

Umbrella Programme Meeting

Present:

Ms. Lovita Ramguttee – Deputy Country Director
Ms. Sonali Dayaratne – Policy and Design Specialist/Project Manager, UP
Ms. Nimmi Ariyaratne – Programme Analyst
Mr. Yasas Thalagala – Project Coordination Associate
Ms. Ayushka Nugaliyadda – Policy Research and Advocacy Assistant

Programme Document:

It was discussed that the Umbrella Programme should be extended for the entire UNDP Programme Cycle, given the usefulness provided by its flexibility. Most TRAC funding for stand-alone, strategic UNDP initiatives will be placed within the Umbrella Programme, and could be scaled up with other donor resources.

Accordingly, there is a need to revise the Programme Document, as well as streamline outputs and activities. For instance, Sonali highlighted that UNDP does not have resources for focused interventions with CSOs under Output #98229, as most work with CSOs cut across projects/programmes outside the Umbrella Programme, or are a part of the work being carried out with the government under Output #98228, where CSOs are brought in as stakeholders. UNDP has strategic value as a convenor between the government and CSOs, and moreover, mobilizing funding for standalone support to CSOs is difficult. Therefore, the Programme Document and Results Framework would have to be revisited, to rationalize and streamline redundant outputs and activities.

Funding:

As per the minutes from the previous meeting held on 12 January 2018, it was discussed that US\$ 1.2 million will be available from the Government Local Office Costs (GLOC) arrears, which can only be used for initiatives qualifying as 'Development Effectiveness Activities' (DEA). Ayushka will check with Ruban for a list on what constitutes DEA – for instance, innovations, recovery planning and support to Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan. If GLOC funding is approved for activities, it will be parked under the Umbrella Programme, allowing critical initiatives to be funded and freeing up core resources.

Minimum programming requirements:**1. Support on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

Support is currently being provided through two activities (one through the government – *Activity 1.2.1*; and one through civil society – *Activity 2.2.1*), which need to be streamlined into one activity under Output #98228 in the revised Programme Document.

It was decided that a total of US\$ 50,000 would be provided initially in 2018 for support on the SDGs, based on the following activities:

- The Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, which will be led by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), who has been directly contracted for US\$ 27,000 by UNDP;

- It was suggested that should other UN agencies be willing to contribute to the VNR process, that they focus on publications and communication tools around it.
- Workshops (NPD Planning Workshops, CSO Engagement Platform, etc.);
- Research and advocacy (local consultants);
- Funding for new SDG initiatives;

2. National Human Development Report

It was estimated and determined that the budget for the National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2018 for the year would be a total of US\$ 32,000, for:

- 3-4 Pre-launch regional consultations
- Printing of the report
- Translations of the key messages and executive summary
- Launch event costs
- Technical inputs and reviewing from the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub

3. Gender seal

Nimmi stated that funding would be required to develop a gender seal, of around US\$ 5,000. The process would be led by Bimali and Nimmi, and an activity would need to be created for this.

4. Innovations:

Yasas stated that the Innovations Lab does not require any funding from the Umbrella Programme.

5. Other:

- Need to check whether there is a budget for NAMA, and if allocations have been placed under the Umbrella Programme.
- It was also suggested that the Senior Economic Advisor's funding requirements for Impact Investment should be included under the Umbrella Programme.
- Furthermore, any available funding for work on risk and resilience with the World Bank would be declared soon.

Ideation sessions:

It was suggested to hold ideation sessions, where staff could pitch concepts for funding through the Umbrella Programme as well as for external resource mobilization. Ideas should meet criteria identified during the previous meeting for pitching, but could also involve:

- Potential for Government Cost S/broader resource mobilization
- Transformative impact on the country
- Alignment to the national agenda, CPD and the SDGs

Even if all the above criteria cannot be covered in the presentation in Petcha-Kucha style, it was suggested that a guidance template with the criteria be developed and circulated, to be used as guidance for pitching ideas as well as document pitches.

Management:

- It was discussed that following the previous Umbrella Programme meeting, project management roles would need to be revised, given that Sonali and Tharuka would be moving away from project management in their new roles.
- Accordingly, Lovita nominated Shyara to take the lead in management, supported by Ayushka. This would involve revisions of the AWP and the programme document, as well as monitoring and quality assurance of the Programme.
- Shyara and Nimmi would be awarded 'approver' status for the first four outputs of the Programme.
- Fadhil, Kenosha and Yasas have already been awarded 'approver' status for the fifth (Innovations) output of the Programme.

Action Points

- Sonali and Ayushka will update the Programme Document by the second week of February 2018, and circulate among participants for feedback.
- Shyara and Ayushka, in consultation with Sonali and Tharuka, will also revise the AWP and conduct a budget revision for the Programme within the next month.
- Handover meeting for project management to be set up once Lovita informs Shyara. The participants will be as follows: Sonali, Tharuka, Shyara, Nimmi and Ayushka.
- The Policy Unit to develop a guidance template to present and document the pitches during Ideation sessions.
- Ayushka to check on the following, re: Umbrella Programme funding:
 - A consolidated list of project IDEAS programme colleagues may have along with corresponding budgets, for selection of promising concepts to be funded through the Umbrella Programme for testing and scaling as well as external resource mobilization.
 - What funding will be required by the Senior Economist for Impact Investment Funds.
 - What the budget is for NAMA, and where the funds have been allocated thus far, if under the Umbrella Programme.

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