




INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Shigeki Komatsubara
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 31 December

From: Hawa Aw 
Regional Programme Specialist
Country Oversight Team

Extension: 5962

Subject: Request for Direct Implementation Modality for Japan Funded Project
“Strengthening community and regional capacity for security enhancement in
Niger”

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Country Office (CO) in Niger for the approval of the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) for the Project “Strengthening community and regional capacity for security enhancement in Niger” from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

Background

The Sahel is an unstable region, confronted with recurrent crises (food, climate change, security) where different organized crime and terrorist organizations have become increasingly active in recent years. Niger is located at the center of the Sahel, sharing borders with 7 countries, including Libya, Mali and Nigeria. Safeguarding Niger’s peace and security against terrorist and criminal threats (kidnappings, illicit activities, terrorist attacks, and violent extremism) has become a priority of the Government. In order to respond to these threats, which are both internal and external, the Nigerien Government has developed a strategy for security and development in the Sahel-Saharan areas and aligned its economic and social development plan with these national security priorities. However, the government’s capacity to prevent and respond to crises and threats remains weak and fragile, as became evident with the 2013 terrorist attacks in Arlit, Agadez and the central prison of Niamey.

The project is designed to support the Government of Niger, to facilitate the establishment and operationalization of regional PCM initiated through and with support of EUCAP-Sahel. The objectives of the PCM are i) to strengthen the management and coordination capacity of the Governors to prevent and respond to security crisis through the Joint Command Centres ✓



mechanism ii) to increase trust and confidence between local leaders, communities and security institutions through dialogue and joint community initiatives.

Justification for DIM

Over 90 % of the project's expected output delivery is procurement related with international purchase of vehicles and communication equipment. In order to ensure timely and quality delivery, and considering UNDP's experience and long-term partnership established with Toyota Gibraltar through LTA, Direct Implementation would ensure cost effectiveness, quality and timely delivery which would be doubtful in the case of NIM.

As per the trust/confidence building between communities, civil society organizations one hand and anybody in uniform, mainly those from security and defense institutions, on the other hand, and considering security challenges and sensitiveness of this activity, UNDP, through direct implementation, would be the best trustful and impartial partner to bring together key stakeholders to dialogue table and find ways and means to strengthen their peaceful coexistence and foster community security and communication between communities and security forces through community services and initiatives.

Implementation Arrangements

The project will be managed by UNDP under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in close coordination with all stakeholders.

A Technical Committee comprising UNDP procurement and programme staff and representatives of EUCAP-Sahel will be established to ensure quality control of the services provided by vendors, including defining the equipment specification, drafting the bill of quantities and clearing the delivery of the equipment.

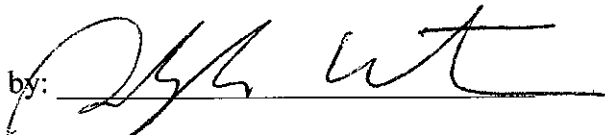
UNDP will provide an international Crisis Prevention and Recovery (CPR) Specialist to be responsible for the overall management of all aspects of the project. The CPR Specialist will report on all aspects of the project directly to the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and Programme Director or her designated official to ensure effective delivery of project activities.

The Country Office has the experience and the capacity for DIM and it will continue to ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control, to safeguard UNDP financial responsibilities and accountable use of UNDP and partners' resources as defined in the UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies Procedures (POPP).



Recommendations

Based on the above justification, I would recommend that the request for authorization of the Direct Implementation Modality of the project “Strengthening community and regional capacity for security enhancement in Niger” be approved from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

Approved by:  Date: 7 Jan 2015

Shigeki Komatsubara
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Bureau for Africa