



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Director
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 5 June 2014

From: Georges Van Montfort
Country Advisor
Country Support Team, ESA

Extension: 5986

Subject: Request for extension of DIM authorization for Madagascar « Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (PACEM) »

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Madagascar Country Office (CO) to approve the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) extension for the “Projet d'Appui au Cycle Electoral à Madagascar (PACEM)”. The requested authorization is for the period 1 June 2014 – 31 December 2014. Please note that the Country Office requested authorization late (previous authorization ran out in November 2013) and that hence the Country Office will have to assume responsibility for the period 22 November 2013 – 31 May 2014.

Background

This electoral cycle project has been in place since 2012 in support of the preparation and the holding of the national elections. The project objective is to strengthen the capacities of key national electoral stakeholders (electoral management body, public institutions, political parties, civil society organizations, media, etc.) throughout the entire electoral cycle.

The project has witnessed some difficulties in implementation given the long political deadlock and resulting international isolation of Madagascar. After this political deadlock was resolved, however, the project has been able to achieve all the intended outputs. The presidential and parliamentary elections, held in 2013 with the project's substantial support, were praised and recognized by national and international observation missions as being inclusive, fair transparent and peaceful. Capacity building activities effectively strengthened the skills of the various election stakeholders and boosted their involvement in the conduct and monitoring of the process.



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The United Nations' and other development partners' electoral assistance were instrumental to the success of the 2013 elections. The electoral management body and the Government of Madagascar have on many occasions stressed that this external assistance is still required throughout 2014, especially because the municipal elections, initially scheduled for 2013, were postponed and are due in 2014, at a date still to be determined by the electoral management body in close collaboration with the UN.

Justification for DIM

The implementation modality recommended for this project is Direct Implementation (DIM). This is premised on the fact that the political environment, although improved, remains highly polarised and tense, requiring impartial support that only UNDP can offer. Furthermore, rudimentary project management capacity at the electoral management body is still lacking which requires UNDP to ensure compliance with international standards of policies and procedures in the management of electoral support. The project does have a capacity development component embedded, but full transition to National Implementation cannot be expected in this year.

Institutional Arrangements

UNDP and development partners participating in this project will provide assistance to strengthen the capacity of key actors in the electoral process (the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Government and public institutions, political parties, civil society organizations and the media) to enable them to play their respective roles in the conduct of successful elections which are free, transparent, credible and inclusive, in accordance with international standards. This assistance, both technical and financial, is envisaged to cover the whole electoral cycle including: pre-election, election and post-election, within the project parameters outlined above. This project is fully consistent with the framework of the UNDP technical assistance to the Government of Madagascar and the Needs Assessment Mission recommendations.

UNDP Madagascar Country Office has the experience and the capacity for Direct Implementation and it will continue to ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control, to safeguard UNDP financial responsibilities, accountable use of UNDP and partner resources and risk management. All financial resources for this project will be managed according to the rules, procedures and regulations as defined in UNDP's programming and operations policy and procedures (POPP), and according to UNDP guidelines on direct implementation.



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Recommendation

This is a post-facto DIM request and the Country Office should have made the request for authorization from 21 November 2013. Therefore, UNDP Madagascar will have to absorb the responsibility of implementing the DIM during the period for which it did not receive the appropriate approval. It is strongly recommended that the Country Office ensure full compliance with DIM policy in the future. The project document and relevant documents are attached.

Based on the above justification, it is recommended that the DIM modality of this project be approved for the period from 1 June 2014 to 31 December 2014.

Approved by: Abdoulay Mar Dieye
Abdoulay Mar Dieye
Director
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 13 JUNE 2014

A large, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly 'Abdoulay Mar Dieye', written across the bottom of the page.

