




**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Tegegnework Gettu  
Assistant Secretary-General  
and Regional Director

DATE: 06 May 2013

FROM: Priya Gajraj   
Team Leader  
Country Support Team - WACA

SUBJECT: **DIM Request for Nigeria: Initiation Phase of Strengthening Nigeria's Local Governance and Local Development Programme**

Please find attached for your consideration and authorization a new request from the Country Office (CO) in Nigeria to approve the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) for the above-mentioned project from 5 April 2013 to 31 December 2013.

**Background**

The programme is within UNDP Nigeria's support on governance and peace building and is a major plank for UNDP's support to the country in the 8<sup>th</sup> Country. The programme is also a follow-up to the UNDP-supported Niger delta Local Development Programme (ND LDP) and the Good Urban Governance (GUG) Assessment, which were concluded in 2012.

The overall objective of this programme is to ensure that participatory/integrated development approaches and mechanisms are adopted at sub-national levels (Urban and rural LGAs) for effective local level development. The programme seeks to ensure a seamless connection between National and State policies on development at sub-national levels, by ensuring that policies are translated to desirable local level outcomes. It would thereby empower sub-national levels of society to ensure that local people participate in, and benefit from, their own governance institutions and development services. It seeks to ensure that institutions of decentralization, local governance and urban/rural development bring policy formulation, service delivery and resource management to a level where interactions between duty-bearers and right holders determine the final output and outcome of discharging their responsibilities. The specific objectives of the project are to a) Create an enabling policy, legislative and regulatory environment for effective governance and development at the local level; b) Address capacity development of key stakeholders especially in creating partnerships, advocacy and monitoring of urban and rural governance issues in the areas of policy formulation, service delivery and resource management; c) Engender a fiscal mechanism for mobilizing and financing development interventions



within local spaces; and d) Explore and institutionalize coordination mechanisms/frameworks for good governance in urban areas with multiple Local Governments.

### **Justification for DIM**

Subsequent to a broad stakeholder consultation, the project was designed to provide leadership for a sustainable local development initiative in the country. The stakeholders agreed for the Department of States and Local Government Affairs, then within the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), to lead on the initiation. Consequently, the Local Project Advisory Committee (LPAC) on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 endorsed this arrangement.

However, in February 2013, before the signing of the project document, the Federal Government of Nigeria re-invigorated a new ministry (Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs). This new ministry has the responsibility for providing coordination for all interventions at the local level. The new ministry needs to settle down, especially in terms of institutional arrangements and organizational mechanisms for delivering on its mandate.

On 23 April 2013, the Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs wrote to UNDP Nigeria requesting for an Initiation Phase for the project in order to avoid delay in the commencement of the project implementation. The Initiation Phase provides an opportunity to begin the process of a gradual strengthening of the capacity of the Department to ensure that adequate capacity is available to perform its key functions, which would undeniably result in improved local level development.

Given the specificity and complexity of the initiation phase of the project, it has been agreed with the government that the DIM modality would be most appropriate to commence initiation activities of the project for the period of April to December 2013. In January 2014 when all transfer formalities must have been completed and necessary budgetary provisions for counterpart funding are made, then, the Ministry would take over implementation through NIM.

### **Implementation Arrangements**

The programme board will comprise an Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), state governments, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Federal Ministry of Lands, the Housing and Urban Development. At the operational level, support will be provided by the Governance Team, UN-Habitat and UNITAR, while programme assurance responsibilities would be undertaken by the UNDP Programme Team led by the DCD programmes. A National Programme Coordinator, supported by appropriately skilled multi-disciplinary team, would be responsible for day-to-day operations of the Programme in the country. At the state level, a state project team led by a state




project manager would provide state-level implementation guidance, while at the Local Government Area level; a team to facilitate implementation would also be in place.

### **Institutional Arrangements**

The Country Office has the experience and the capacity for DIM execution (as indicated in the attached checklist) and it will continue to ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control, to safeguard UNDP financial responsibilities and accountable use of UNDP and partners' resources. All financial resources of the project will continue to be managed according to the rules, procedures and requirements as defined in the UNDP's programme and Operations Policies Procedures (POPP), and according to UNDP guidelines on direct execution implementation.

The project document, the PAC minutes and the other relevant documents are enclosed.

Based on the above justification, I would recommend that the request for the Direct Implementation Modality of this project be approved from 5 April 2013 to 31 December 2013.

Approved by:   
Tegegnework Gettu  
Assistant Secretary-General  
and Regional Director

Date: 15/04/03