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Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)

Supporting Public Administration Reform in Georgia through the Governance Reform Fund (GRF)

Date: Thursday, 22 September 2016
Time: 12.00 p.m.
Venue: UN House, CH

Participants:

UNDP Georgia:

Shombi Sharp	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (DRR)
Natia Natsvlashvili	UNDP Assistant Resident Representative (ARR)
Ketevan Ukleba	UNDP Operations Manager
Gigi Bregadze	Democratic Governance Team Leader
George Nanobashvili	Economic Development Team Leader
George Vardishvili	Crisis Prevention and Recovery Team Leader
Sophie Tchitchinadze	Communications Analyst
George Badurashvili	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
Nunuka Chanturia	Programme Associate
Khatuna Chanukvadze	Programme Associate

Salome Odisharia	GRF Project Manager
Levan Samadashvili	GRF Public Administration Reform (PAR) Coordinator
Nino Chanturia	GRF Project Associate
Nino Tsintadze	GRF Communications Specialist

Marika Shioshvili	Regional and Local Development (RLD) Project Manager
Maka Meshveliani	UN Joint Programme Enhancing Gender Equality in Georgia Project Manager


Donor Organizations:

Julie Raines	First Secretary Political (Projects) British Embassy Tbilisi
Kakha Khimshiashvili	Programme Officer, Embassy of Sweden/Swedish International Development Agency

Partner Organizations:

Ana Gvenetadze	Policy Planning & Innovations Unit, Administration of Government of Georgia (AoG)
Tamar Razmadze	Donor Coordination Unit, Administration of Government of Georgia (AoG)
Maia Dvalishvili	Civil Service Bureau (CSB), CSB LEPL
Irakli Gvenetadze	Data Exchange Agency (DEA), DEA LEPL
Nana Tsiklauri	Public Service Development Agency (PSDA), PSDA LEPL
Vakhtang Asanidze	International Education Center (IEC), IEC LEPL

Chairperson:

Shombi Sharp - UNDP Deputy Resident Representative 

Secretary:

Nino Chanturia, GRF Project Associate 

Agenda:

1. Project introduction by Shombi Sharp
2. Project presentation by Levan Samadashvili
3. Discussion- Questions & Answers (Q&A)
4. Conclusion

Project Introduction:

Mr. Shombi Sharp, UNDP DRR opened the LPAC meeting and welcomed the participants. He gave a brief introduction of the new project "Supporting Public Administration Reform in Georgia through the Governance Reform Fund" (GRF) and invited meeting participants to share strategic thoughts and recommendations. DRR highlighted that with support of GRF project, Georgia has managed to establish itself as a leader in the Public Administration Reform(PAR). The current project builds on successes of past and ongoing GRF initiatives by significantly expanding the scope of support to the national PAR Strategy through a set of targeted interventions.

Mr. Sharp thanked Department for International Development (DFID) and the Government of the United Kingdom for supporting the given initiative and acknowledged the long-term partnership with the Swedish Government/SIDA and its crucial role in assisting GRF project.

The floor was given to the representatives from the SIDA and DFID to share their reflections and opinions. Mr. Kakha Kimshiashvili gave a brief overview of past GRF experience and underlined the highly successful profile of the project. Julie Raines noted that the given project is the largest and the most long-term commitment of DFID to Georgia.

Project Presentation: 5

Discussion was followed by project presentation. Levan Samadashvili, GRF PAR Coordinator presented three main outputs of the project and corresponding budgets.

Supporting Public Administration Reform in Georgia through the Governance Reform Fund

- Total Budget – UNDP budget in ATLAS 5,921,052.63 USD = Equiv. GBP 4,500,000 per UN XRATE for Aug-2016 = 0.76 GBP
- Duration – 4,5 years, July 2016-December 2020
- Implementation Modality: National Implementation (NIM)
- Donor: Department for International Development (DFID)

- **Outcome:** Enhanced capability of the Government of Georgia to implement its national development agenda through a more effective, professionally trained, unified and independent Public Administration that delivers public services with greater accountability and responsiveness to citizens' needs.

- **Output 1:** Policy development and cooperation: AoG senior staff ready to effectively manage (plan and implement) PAR as a holistic change management process

- **Output 2:** Civil service and Human Resource Management: Professional civil service trained, and can protect itself against malpractice and arbitrary decisions

- **Output 3:** Service delivery: Quality services delivered, based on innovative, consistent and replicable methodology, as well as analysis of usage data patterns and consumer feedback

The presentation was followed by a Q&A session:

Discussion- Q&A:

- In response to the query of the colleagues regarding project partners, Levan Samadashvili pointed out that the project will be implemented in close cooperation with targeted institutions- Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG), Data Exchange Agency (DEA), Public Service Development Agency (PSDA), Civil Service Bureau (CSB), International Education Center (IEC), Civil Society Organizations and Academia.
- Representatives of the partner organizations thanked the donors for the upcoming initiative and expressed their willingness and readiness to contribute to the implementation of the project.
- The representative of DEA thanked UNDP for cooperation and pointed out that the agency has signed a special agreement with the Microsoft Corporation, which recognizes DEA as an official partner of Microsoft and allows for engaging in joint projects in the region and beyond.
- AoG representative stressed the significance of creating a detailed Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework to ensure continuous assessment of the project through following M&E plans.
- AoG representative emphasized the importance of the Civil Service Reform (CSR) within the PAR Roadmap, and strongly appreciated UNDP's support to strengthening the capacity of CSB for better implementation of the reform.
- Meeting participants raised the issue of local self-governments. It was advised to coordinate closely with UNDP RLD project to identify specific areas of intervention.
- Ms. Natia Natsvlshvili, UNDP ARR briefly covered the implementation modality of the project and informed participants that the project will be implemented under National Implementation (NIM) modality. ARR noted that steering committee will meet twice (2) a year to discuss project progress and strategic development. Ms. Natsvlshvili has also mentioned the importance of separate project initiatives such as establishment of a Competence Center by DEA, in the context of South-South cooperation. The center aims at creating a platform for sharing local expertise and experience with the countries of similar development context and needs.
- UNDP assumes overall responsibility for the implementation of the GRF project, and will assign the Joint GRF Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to ensure the overall management and coordination of all proposed activities under this project and all other GRF implemented initiatives. The PCU will ensure that activities are implemented in accordance with the project document, budget, and agreed work plans. It will also undertake measures to assure that the activities initiated under the project complement each other and work toward the achievement of the project's objective. Specifically, the PCU will consist of GRF project Manager, a Public Administration Reform (PAR) Coordinator, a Capacity Development Coordinator, Public Policy Specialist, a Finance/Procurement Associate, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist and a Communications Specialist. An international Chief Technical Advisor will also be engaged as a part-time consultant to provide substantive guidance to the project team, national stakeholders, UNDP and international partners.
- Two staff members and international advisor will be hired within the coming month.

Conclusion:

LPAC endorsed the project and recommended for signature to UNDP and the Administration of Government.

