INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Ruby Sandhu-Rojon   Date: 14 June 2016
          Officer-in-Charge
          Regional Bureau for Africa

From: Silke Hollander   Extension: -
            Team Leader Central Africa
            Country Support Team

Subject: Request for DIM authorization for the project *"Pulse Lab Kampala"*

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Uganda Country Office (CO) for execution of Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) for the project *"Pulse Lab Kampala"*, covering the period 13 June 2016 to 12 June 2017. The request was submitted with a delay of twelve days. The country office will be responsible for the implementation period 1 to 12 June 2016.

Background

UN Global Pulse has been the UN's data innovation initiative since its establishment by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2009. The initiative functions as a network of innovation labs where projects on Big Data and data innovation are conceived and coordinated. The backbone of the UN Global Pulse initiative is its network of country-level Pulse Labs, which employ a build-to-learn approach. Pulse Labs are physical centers of innovation, research and development that bring together government, the UN and local partners in academia and the private sector to test, refine and scale solutions that use real-time big data to support development goals.

The Government of Uganda, with the support of the UN has positioned itself as leader in innovation and use of new technologies to achieve and monitor SDG localization. At the invitation of the Government, Pulse Lab Kampala, the third Lab of the UN Global Pulse network, officially opened its doors in January 2015. The Lab is a UN inter-agency initiative under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator to support the Delivering as One UN Process. Pulse Lab Kampala will build the capacity of and work closely with the Government of Uganda to catalyze ecosystems for data innovation and to develop innovations with big data and real-time analytics to achieve and monitor SDGs localization. In addition, the projects and tools developed by Pulse Lab Kampala and partners will be used to monitor and achieve SDG localization

Justification for DIM

Pulse Lab Kampala is the first of its kind in Africa and it will develop innovations that are not only new for Uganda but also for the rest of the world. The Lab will bring together data scientists, data engineers, partnership specialists, academics and technical experts to generate high impact

innovations. The Lab has a unique set-up, mandate and objectives. The project will generate innovative projects and tools using Big Data, based on what people say, what they do or online content. Due to the sensitive nature of these data sources and in order to ensure data privacy, credibility and impartiality, the DIM implementation modality is recommended.

National capacities are not currently available to create a physical center of innovation which brings together the UN, local partners, academia and the private sector. Nevertheless, through the implementation of the project national capacities will be increased. While having government and local expertise involved in the creation and management of Pulse Lab Kampala is crucial for its success, due to the unique nature of Pulse Lab Kampala, other implementation options different from DIM would be inefficient.

Pulse Lab Kampala is conceived as an inter-agency initiative under the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uganda. It aims to contribute to the United Nations 'Delivering as One' process and to increase the efficiency of the UN system with a common knowledge based initiative providing support to all agencies. The DIM modality allows for such contribution.
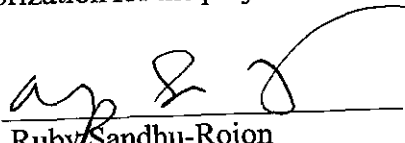
Institutional Arrangements

A Project Board, also called Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be convened and will serve as the project's coordination and decision-making body. The PSC will include representation of all the key project stakeholders. It will meet as necessary, but not less than once in six months, to review project progress, approve project work plans and approve major project deliverables. The PSC is responsible for ensuring that the project remains on course to deliver products of the required quality to meet the outcomes defined in the project document.

The Country Office has experience and capacity to effectively manage the proposed DIM project in an accountable manner. It will ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control, to safeguard UNDP's financial responsibilities and accountable use of UNDP and partner's resources. All financial resources of the project will be managed according to the rules, procedures and requirements as defined in the UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies Procedures (POPP), and accoridng to UNDP guidelined on direct execution/implementation.

Recommendation

Based on the above justification, it is recommended to approve the Direct Implementation Modality authorization for the project *"Pulse Lab Kampala"* from 13 June 2016 to 12 June 2017.

Date: _20 June 2016_

Approved by: _____
            Ruby Sandhu-Rojon
            Officer-in-Charge
            Regional Bureau for Africa