

UNDP Local-Project Appraisal Committee (L-PAC) Meeting Strengthening Institutional Structures and Mechanisms for Dialogue

MINUTES

Venue: MSS Meeting Room
Date: 18 April 2008
Time: From 14.00 to 15.30

Chair:

Ms. Maria Domingas Fernandes Alves Minister of Social Solidarity
Mr. Akbar Usmani UNDP Country Director

Participants:

1. Mr. Jacinto Gomes Secretary of State for Social Assistance & Natural Disasters
2. Mr. Amândio Freitas *Hamutuk Hari'i Futuro's* Coordinator
3. Mr. Jay Maheswara AUSTCARE Country Director
4. Mr. Pedro Aquino AusAID Programme Officer
5. Mr. Preston Pentony UNMIT Political Affairs Officer
6. Mr. Josh Trindade The Asia Foundation
7. Mr. Isidoro V. da Costa JRS
8. Ms. Valentina Bacchin IOM SLS
9. Ms. Louisa Medhurst OCHA Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer
10. Ms. Filipa O. Martins UNDP/MSS Special Assistant to MSS
11. Ms. Sophia Cason UNDP/MSS Communications & Outreach Advisor
12. Ms. Alissar Chaker UNDP ARR, Head of Crisis Prevention & Recovery Unit
13. Ms. Ruth Jorge UNDP Monitoring Officer, Crisis Prevention & Recovery Unit

Agenda:

- (1) Opening remarks by Minister of Social Solidarity, Ms. Maria Domingas Fernandes Alves and UNDP Country Director, Mr. Akbar Usmani
- (2) Presentation of the Strengthening Institutional Structures and Mechanisms for Dialogue Project by Mr. Ben Larke
- (3) Discussion
- (4) Closing and Conclusion

1. Opening remarks

The Minister of Social Solidarity, Ms. Maria Domingas Fernandes Alves, in her opening remarks, shared with all the participants few thoughts on dialogue and on its importance in the Government's National Recovery Strategy *Hamutuk Hari'i Futuro*. The Minister reminded that Dialogue is the key to *Hamutuk Hari'i Futuro*, and that its importance is not only limited to one pillar of the strategy but also has implications for all others, as dialogue will contribute to all aspects of the recovery process.

UNDP Country Director, Mr. Akbar Usmani, briefly explained the purpose of the meeting, which includes the review and approval of the Support to *Hamutuk Hari'i Konfiansa* Project. UNDP Country Director also highlighted that the Support to *Hamutuk Hari'i Konfiansa* Project is an integral part of the Transitional Appeal which was considered and approved by the *Hamutuk Hari'i Konfiansa Working Group*. The participants were also informed that the project benefits from the contribution of New Zealand Government through NZAid (USD 220,000) and that further resource mobilization is currently

underway. It was also pointed out that AusAID has announced during the TLDPM its support to the *Hamutuk Hari'i Konfiansa* pillar.

2. Presentation of the project document

Mr. Ben Larke made a presentation providing the background, and explaining the links between the proposal and the National Recovery Strategy *Hamutuk Hari'i Futuro*. In his summary of the project document, Mr. Ben Larke outlined the four main objectives of the proposal, which are:

- 1) Managing conflicts at the local level through interaction with State officials at all levels, with dedicated staff to follow through on the conclusions reached during that interaction;
- 2) Strengthening the public perception of State institutions by bringing them closer to the people through real and constructive dialogue with local communities resulting in concrete action;
- 3) Strengthening the public perception of local level authorities (such as suco councils and chiefs, district administrators, sub-district administrators, local level public servants, etc) by having them publicly empowered by national level State authorities;
- 4) Promoting a common sense of Timorese identity rooted in its rich cultural traditions, history and shared values.

It was raised that the implementation strategy defined for the Support to *Hamutuk Hari'i Konfiansa* Project proposal is based on lessons learned and experience, as well as the close articulation and cooperation that UNDP have with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS).

3. Discussion

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for discussions. The issues raised are summarised below.

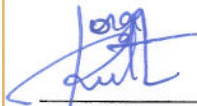
- How do you achieve objective 4 – promote a common sense of Timorese identity?
 - It is a very general objective which refers to traditional conflict resolution ceremonies used in Timor-Leste. These should be encouraged where appropriate.
- There are about 30,000 IDPs in Dili, and another 30,000 in the districts – particularly in the east. Under this project document, it seems there will be more dialogue teams in Dili than in the districts. Also, there has been a lot of emphasis on the preparation of dialogue teams. But who is preparing the communities themselves?
 - The majority of the dialogue teams will be indeed based in Dili since most of the IDPs who are now in the east fled from Dili even though they may originally have had links with the east. It is presumed that many of those IDPs who fled from Dili will wish to return to Dili, and that the dialogue teams will therefore be strategically placed in order to assist them to do so. We hope that the dialogue teams will be able to benefit from partner organisations experience and assistance to accelerate the process of reintegration. MSS has been doing dialogue for a long time. We need to train staff who will facilitate this work.
 - Konfiansa relates to the institution. If people trust institutions it improves dialogue. Dialogue is best done through institutions that people trust – such as MSS and its partner organisations.
- These objectives are very general. Are there are concrete objectives?
 - MSS is trying to bring people together and help them admit their mistake and go beyond the harm done to each other. Dialogue is just a means, it is not an end in itself. It is a means to

achieve the other pillars. People can talk about what went wrong between them then work can start towards the other HHFs.

4. Conclusion

The Minister requested input from partner agencies working on dialogue to improve the document if needed. It was agreed that Tuesday 22nd April 2008 COB is the deadline for final comments to be included in the project document. Following that, MSS and UNDP will proceed in signing the project document and launching the project activities.

Drafted by:



Ruth Jorge
Project Monitoring Officer

23 MAY 2008

Date

Cleared by:

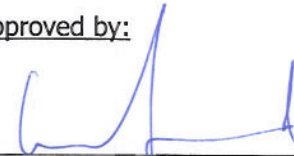


Alissar Chaker
ARR, Head of CPR Unit

23.05.08

Date

Approved by:



Nick Beresford
Country Director a.i.

26.5.08

Date