

## Governance for Local Economic Development Programme

### Programme Board Meeting Minutes

**Date** : Tuesday 5 May 2015

**Venue** : Minister's Meeting Room, Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government and Democratic Governance

**Time** : 2.00pm-3.30pm

#### Co-Chairs

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

Mr. Joern Soerensen, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### Participants:

##### **Other Government Department**

Ms. W.M. Deepthie Fernando, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Mrs. D. Ratnayake, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs

Mr. T. Liyanapathirana, Chief Accountant, Ministry of Home Affairs

Ms. Lakmini Fernando, Assistant Director, Department of National Planning

Ms. R. J. Abdeen, Assistant Director, Department of External Resources

##### **Development Partners**

Mr. Knut Nyflot, Counsellor, Royal Norwegian Embassy

Mr. Nihal Atapattu, Senior Development Officer, Canadian High Commission

##### **Food and Agriculture Organization**

Mr. P. Kurupparachchi, Assistant Representative

##### **United Nations Development Programme**

Mr. Rajendrakumar Ganesarajah, Assistant Country Director

Mr. U. Mohamad Muzain, Project Manager GLED

Ms. Amanthi Wickramasinghe, Programme Analyst

Ms. Thurangani Dahanayaka, Programme Associate

Ms. Dilki Palliyeguruge, M&E Analyst

Mr. Asitha Kodithuwakku, Livelihood Specialist

Mr. Ramaiah Dhanaraj, Governance Specialist

Ms. Nirasha Jayetileke, Communications and Reporting Specialist

Mr. K. K. Ranjan, Governance Specialist

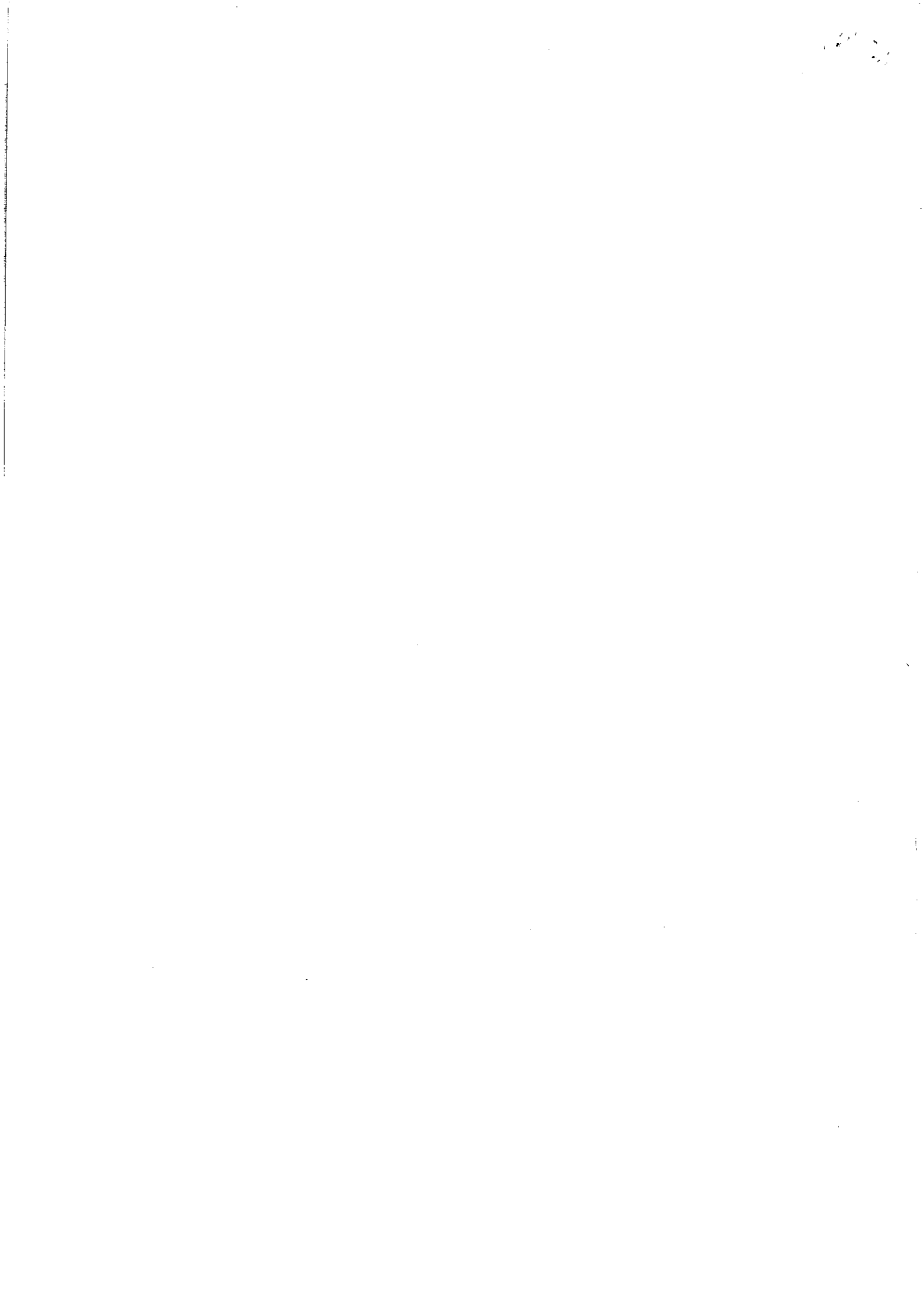
Mr. Buddhika Udayajith, Project Support Officer

Ms. Anishka De Zylwa, Project Assistant.

#### Opening Remarks

**Mr. Dadallage** extended a warm welcome to the members of the Board. He explained that the GLED Programme has two components; one which is nationally implemented (NIM) by the Ministry of Public Administration and the other directly implemented (DIM) by UNDP.

**Mr. Soerensen** 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 suggested that the next Board meeting take place in August 2015, with a view to ensuring that the Board meets on a quarterly basis. He noted that while the Project teams have since January 2015 faced a number of challenges in implementation, this time provided the space for UNDP to strengthen its collaboration with the Ministry. He also emphasized that in some Districts there have been challenges where District plans have been revisited and slowed down progress under the SDDP Project. He requested the support of the Secretary in such events to speak to the Government Agents with a view to overcoming the delays. He went on to add that targets for 2015 are ambitious and progress thus far and financial commitments



to-date was lower than it should be, and he emphasized that further delays could not be afforded. He also informed the Board of UNDP Regional Director's positive engagement with the Minister of Public Administration and the Secretary during his visit in April 2015, including engagement with H.E the Norwegian Ambassador during a field visit undertaken to the North and highlighted the valuable work UNDP had done especially targeting women in sustainable livelihoods. He also placed before the Board an issue faced by UNDP with regards to Value Added Tax (VAT), particularly with regards to the EU-Support to District Development Programme (SDDP). He explained that UNDP is engaging with the Ministry of Finance and Planning to resolve this issue. UNDP does not have the resources to re-pay to the EU payments made for VAT, which is contractually defined as ineligible expenditure. Therefore he hoped that the Government of Sri Lanka will provide a timely solution to this matter at the earliest.

#### **GLED –NIM Revised 2015 Work Plan Presentation**

*Please refer Annex A for the detailed Presentation of the 2015 Annual Work Plan for the NIM Project for the revised contribution allocation of USD 100,000.*

**Mr. J. Dadallage** explained that 2015 began with changes in context which have resulted in delays for Project activities. Furthermore, with regards to Key Activity Result 1<sup>1</sup> of the Project he explained that it will not be possible to reach 5000 beneficiaries in light of the limited financial resources made available to the Project. He explained that a number of key activities the Ministry will look to expand utilizing the resources from the Ministry. He noted that the Budget for the Project was significantly small and requested that a greater resource allocation be considered taking in to account the potential high impact of the Project interventions. He explained that using the minimal Budget, the aim is to focus upon introducing the 'Case management System' to manage the livelihood interventions at grass root level rather than offering direct financial support to beneficiaries.

In his presentation he also highlighted the key features of the national implementation modality as ability to utilize government expertise, available resources, and policies. He explained that in his capacity as the Secretary, he would look to roll out/up-scale a number of the activities at the national level, by continuing the Project activities. While, as part of the possible challenges that the Project will face he explained that 2015 is a year of Elections and continued changes in context, he noted that the Project would endeavor to complete implementation of the 2015 work plan activities by November 2015.

#### ***Discussion***

- **Mr. Soerensen** explained that UNDP has globally faced a number of challenges, with its 2015 core-allocations being further reduced, and the development partner contributions already secured have been earmarked. However during the visit of UNDP's Regional Director, he had discussions with a number of Government officials, including H.E the Prime Minister with regards to Government cost-sharing. He gave an example of how in Nepal that 7-8% of annual programme budgets comprised of Government cost-sharing, in India this percentage is almost 50%. Elaborating further, that it would be a good if expansion of GLED's work to new geographical areas such as Trincomalee, which is not being covered by the Project can be considered under the 'Government cost-sharing mechanism'.
- In response to clarification sought with regards to the 5,000 target of beneficiaries, **Mr. Dadallage** explained that in 2014, 155 beneficiaries had been supported under the Project. He also noted that using the same systems introduced by the Project, other resources are also channeled reaching a number of beneficiaries. However this form of out-reach is not as yet captured by the Ministry. He re-iterated the need to see how the DIM and NIM components of GLED can moving forward use common platforms that are acceptable to reaching the objectives of the Programme.

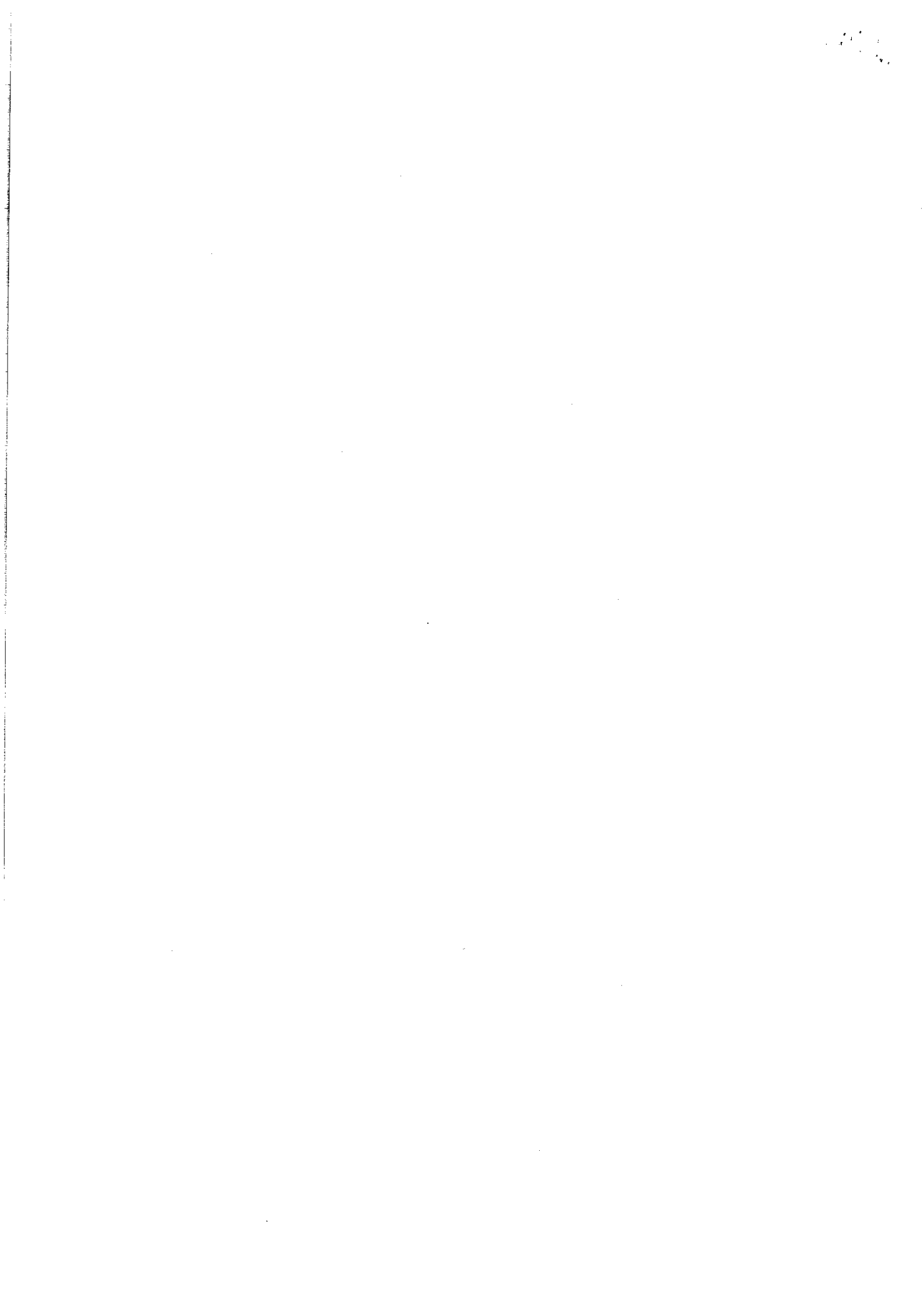
#### **GLED-DIM Progress Presentation**

*Please refer Annex B for the detailed Presentation*

**Mr. Mohammed Muzain, Programme Manager-GLED DIM** presented progress made under the DIM component of GLED as at 31 March 2015.

---

<sup>1</sup> Enhanced income generation activities reaching at least 5000 people among vulnerable groups.



Under SDDP's governance components (Result Area 3.1 and 3.2) it was noted that efforts have been made to build upon the initiatives that have been undertaken by the GLED-NIM component (i.e. the use of Training of Trainers trained in Results Based Planning to provides RBP trainings in the SDDP Districts). As part of the challenges identified to potentially impact upon Project implementation in 2015, it was highlighted that the changes in political context may result in delays to implementation.

#### **Discussion**

- **Mr. Soerensen** noted that financially there has been little progress thus far and therefore the Project team needs to work effectively to push through with identified initiatives and achieve its ambitious 2015 targets. The effort made to institutionalize curriculums with Universities was commended.
- It was clarified that there are two approaches to supporting youth under GLED. The first approach focuses on supporting youth to engage in income generation activities and strengthen their knowledge and skills as entrepreneurs, under the Youth Enterprise Development initiative. The second approach focuses on strengthening youth leadership skills, whereby youth from the community level are provided with the required skills and knowledge to lead community development, under the Youth Leadership Development initiative.
- **Mr. Dadallage** noted that these initiatives should be integrated with the Case Management System. He explained that there is a need to break the chain of only promoting donor driven initiatives and support the locally designed initiatives and systems. **Mr. Atapattu** noted that the bilateral donors support greater integration between the nationally and directly implemented components of this Programme.
- **Mr. Rajendrakumar** thanked the Ministry for its guidance and direction given toward the NIM Project. He noted that even the DIM projects being rolled out in the Districts were under the ownership and purview of the Ministry, even though it was not NIM. With regards to setting up policy level forums, that is an area that UNDP can actively support in relation to the key areas of GLED's focus. He proposed that such an initiative be looked into towards the third quarter of 2015, following the upcoming General Elections. He requested the Ministry to extend the Project's scope into the three remaining Districts of the Western Province in order to gain an island-wide coverage. He welcomed the future support of the Ministry and SLIDA to roll out the Case Management System in the other Districts, and explained that it was encouraging to note that the Ministry itself has in 2015 allocated national budgetary resources to roll of the Citizen's Charter in select Districts.
- **Mr. Nyflot** appreciated the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the full scope of GLED's work.

#### **General Discussion**

**Mr. Dadallage** explained that there is a need for management and systems reforms to address some of the practices which impact upon efficiency in the service delivery.

**Mr. Soerensen** as part of his closing remarks re-emphasized the need to meet at least three times for the year, he encouraged the Ministry and UNDP to take the time to think more in depth with regards to some of the key issues relating to collaboration raised during the meeting, and noted that there is a new Management at SLIDA and requested the Ministry's support to get some urgent data entry and analysis completed through SLIDA in keeping with the Letter of Agreement signed.

#### **Recommendations and Decision**

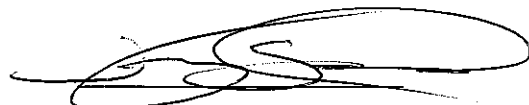
- A maximum 15% tolerance level to be applied on budget lines at the Activity level on the GLED NIM Annual Work plan and GLED-DIM Project AWP's (subject to donor specific requirements) reconfirmed.
- Next Programme Board Meeting to be held in August 2015.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Mr. J. Dadallage  
Secretary  
Ministry of Public Administration, Local  
Government and Democratic Governance

**J. DADALLAGE**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Public Administration,  
Provincial Councils, Local Government &  
Democratic Governance.



Mr. Joern Soerensen  
Country Director  
UNDP



14

FORM 1041

1041