Internal Project Appraisal Committee (IPAC) for the Project:
"Paving the Road to SDGs through Good Governance"
UNDP, RCBC Plaza Makati, 12 July 2017

Participants:

1. Enrico Gaveglia
2. Ethel Capuno
3. Marian Valera
4. Angie Neo
5. Allen Mariano
6. Marsmath Baris Jr.

7. Jessica Aduca
8. Graham Jones
9. Jonathan Hodder
10. Francis Capistrano
11. Cleto Gales
12. Grace Tena

Deputy Country Director (DCD) Enrico Gaveglia opened the meeting by welcoming the participants, providing an overview o the IPAC process, and invited Jonathan Hodder to present the concept. Jonathan gave the presentation of the concept, strategy, and deliverables of the proposed project. Afterwards, DCD enrico Gaveglia opened the floor to comments.

Graham Jones: In case the signing of the prodoc gets delayed, how can we speed up the process? Jonathan replied saying that the team would:
a) Already start to organise the Hubs. It usually takes time to orientate hub members and prepare the work leading up to the signing of the MoA. We are already talking to prospective Hub members including PICE and the Environmental Planners Association.
b) To put together a list of new staff to be hired. Give that list to the Operations Manager who may be able to request the use of the Special Acceleration Delivery Measures to hasten the process.

Grace Tena: Pleased by the link between roads and the SDGs. She wanted to ensure that SDG Goal 15 "Life on Land" is featured in prodoc, and in the enhancement of relevant training roads management modules.

Jonathan Hodder: SDG 15 will be a major part of the M&E plan, with specific SDG indicators being targeted. Furthermore, when modules are being enhanced with the SDGs, it would be great if the UNDP ISD team could be part of the peer review process. Grace Tena agreed.

Grace Tena: What is role of DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) in the process?

Graham Jones: DPWH governs the standards of road design. While drawing up the manuals in the previous project DPWH was a part of this process. Moving forward with this proposed project, the roads would follow the same standards, and any enhancements would be done in full consultation with DPWH.

Allen Mariano: Recommended that, in regards to citizen monitoring, the governance team looked into the Empathy system (Electronic Management Platform for Accountability and Transparency), a data tracking system which is now owned by the Urban Development Coordinating Council. Also suggested looking at the peace aspect if there are roads being built in conflict areas.

DCD Enrico Gaveglia: Followed on from this point and stressed that the construction of infrastructure projects would heavily contribute to building peace in conflict areas by deflating tensions and discontent. The 'Road to Peace" was suggested by Jonathan as a component / perspective when constructing roads in these areas. Jonathan also stressed that contractors / new players would undergo a cultural sensitivity training if they were entering ARMM or culturally diverse areas in Mindanao in order to mitigate the chances of friction / tension with local communities. The Peacebuilding team can help design or even conduct the activity as part of the project.

Allen Mariano: Attention must be paid to the impact roads will have on housing prices, which may increase and impact on the community.

Enrico Gaveglia: Stresses that the prodoc must state the comparative advantage of UNDP in terms of quality assurance. Typically, UNDP focuses on capacity building rather than hard infrastructure and quality assurance, so that expertise which makes UNDP a partner of choice must be stressed. Some of these can be the fact that we may be operating in vacuum otherwise not provided by anyone.

- Also stressed the need to focus on the core SDG indicators that we can report on – which ones will we be mainly and most directly contributing to?
- Will there be opportunities from employment in the construction and maintenance of the roads?
- Will UNDP continue to be responsible during the defects liability period? Graham Jones stated that the defects liability not covered and not UNDP responsibility. UNDP role is us to strengthen role of provinces in ensuring QA, while the contractors hired to construct will be liable for any defects.
- Enrico acknowledged the project management organogram but wanted to see the Governance team's organogram to see how this would fit in.
- QA and risk log needs to be completed.

Mai Valera made the following points:
- The need to have a more thorough risk analysis.
- Ensure a more thorough M&E plan with clear focus on target SDGs.
- To clearly identify the target beneficiaries – are they isolated communities? The rural poor? Businesses?
- Beneficiaries / CSOs should be reflected in the final project board structure.
- Reiterated the need to complete the QA.

Ms Ethel Capuno:
- Stressed that UNDP does not issue honorariums and that a new term must be used.
- The strategy for not choosing the private sector needs to be properly justified, since this deviated from the governments original plan.
- A more detailed budget, cost structure that reflects staffing and DPC, communications etc.
- To highlight in the organogram who is organic to UNDP and who is not.

The Governance Team then thanked the participants for their comments and agreed to incorporate all in the final project document.