

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS
(International Co-operation Cell)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated: April, 2019

To

1. Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director, UNDP, India Email: nadia.rasheed@undp.org
2. Shri N. Raja, Director, National Service Scheme, Email: n.raja60@gov.in
3. Dr. M.P. Gupta, Director (I/C), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Email: drmohindergupta@gmail.com
4. Shri Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer, UNV/UNDP, Email: arun.sahdeo@undp.org
5. Mrs. Gul Berry, Programme Associate, United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Email: gul.berry@undp.org
6. Ms. Shreya Baruah, National Project Manager, Strengthening of NYKS and NSS, Email: shreya.baruah@undp.org

Subject: Project "Strengthening of NYKS and NSS" jointly implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and UNDP/UNV.

Madam/Sir

I am directed to forward herewith the approved minutes of the 5th Project Steering Committee held on 02.04.19 in Conference Room, NYKS HQ, Jeevan Deep Building, New Delhi for information & necessary action.



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Copy to:- 1) Sr. PPS to Secretary (YA)
2) PS to JS (YA)

5th Meeting of the Project Steering Committee
'Strengthening NYKS and NSS' project
Venue: Conference Room, NYKS HQ, Jeevan Deep Building, New Delhi
Date: 2 April 2019, Time: 11:30- 13:00 hrs.

A. Background and Opening Remarks

The 5th Meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the project "Strengthening NYKS and NSS" was held on 2nd April 2019 under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. The list of participants is at **Annexure-1**.

Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs) welcomed the Chairperson and members of the Project Steering Committee and sought the permission of the Chair to start the proceedings. He stated that the Phase-1 of the project was successfully completed and Phase -2 of the project had begun in the last quarter of 2018.

Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director, UNDP India thanked the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for their continued partnership with the UNDP and UNV. She informed that 1st Phase of the Project "Strengthening NYKS and NSS" (2014-2018) has shown impressive results in revitalizing youth clubs and mobilizing youth volunteers to support the ongoing schemes of the government. She thanked the Government of India particularly, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for recognizing the achievements and according approval for scaling up of the project to 58 districts and extending it until December 2020.

B. Presentation and discussion on the Agenda

Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer UNV/UNDP made the presentation on the listed agenda items.

Agenda Item 1: Consolidated physical and financial progress of Phase-I (2014-2018)

Progress made during Phase-1 of the project was presented. A brief note of the physical and financial progress is at **Annexure-2**.

The PSC noted the physical and financial progress of Phase-1 of the project.

Agenda Item 2: Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 4th Meeting of the Project Steering Committee: The following action taken report on the decisions of the 4th meeting of the PSC was presented:

- The proposal for scaling up the project from existing 29 districts to 58 districts and extend it until December 2020 was approved by the Department of Economic Affairs.
- As advised by Secretary (YA), 24 District Youth Parliament and 1 National Youth Parliament were organized, and report shared with the Ministry. NSS volunteers were also engaged at district level Youth Parliaments.
- As advised by JS(YA)/NPD Volunteering Awards, was successfully launched.
- As advised by Secretary (YA), the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Study on Social Media for

youth and civic engagement was approved by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and study was completed accordingly.

The PSC noted the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 4th PSC meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Status of Implementation of Annual Work Plan 2018

The approved work plan for 2018 with its status was presented as under:

- State Youth Policy formulated for 3 States namely; Gujarat, Tripura and Uttarakhand;
- 24 District Youth Parliament and 1 National Youth Parliament organized;
- International Youth Day 2018 celebrated and an online as well as offline campaign on “Cyber Safety” for youth conducted;
- Youth Resource Centres established in 5 project districts during 2018;
- V-Awards launched, and 10 outstanding volunteers awarded during 2018;
- Support provided to MahilaMandals in 2 project districts namely Rajkot and South Sikkim for establishing market linkages for their products;
- Study on Social Media and Youth development completed;
- International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning organized for 4 youth from India to Cambodia during 2018;
- District level thematic debates and campaigns conducted during International Women’s Day 2018, World Environment Day 2018, International Youth Day 2018 and International Volunteers Day 2018.
- Statement of expenditure for 2018 was presented. As against the allocated budget of USD 658059, the actual expenditure was USD 609018.

The PSC noted the status of implementation of Annual Work Plan 2018.

Agenda Item 4: Annual Work Plan 2019:The proposed activities under various Outputs proposed in AWP 2019 was presented as under:

Output-1:Volunteering infrastructure of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports strengthened including the youth clubs in 58 districts.

1. Developing Status of Youth Report for 2019
2. Formulation of State Youth Policy for 3 states
3. Training and capacity building of District Youth Coordinator
4. District and National Youth Parliament
5. National State and District level Workshops on theme of International Youth Day 2019
6. Documenting good practices

Output-2: Capacity of Youth Clubs strengthened to serve as one stop shop for rural areas and opportunities for youth volunteers enhanced

1. Study on mainstreaming youth issues and scope for volunteering/ fellowships in the schemes of Central Ministries/Departments
2. Running Youth Resource Centers and capacity building of Centers Staff

Output 3: Contribution of Youth Volunteering recognized and skills for employability are built

1. National Conference on Volunteering
2. Promoting employment/income generating activities among members of Youth Clubs through skill development and social entrepreneurship

The PSC approved the Annual Work Plan 2019.

Agenda 5: Any other matter, with the permission of the chair

Discussions and Suggestions

The PSC Members discussed the following:

Innovative Practices: Dr. M.P. Gupta, Director (I/C) NYKS suggested that UNDP Project should come out with some innovative practices which NYKS could replicate in other districts. He also suggested that review and evaluation studies of the ongoing programmes may be undertaken under the project to identify operational gaps and identify good practices. Mr. U.P Singh, Dy. Director, NYKS added that UNV Project team can support the Research and Evaluation team of NYKS in identifying and supporting innovative research studies.

Volunteering as a journey for gaining transferable skills to enhance employability:UNV informed that volunteering in India is often one-off activity, ad-hoc and fragmented thus full potentials of volunteers are not achieved. The volunteers also do not get much learning. It was suggested that volunteering should be made a two ways process wherein volunteers contribute for larger social good and in return they go through a learning experience and develop certain skills which make them employable. It was recommended that NSS and NYKS volunteers should be provided opportunity to go through a volunteering journey over 1-2 years wherein they identify one or multiple challenges being faced by the community and involve themselves in the problem-solving exercise. At the beginning of the volunteering journey volunteers should take up specific assignments as per their interest on issues such as health, education, nutrition, child protection, child marriage, domestic violence, gender discrimination, environment, disaster preparedness etc. They should develop work plan to complete the assignment with various milestones. The process should allow them to think, plan, and adapt flexibly. In the process they should be able to acquire critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, communicationskills, organizing skillsand leadership qualities among others. These skills and qualities will enhance employability of volunteers.

National Policy on Volunteering:UNV informed that though National Youth Policy 2014 briefly mentions about civic engagement of youth, it does not comprehensively address issues related to promotion of volunteering in the country. It was suggested that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports should consider formulating a national policy on volunteerism which will support and create an enabling environment in which volunteerism can flourish in the country. The national policy should adopt a holistic approach on volunteerism and will consider all aspects of volunteering including mechanism for measuring economic values of volunteers, creating data and evidence on volunteering, protection of

volunteers, recognition of the contribution of volunteers, basic rights and duties of volunteers and their host organizations among others. The national policy on volunteerism will also serve as reference for state governments and guide them to come out with state specific policies to further promote volunteerism.

Measuring economic value of volunteers:UNV informed that while volunteers contribute significantly to the economic development of the country, their economic contributions are not captured in the national accounting system as it does not involve significant monetary transactions. This exclusion limits the visibility and credence of volunteer work in the country. The objective of measurement of volunteer work is to generate systematic and comparable data on economic contributions of volunteers. This is necessary to inform investments to be made on volunteering programmes and increase the accountability of the Volunteer Involving Organizations through proper tracking of resources spent on such initiatives. It was noted that there are few challenges in measuring economic value of volunteers which include defining the range of diverse forms of volunteerism and capturing the size, scope & scale of different kinds of volunteerism through quantitative measures, these could be overcome as there are frameworks and manuals to guide the process. The measurement could be done through regular supplements to labour bureau surveys or other household surveys. Members of the PSC suggested that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports should consider to initiate the discussions with the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and Central Statistical Organizations for integration of measurement of economic contribution of volunteers in the labour bureau surveys and National Accounting System.

Creating data and evidence on volunteerism: PSC was informed that reliable statistics are critical for ongoing policy development, future planning and long-term engagement of volunteers. It also provides basis for advocacy of volunteerism in public policy development. Creation of data and evidence help in understanding how demographic changes are affecting volunteering, evaluate the impact of gender on participation in volunteering, provide information on socio-demographic characteristics of volunteers etc. PSC was informed that developed countries like USA, both government and private agencies are involved in the collection and analysis of data and evidence regarding volunteerism. However, in India the situation regarding volunteer research is still limited which hampers quality decisions on potential actions and initiatives based on data and evidence. Currently, there are no mechanism for systematic assessments to understand the current status of volunteering, assess schemes/programmes and identify challenges faced by volunteers as well as Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIOs). PSC noted that access to more robust data will enable the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to map trends, identify issues and opportunities, introduce high quality initiatives within the existing schemes like NYKS and NSS. The data and evidence gathered can be used for decision-making on volunteering initiatives by the government as well as by civil society.

Accreditation practices for volunteers:PSC was informed that a very high number of youth volunteers participate in volunteering activities and contribute to nation building. While NSS volunteers get certificates on successful completion of 2 years of volunteering, it does not necessarily become part of university assessment system. Some universities do consider NSS certificate and give credit points for

admission for higher studies but as such this is not a norm or practice. In fact, as compared to many other countries like Japan, China, UK, Indonesia, Malaysia among others, India does not have robust accreditation practices to promote volunteering in the country. Hence there is a need to develop an accreditation system that could encourage students and others to become active volunteers and contribute significantly to the national development. Students should earn "credit hours" for voluntary work, an incentive that builds volunteering into the university assessment system and promotes community work as an integral part of higher education. "Credit hours" or "time credits" for volunteering should also be recognized for giving preference in employment as volunteers learn many life-skills during their volunteering assignment which make them better employees. Members of the PSC suggested that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports should consider initiating discussions with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Central Board of Secondary Education and other concerned agencies for developing an accreditation system for volunteering work of school and college students.

Other Issues:

Travel & Daily Allowance for UNVs at the National Office: Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer UNV/UNDP informed that during the 4th PSC meeting, travel allowance of all UNV DYCs including the UNVs working as Management Associates at PMU in NYKS HQ was revised. However, it is realized that the Travel and Daily Allowance admissible to Management Associates is not enough to cover the actual expenditure and on many occasions, they have to spend from their own pocket. Further, they are not getting monthly transport and communication allowance being paid to UNV-DYCs. It was therefore requested that travel allowance of Management Associates as per UNDP norms should be restored as followed during 2016 and 2017. Secretary (YA) advised that UNV/UNDP should submit a note with the reference documents for a final decision on the matter of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Conclusion

Secretary (YA) advised UNV and UNDP to share innovative ideas/practices on volunteering which could be replicated by NYKS in other districts. Secretary (YA) also advised UNV and UNDP to submit a proposal for a pilot project on volunteering as a journey for gaining transferable skills to enhance employability. The project could be piloted by in one or two of the aspirational districts and/or LWE affected districts where UNV-DYCs are placed. The emphasis should be made to forge partnerships at the local level with active involvement of district administration. Secretary (YA) further advised UNV and UNDP to share concept notes on the following:

- a) National Policy on Volunteering
- b) Measuring economic value of volunteers
- c) Creating data and evidence on volunteerism
- d) Accreditation practices for volunteers

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants of the 5th Meeting of the PSC

1. Ms. Upma Chawdhry Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
2. Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs)
3. Mr. N. Raja, Director, NSS
4. Mr. Gaurav Agarwal, Director (Coordination), MoYAS
5. Ms. G. S. Chitra, Deputy Secretary(NYKS/Admn./e-Gov)
6. Dr. M. P. Gupta, Director (I/C), NYKS
7. Mr. R. Gokul Krishnan Programme Advisor, National Service Scheme (NSS)
8. Mr. Manish Kishan, Under Secretary, NYKS
9. Mr. Ravi Kumar Sinha, Under Secretary, NSS
10. Mr. Sharvan Kumar, Assistant Section Officer at Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
11. Mr. S. K. Pandey Under Secretary (NSS)
12. Mr. S N Sharma Joint Director, GA, Establishment, OL Transport, CDN, RET and NYC
13. Mr. U P Singh, Dy. Director, GA, Establishment, OL Transport, CDN, RET and NYC
14. Mr. Prakash Vaidya, Asst. Director, National Youth Volunteer

UNDP:

1. Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Country Director

UN Volunteers

1. Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Programme Officer
2. Mrs. Gul Berry, Programme Associate
3. Ms. Shreya Baruah, National Project Manager, Strengthening NYKS and NSS
4. Mr. Rishi Seghal, Programme Associate
5. Mr. Ankit Jaiswal, Management Associate, Strengthening NYKS and NSS

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Key Achievements of Phase-1 of the project

- i. 32 National UNVs were placed with NYKS-29 at District level as District Youth Coordinator and 3 at NYKS HQ in New Delhi.
- ii. 8011 New Youth club formed/strengthened across 29 districts, 228,860 new members were added, and 455,433 youth were mobilized for various volunteering activities.
- iii. 4 Action Plans were developed for implementation of National Youth Policy 2014
- iv. A Baseline Study on Status of Revision/Formulation of State Youth Policies in India was carried out.
- v. State Youth Policy of 3 States namely; Tripura, Uttarakhand and Gujarat were formulated.
- vi. A Toolkit on Youth Engagement developed in consultation with RGNIYD.
- vii. State of Youth Volunteering in India-2017 Report was prepared.
- viii. A study on Social Media for Youth and Civic Engagement was carried out.
- ix. Knowledge events were organized on various themes related to youth and volunteering.
- x. First dedicated online volunteering platform for India was launched.
- xi. IEC materials for NSS was developed and widely disseminated
- xii. South-South Cooperation- International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL)
- xiii. Over 1000 online volunteers spread awareness and conducted various programs in their communities through online campaigns reaching out to more than 100,000 people.
- xiv. 5 Youth Resource Centers have been established at Nahan, Himachal Pradesh; Nuapada, Odisha; Ernakulam, Kerala; Mahendargarh, Haryana and Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu to facilitate knowledge exchange and empowerment of young people.
- xv. A comprehensive framework for recognition of proactive youth volunteers developed.
- xvi. 10 Outstanding Youth Volunteers awarded in the first edition of -V-Awards, India out of over 450 applications received from across the country.
- xvii. 14 good practices of the project were documented.
- xviii. Youth Clubs/Mahila Mandals in 2 districts namely; South Sikkim and Rajkot were provided support for establishing market linkages for their products.
- xix. 2 Training Workshops were organized for District Youth Coordinators.
- xx. A number of thematic debates, awareness rally, pond cleaning, motivational talks and workshops were organized in project districts than 9000 youth participated in these activities
- xxi. 24 District and 1 National Youth Parliament were organized.

Financial Progress

The consolidated financial progress of Phase-1 (2014-2018) was reported as under:

Source	Budget	Expenditure
UNDP	350,000	335,874
UNV	500,000	440,326
MoYAS	1,489,224	1,487,416
Total	2,339,224	2,263,616
