

United Nations Development Programme

Regional Bureau for Africa



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Regional Director

Date: 10 April 2015

From: Dominique Kabeya
Country Programme Specialist
Country Support Team
RSC Addis Ababa

Extension:

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Subject: Request for the authorization to use DIM for the Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) project in Ghana

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Ghana Country Office (CO) for Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) approval for Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) project. The DIM authorization is requested from 1st May 2015 until 30th April 2016. The supporting documentation is attached.

Background

In Ghana, political parties are well-established, structurally coherent and relatively mature. Over the past six presidential elections, for example, there have been two peaceful transfers of power from one political party to another. At the same time, the political parties have presided over economic growth and social progress, as measured by the UNDP strong Human Development Index. However, political parties have become one of the most mistrusted institutions of democracy in Ghana. Barely 50% of Ghanaians trusted political parties “somewhat” or “a lot” (as per Afro-Barometer 2012). Despite public mistrust, political parties rarely benefit from deliberate efforts to improve their performance. Much more assistance goes towards building civil society and state capacities.

Improved political governance was therefore identified in the UNDAF 2012-2016 for Ghana as one of 11 vital outcomes needed to increase and sustain the country’s development. Specifically, the UNDAF called for the strengthening of key institutions of democracy. UNDP has long pursued improvements in such areas as elections, transparency and accountability, and voice and participation – particularly the increased participation of women and youth in democratic processes. Much of this earlier work was premised on there being a synergy between good governance and peace, where the resulting stability and strengthened democratic institutions would enable development at large. These earlier efforts have been rooted in



Ghana's national development planning frameworks, most recently the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA), on which the current UNDAF is based.

The Joint Party Support and Strengthening (J-PASS) project is designed to address the internal democracy of political parties in Ghana with a view to improving public and political party confidence, especially towards the impending 2016 national elections. J-PASS is aligned with the 2012-2016 UNDAF that reflects the priorities of the GSGDA. J-PASS builds on previous UNDP initiatives to promote increased public confidence and participation of the citizenry in the democratic process, promote increased trust in the electoral process and in election results, and promote increased participation of women and youth in decision making processes. It recognizes that internal democracy, gender equality and election results monitoring are key to improving public and political party confidence, especially towards the 2016 national elections. In accordance with UNDP electoral cycle approach, the J-PASS project includes elements such as the Joint Party Elections Results Monitoring (J-PERM) project which was piloted in the 2012 elections, increased representation and participation of members in political party functioning and strengthened political party regulatory frameworks. Platforms for inter-party electoral dialogue composed of the five major political parties will be nurtured at all levels of the electoral process in close collaboration with the Electoral Commission.

Justification for DIM

The CO considers the DIM option the most suitable modality in view of the high political sensitivity surrounding the project. The preference for DIM is motivated by the following aspects: it was a direct request from the Government of Ghana to UNDP to support the upcoming elections and carry out an insitutional assessment given the recent criticism faced by the Electoral Commission; the critical need for impartiality and sensitivity in view of the polarized political landscape prevailing currently; the insitutional and technical weaknesses emerging from the last highly contested electoral results; the lack of 'neutral' institutions within the country able to implement such a project and the need for speedy delivery of and accountability over resources especially in the lead up to the 2016 elections which culminate in one of the key deliverables of this project, the J-PERM project, which aimst to assure political party confidence in the electoral process and elections results in a bid to contribute to peace in the country.



Implementation Arrangements

UNDP will be responsible for the technical and operational oversight, including implementation through a project management unit. The project board will be chaired by UNDP and will be responsible for providing strategic guidance and quality assurance to the Project. Political parties will be involved in the project board as will the electoral commission. The parties will appoint 1 focal point and 1 alternate (preferably females) each to serve as the primary link between the project and the parties. The national chair or general secretary of each party will be responsible for supporting the work of the focal points. Duly empowered, the focal points will effectively liaise with the project management unit to permit informed, consensual and efficient implementation of project activities.

UNDP will perform necessary actions required to implement the project in accordance with its governing rules, procedures and regulations with respect to financial, programmatic, procurement and other related functions. UNDP's RR will convene and chair meetings of the project board biannually. Collaboratively with the CD, they will ensure that all strategic considerations are being made in the implementation of the project. The CD, working through the UNDP Governance, will engage directly with the project management unit as needed, and delegate such functions as deemed appropriate, to assure the quality of the work.

The day-to-day administration of all components of this project will be carried out by the project management unit within UNDP Ghana comprised of a project manager, and additional staff such as a project officer, a finance and administrative assistant and a project driver.

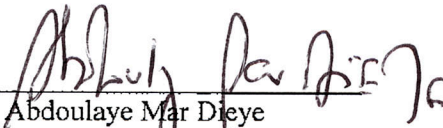
The project management unit will be assisted in the implementation of the project by the political party focal persons and alternates, working via the Inter-Party platform. While this platform will be engaged regularly in the implementation of the activities of the project, it will be overseen by the project board.

The CO has the experience and the capacity for DIM and will continue to ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control, to safeguard UNDP's financial responsibilities and also accountable use of resources from UNDP and partners. All financial resources of the project will be managed according to the rules, procedures and requirements as defined in the UNDP programme and operations policies procedures (POPP), and according to UNDP DIM guidelines as outlined in the Associate Administrator's memo of the 27 November 2000.



Recommendation

Based on the above justification, I would recommend that the request for use of the Direct Implementation Modality for this project be approved from 1st May 2015 until 30th April 2016.

Approved by: 
Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Director
Regional Bureau for Africa

Date: 04/16/2015

