

Minutes from a Local Projects Appraisal Committee meeting (LPAC) on Civil Society for Democratic Governance Facility, held on the 16th of April 2008 at UN Gigiri Complex, conference room 4.

List of participants annexed:

Chair: Nardos Bekele-Thomas - Deputy Resident Representative (Programmes)

1] The participants from various Civil Society Organizations, Ministry of Justice, development partners and UN Agencies were welcomed to the meeting that had been organized to appraise the civil society for democratic governance Facility.

2] Ms Sheila Ngatia (Head empowerment unit) welcomed and requested the participants to introduce themselves.

3] The participants were informed by the Chair Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas that the purpose of the LPAC was for the CSOs to appraise the proposed programme, give recommendations and develop consensus around the objectives, results and management arrangements. She explained that this was a first meeting on CSFDG but more meetings would be convened later to review progress. The comments received from the CSOs would be incorporated in the final project document for implementation.

4] The chair informed the participants that the project was currently being funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, SIDA and UNDP. It is however expected that other Development partners will come on Board.

5] Ms. Marije Balt of the Royal Netherlands highlighted the importance of having the Facility set up at this crucial time when the civil society is required to act as a key watch dog to the Grand coalition Government. The CSOs capacity to be a countervailing force needs to be strengthened. The CSFDG Facility was a contribution to meeting these challenges.

6] Ms. Mary Gachocho from SIDA encouraged CSOs to give the views on the Facility to ensure that the outcome will reflect their needs and concerns on the Facility.

7] Ms. Rudo Chitiga (CSFDG consultant) gave a brief on the CSFDG Facility project. She stated that the overall objectives of the Facility is to enable citizens benefit from a more accountable, just, transparent and democratic society. The Facility would also support civic engagement which empowers all people to influence public policies. The specific objective of the Facility would be to strengthen participatory democracy, social justice, the rule of law and protection of human rights.

8] The CSFDG Facility would be a multi donor Facility, independent from GOK and have no funding from the GOK. The project will focus on the five GJLOS priority reform

areas but won't be part of GJLOS. The first phase of the project will focus on support to CSOs responses to national dialogue and reconciliation process for example, I will support capacity building of CSOs, participation in legal and legislative reforms processes, advocacy and civic education related to the constitution among others.

9) The CSFDG will be an integral part of UNDPs programme under the Governance Component. UNDP will establish a fully fledged Programme Management Unit (PMU) outside Gigiri in a more accessible place. The PMU will be managed by an International Coordinator and will be staffed by highly qualified staff.

10) CSOs will participate in Facility through the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) which will have representation from CSOs, UNDP and the Development partners. The SRG will provide strategic direction to the Facility.

Comments from the meeting

11] Participant commended the Facility and stressed that it was starting at an opportune time. The participants sought to know whether organisations whose representatives were elected to the Facility's SRG would be disqualified from applying for funds under the Facility. Ms Chitiga clarified that those elected as members of the reference group would serve in their individual capacity hence their organizations can apply for funding. It was clarified that the SRG would have no role in making funding decisions thus there would be no conflict of interest.

12] Participants wanted to know more on the size of the funds, membership of the PMU and why the fund was being referred to as long term whereas it was taking into account of 3 years and not 7 years. In response to this Ms. Rudo Chitiga and Ms Enid Ndiga – Irungu explained that the funding could be referred to as long term taking into consideration that most CSO funding cycles are normally 1 year. They clarified that the PMU role will only be assessing and recommending projects for approval to the Project Approval Committee but not make decisions on funding. The Facility would aim at initially disbursing USD 2 million but would increase this amount as more donors joined the Facility.

13] One representative felt that the CSOs should be included in the project approval process as leaving them out will not be democratic. Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas informed the participants that the Project Approval Committee (PAC) would be constituted according to the UN regulations. In the absence of a functioning NGO Council, it was difficult to identify a single CSO body which would sit in the PAC. . CSOs will participate adequately through the SRG which will seek to represent the interests of all types of CSOs and which also seeks to have geographical representation.

14] Participants stressed the importance of being very specific when talking about the Facility addressing the needs of the vulnerable. They felt that the issues of disability needed to be incorporated in the project document besides the issues of women and children. They also felt that the most vulnerable or marginalized populations also

required attention from the Facility. There was agreement that the CSFDG Facility had to be wholly inclusive of all the CSOs in the country.

Participants requested information on the criteria for core funding and whether organisations' strategic plans would be considered in the funding process. They were informed that the core funding guidelines were being finalized and they would take into account the organisations' strategic plans when considering the period of funding.

15] Participants sought clarification on how the PMU, Staff would be recruited and call for proposals would be done. Ms. Rudo Chitiga and Sheila Ngatia responded that the reference group members would be elected whereas the staff would be recruited by the Human resources department. Advertisements will be placed in the newspapers and UNDP website for the positions. Participants advised that UNDP will need to develop proposal guidelines that would accommodate the CSOs at the grassroots level. The response was that development of guidelines on how to develop the expressions of interest and how to make the applications were at an advanced stage. Effort would be made to make them simple and easily filled by CSOs.

16] Participants wanted to know the linkages between the CSFDG Facility and the GJLOS Programme. Ms. Marije from the Netherlands embassy explained that the Facility was working on the same areas of reform. Some civil society organisations were already participating in the GJLOS thematic groups. The SCDG Facility was meant to strengthen CSOs input into the reform process. The Facility would in later stages explore possible forms linkages with GJLOS when they see the results in the reform processes. Ms. Rudo Chitiga also made it clear that by the fact that the Facility was independent of the Government didn't mean that the Facility would not support activities of CSOs working with the government.

17] A number of participants recommended that to the Facility expand on its the stakeholders in order to be more effective.

Information was requested on the monitoring and evaluation plan for the Facility.. Ms Chitiga responded that the Facility had included a monitoring and evaluation framework. Some of the key aspects for the Framework included; GJLOS key result areas, Capacity development of CSOs, voice and influence of CSOs in democratic governance, Operational aspects of the Facility. In addition to quantitative data collection the Facility would be reviewed through the Stakeholders reference Group and the CSO- Democratic Governance week

18] In response to whether the Facility would facilitate the participation of people with disabilities in democratic governance, Ms. Nardos Bekele- Thomas made it clear that the Facility was supposed to complement what the CSOs were doing but not substitute their work. Asked whether the Facility would have FMA as had been the case with the elections project, she clarified that the Facility won't have an FMA because the PMU will be making all financial disbursements for the project. The PMU will be adequately staffed to deal with areas where CSOs may require capacity enhancement in programming and financial reporting.

Recommendations from the meeting

19] The Chair noted that the discussions with the CSOs had already shown that the Facility would be very important to the CSOs hence needed to be implemented as soon as possible. She said that there would be continuous learning and consultations with stakeholders to improve the way the Facility was implemented .In particular the civil society was urged to advise UNDP on the best way and process to elect members of the Stakeholder Reference Group. The management structure and arrangement will be streamlined further with contributions from the CSOs present in the LPAC and other consultations that will be held later.

20] It is expected that the PMU should be constituted in the month of April and May 2008. The reference group should be constituted by latest June 2008 and then call for proposals to be done as from June 2008.



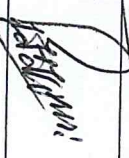




17] It was agreed that the CSFDG Facility should be hosted outside the UNON complex and should be accessible to the physically challenged.

18] It was recommended that CSOs working in the same region should work together and closely so that they avoid duplication of activities and complement each other especially if they would receive funding from the CSFDG Facility.

19]] The minutes of the LPAC meeting will be distributed to the participants by email. An emailing list serve will be created using the list of participants of those who attended the LPAC meeting. Participants were urged to this network to continue giving views, ideas and suggestions on the CSFDG Facility.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. S. Paul', written in a cursive style.

LPAAC Meeting For Civil Society Facility For Democratic Governance, UNConference Room No 4 at 16th April 2008, 9am

Name	Title	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
1. Mary Haraki	Facilitating Liaison Officer	Kenwood Cheshire Disability	0703 393655	Mary@lcl-emv.org	
2. Phita's Were	Advocacy & Campaigns Manager	U	920881777	phita's@lcl-emv.org	
3. Peter W Oparur	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	KEVUKA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF	0733574089 SMS	opawpaw@yahoo.com	
4. Washington Gino	Policy Advisory Officer	Liverpool VCT Disability Program	07933270416 SMS	washington@liverpoolvct.org	
5. Munguchi Machine	Deputy Director	CREAL	0792314789	munguchie@creal.org	
6. Maria Kiwata	Program Assistant	UNDP	7624452	maria.kiwata@undp.com	
7. Moge Bati	First Secretary	RNE	012889236	Moge Bati@wikiza.nl	

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Name	Title	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
1 Mary Gachobu	Consultant	Sida	0723-876262	mgachobu@prene.co.ke	
2 EDAH MAINA	CEO	Kenya Society for Home Membership Handicapped	07222793868	kenyansoc@yaduo.com	
3 Abdulla M. Kamwana	Suprem	Suprem	0722849066	akamwana@suprem.or.ke	
4 MBECA TI	Program Officer	M.P.I.D.O	0721-307476 020 552948 582555	mbeca@mpido.org mbeca@mpido.org	
5 SOKOYON KISUMU	CEO	DSUPUKO LE NARRIHO E.P	0724092946	dsupukonarrisho@yahoo.com	
6 KINYIRIWA KATHANU	PROZ DRIVER	UCCK	0733 207154	kkamwand@ucck.or.ke	
7 Juliana Omole-Alemi	EDUCATION DIRECTOR	African Women's Child Welfare Service	21241756, 2120554 0122152054	jomole@awcfs.org	
8 Jannet Kuder	UNDP-P.O.	UNDP	7625526	jannet.kuder-udpa@undp.org	
9 INGANI MBIJI J.F.	UNDP (P.O)	UNDP	020-2712713 0721 624441	ingangambiji@undp.org	
10 AICE NJAU	LRP (P.O)	LRP	2720598	injo@lg-kenya.org	

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Name	Title	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
1 Rita Njiride Shoko	Programme Officer	Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Truth & Reconciliation of Kenya	0722 765344	rita.shoko@icj-kenya.org	
2 Tania Njiru	Admin Associate	UNDP	0722-221577	tania.njiru@undp.org	
3 Jane Likimani - Padianga	Pres. Officer	WDP	7627775	jane.likimani@undp.org	
4 Conchita Kang'ya	Researcher	ICALL	4348835	Conch@social.co.ke	
5 MILKA OKODYI		UNDP	0922779051	milka.okodyi@undp.org	
6 Edward Arithiba		UNDP	0733692490	edward.arithiba@undp.org	
7 Samuel Gitau	Deputy Chief Economist	MIC of Finance	020/3519435	Samuel.gitau@norka.go.ke	
8 Pauline Mwangi	Program Officer	UNDP	7624448	Pauline.mwangi@undp.org	

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Name	Title	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
1 Dr. Gwendolen Karol	Chief, CSO's / NGOs Unit NACIP NACIP Director	UN-HABITAT	762 3050	gwendolen.karol@unhabitat.org	Dr. K.
2 Jean Karol	Executive Director	Azbon Aid	0721 880712	Jean.karol@azbonaid.org	Azbon Aid
3 JOS EOLH KURUKA	Executive Director	Community Aid International	0722-823325	j.kuruka@communityaid.or.ke	Jos
4 Nofrus Odhumbos	S.D.	CHARISON	0722 303349	nohobos@yaho.com	Signature
5 GILBERT DUYANLLO	ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	THE CHABLE	382457576 0722-361051	gilbert@thechable.or.ke info@thechable.or.ke	Signature
6 GITAU WANGUTHI	ACTING EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR	PAT	0722 825447	wangutigithau@yaho.com	Signature
7 MARINA DAVID	PROG. OFFICER	UNDP	762 5225	marina.david@undp.org	Marina
8 ROSE MUCHIRI	Programme Analyst-MRE	UNDP	7624430	rose.muchiri@undp.org	Signature
9 SANDRA BEIDAS	Human Rights Advisor	OKTIDE-UNO	728604323	sbeidas@oktide.org	SB
10 Ronnie Oponang	Research officer	NEPAD	2733735/42/38	ronnie@nepadkenya.org	Ron.

11 Fauziya Kedu
APRM Program Coordinator
NEPAD
2733735/142
Fauziya@nepadkenya.org
Aboi.

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Name	Title	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
1 Maphi Kiehi	Executive Officer	Keny's Union ^{AKS}	82050415	Kiehi@ksu.or.ke	
2 Daniel Barong	Lead Intern	ND RHP	0722-252939	ndrhp@kenya.com	
3 Letty Shaban	Dir. Gen.	Suprem	243109 0722-720142	suprem@suprem.or.ke	
4 Patricia Nyant	Senior Programme Officer	FINDA	387 3511 3870444	patricia@finda.org	
5 Mubaindo Steven	Legal Officer	MOSEA	2220 49	mubaindos@justice.go.ke	
6 Peninah Vilimu	Inspector	LVCT	0720263029	peninah@lvct.go.ke	
7 Lincoln Kariuki	CEO	MECEC	0722562566	mecec@jardus.com	
8 STELA NGATHIA	ACC	UNDP			
9 MARIO SIKOMAS	PROJ	"			
10 Eudo Chiga	Government Consultant				

11 Patricia Muroyi Policy Officer
pett@unhcr.org
4282000
Patricia Muroyi
0722562566
PMS

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Name	Title	Organization	Telephone	Email	Signature
1 Simon J. NDUBA I	CHAIRMAN	Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities	811416 0722-460932	fedat@iand.com afp@iand.com	
2 JASON M. SHIROKO	COORDINATOR	BRIANS RESOURCE CENTRE	0722-721321	briansrpb@yaho.com jms@iand.com	
3 Paul MUGAMB	YOUTH	UNITED DISABLED REASONS OF KENYA	0702-231815	strongpaul@yahoo.com	
4 DRABYSNE NGANIGA	ADMINISTRATOR	U.D.P.K	0722-622855	disability@jomboword.co.ke	
5 JACK MUTHU I	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	CULE CHUMENI'S HOSPITAL, KISUMU	0733-227314 3246611	admin@corekenya.org jmutlusi@corekenya.org	
6 GIDEON M. MUKHA	ASST. NATIONAL DIRECTOR	ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED OF KENYA	4451533/45 0733-665178	gpkhat@africaonline.co.ke mgmkimuga@yahoo.co.ke	
7 PETER W. OPAWY	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	KENYA NAT ASSOC OF THE DEAF	59MS 0733574009	opawpy@yahoo.com com.or.kenya@yahoo.com	
8 Washington Opiyo	Disability Manager	Liverpool VCI. Disability Programme	SMS 0723270416	Washington@liverpoolvci.org	
9 Ph. Stalis Mwangi	Marketing Manager	LCDS	020891777	phstalis@lcds.org	
10 Salome Kinoti	Executive Director	United Disability Empowerment Kenya (UDENK)	0722-518046 344121	utempod@gmail.com	