwa, Project Assistant

Opening Remarks

Mr. Dadallage extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board for the third board meeting for the year for the GLED Programme. He stated that an invitation had been extended to the Hon. Minister of Public Administration and Management to be present at this meeting for an orientation to the GLED Programme being implemented under the purview of the Ministry of Public Administration and Management.

Mr. Sorensen thanked the Secretary for hosting the meeting and expressed his appreciation to the development partners and other Government officials for their presence at the meeting. He noted that the next meeting scheduled for December was an important one, where work-plans for the succeeding year of 2016 would be presented and requested that the Secretary invite other Ministry officials so as to have the continued presence of the Ministry throughout the Board meeting. He informed those present that the UNDP, at the request of the Government of Sri Lanka has allocated USD 35,000 of its core financial resources to support the resettled communities in Sampur, Trincomalee under the current GLED-DIM Project. UNDP will collaborate with FAO to provide livelihood assistance in this regard. He went on to note that through the individual Projects under GLED-DIM the Programme had an impressive outreach in ten Districts of the country.

GLED –NIM Presentation on Physical and Financial Progress and Challenges to Implementation

Please refer Annex A for the detailed Presentation on Project Progress and Annex B for Q3 progress report.

Mr. J. Dadallage noted that though the budget allocation was limited, every effort was being made to utilize the resources in the 12 Districts to improve planning and good governance measures at District and Divisional level, thereby making an investment for continuous application of systems that had been developed. For example the use of the Case Management System was to provide livelihood opportunities for some 5000 persons. He noted

that the impact of this tool will be wide spread in the future and the acceptance of these innovative mechanisms had been high at the District level administration. He also noted that there is potential to channel government resources through this system. In parallel, the capacity development of the Community Based Organizations (CBO) is being carried out, so as to be able to garner CBO support, to apply the tools and systems developed under the GLED-NIM Project, such as the Case Management System. He also made note of the success of the Result Based Planning mechanism which has created a considerable impact in formalizing and implementing research and analytical based planning at the Divisional level. He also explained that the Citizen Charter has been introduced to improve public service delivery mechanisms efficiently and effectively covering 40 services. He went on to provide an introduction to UNDP's NIM and DIM implementation modalities under the GLED Programme for the benefit of the Hon. Minister and elaborated further on the various tools and systems introduced under the NIM Project. In conclusion Mr. Dadallage made a note on that the separation of the subject of "Home Affairs" from Ministry of Public Administration negatively impacted upon Project implementation, and accordingly described as a challenge.

Discussion:

The Hon. Minister, requested more information regarding the history of UNDP's Projects which come under the purview of the Ministry, as well as the origin of the Case Management tool.

It was clarified that the current GLED-NIM Project began in 2013, however UNDP's work goes back as far as 2007, with the implementation of the CADRIN Project and Local Governance Project. The Case Management tool was implemented to make use of the readily available human resources at the Divisional level, and it was noted to have created high motivation levels amongst the Development Officers as well.

GLED-DIM Presentation on Physical and Financial Progress and Challenges to Implementation

Please refer Annex C for the detailed Presentation on Project Progress

Mr. Muzain, Programme Manager-GLED DIM presented the physical and financial progress as at 31st October 2015. He also went onto explain the current risks being faced by the Projects due to a number of factors and requested the Ministry's support to assist to resolve the issue pertaining to the lack of support and limited contribution of the Provincial Authorities with regards to the District Development Planning Process.

Discussion

- **Mr. Sorensen** requested the support of the Ministry to issue a written request to the respective Provincial Chief Secretaries to provide their support for this valuable initiative. A draft letter would be prepared by UNDP and shared with the Secretary for this purpose.
- **Mr. Senesi** requested more clarity on how all the activities presented under the GLED programme came together, especially given the spread of activities. A brief clarification was provided by Mr. Ganesarajah on how GLED was anchored under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and what the different components were and how these then translated into the individual Projects such as EU-SDDP, NLDP and ADP under the GLED Programme. He explained that all UNDP programmes/projects require a Programme/Project Board to be put in place to ensure strategic guidance is provided to the Programme/Project, provide quality assurance and ensure monitoring progress. As a practice these Boards are (Co)Chaired by the assigned national level partner Ministry and UNDP, which in the case of the GLED Programme has been the Ministry of Public Administration. Furthermore as per the Government Regulations, UN agencies are required to share its Project progress with the relevant Partner Ministry. He also clarified that the GLED Programme Board was designed to present progress of all GLED DIM and NIM projects. It was noted, that given Mr. Senesi was newly on board at the European Delegation as UNDP's Focal Point under EU-SDDP, a detailed orientation on what and how UNDP is implementing under EU- SDDP has been planned in the coming week.
- **Mr. Gunasekera** noted that though considerable high financial figures had been reported as committed, the actual expenditure was less. He clarified as to how this variance would be managed

by 31st December 2015. Mr. Ganesharajah explained that it was noted that UNDP is closely monitoring expenses and that the 'committed' financials were indeed pledges/commitment UNDP had entered into and formed part of UNDP's 2015 delivery target and as such part of the commitment is to be liquidated within the 2015 financial year and the balance to be liquidated within Project cycle depending on the pace of implementation.

- **Mr. Rajendrakumar Ganesarajah** noted that in the absence of the Co-Chair, that the following two proposals were to be tabled and approval sought, and also the Secretary –Ministry of Public Administration would be kept informed of same:
 1. Approval sought by the Programme Board for the allocation of USD 35,000 to support the resettled communities in Sampur.
 2. As a practice, any funding allocated to government departments through national budget allocations, and remain unspent as at 31st December of each year is required to be returned to the Treasury. Clarification was required as to whether this practice has been extended to financial resources allocated through Projects to government entities (for example, to funds provided under current Letters of Agreement signed between the District Secretariats and UNDP). Mr. Ganesarajah noted that discussions would be held with the Director General of Treasury Operations and State Accounts in this regard.
 3. USD 30,000 was provided as an additional allocation for GLED-NIM and the Project Annual Work Plan has been revised to reflect the Project total budget allocation as USD 130,000.

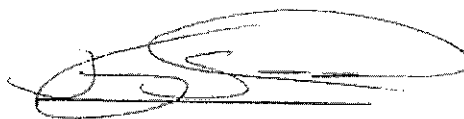
General Discussion

The meeting ended with a word of thanks from Mr. Ganesarajah to all the officials who attended the meeting.

Approved:



Mr. J. Dadallage
Secretary
Ministry of Public Administration and
Management



Mr. Jorn Sorensen
Country Director
UNDP



