



Final

Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme

Fourth National Executive Committee Meeting

17 May 2021

Aide Memoire

The 4th meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP) was held under the chair of Mr. Eak Narayan Aryal, Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Government of Nepal (GoN), on 17 May 2021. The main purpose of the meeting was to provide updates on the implementation status of PLGSP, review the PLGSP semi-annual Progress Report 2020/21, and decide on the agenda items proposed by PLGSP/Programme Coordination Unit (PCU). Joint Secretaries of MoFAGA, senior officials of sectoral ministries, representatives of the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) Development Partners (DPs), UNDP, and representatives of the local government (LG) associations participated in the meeting. The list of participants is provided in Annex-2. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was organized in a virtual modality. The meeting concluded with the following decisions. The discussion notes of the meeting are presented in Annex-1.

1. Opening Remarks

2. The National Programme Manager (NPM) of PLGSP, Mr. Chiranjivi Timsina, welcomed the presence of all the guests, both those in-person (joining from the MoFAGA hall) and virtually, addressing them by their names.
3. The National Programme Director (NPM) of PLGSP, Mr. Gopi Krishna Khanal welcomed all present in the floor and summarized the major objectives of the meeting as budget endorsement for next year, Fiduciary Risk Reduction Action Plan (FRRAP) endorsement, Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP) 2021/22 finalization and endorsement, and PLGSP Audit Report discussion. He highlighted the Covid-19 situation as a major challenge and emphasized that adapting with the situation, the coming year is going to be instrumental for the Programme implementation.
4. Mr. Aryal addressed the hall, by welcoming the participants and appreciating their presence in the NEC meeting during the pandemic. He stated that this NEC meeting would look at the current status and progress of the Programme, discuss the proposed ASIP for 2021/22,


National Program Manager


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Secretary



discuss the Innovative Partnership Fund (IPF) implementation, PLGSP FRRAP, as well as other areas of importance.

He briefed that PLGSP focuses to provide quality services to the citizens along with better infrastructure and economic development of the provincial and local governments (PLGs). It is the national flagship programme that focuses on improving and reforming governance by emphasizing on overall capacity development and institutional strengthening. The Provincial Centers for Good Governance (PCGGs) focus on improving the capacity of the LGs and they have been doing great work at the local level as per the feedback received so far. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, PLGSP has not been able to significantly achieve the planned results. However, there has been good progress with the training events of PCGGs, 80 model laws have been prepared and sent to local level, studies and research on governance issues have been conducted, the Local Institutional Self-Assessment (LISA) has been among the significant achievements, with 500 trainers trained and 120 LGs already having published LISA results. Further, the IPF Operational Guideline is in the final stage of development.

He shared that MoFAGA has made public its ten-year strategy paper, which highlights governance reform and enhancing service delivery. PLGSP has to link with the vision paper in its implementation from the coming fiscal year. PCGG capacity development interventions shall focus on building capacity of elected representatives and not only on staff. The IPF should primarily cater to people who are below the poverty line, through joint ventures with the LGs. SuTRA has been very effective, but there is still a need to improve the reporting system among the three tiers of government and bring together other relevant stakeholders/ministries for feedback. In the coming year, ward offices need to be targeted, infrastructure to be developed and e-governance to be established at local and community levels as well.

He mentioned that PLGSP in the coming year should not only focus on software but also on hardware. The ten-year vision paper of the Ministry should serve as the guiding document for the coming year, and there is a need to focus more on the results and not only immediate outputs. The design of the Programme needs to be reengineered to uplift the lives of people. So far, the Programme has been able to provide lessons learned on how to change the behaviors and working cultures in the context of federalism, and institutionalize and internalize accountability and transparency. It is important to embed the Programme in the changed context of the Covid-19 and there is a need to move ahead in this line for the remaining Programme period. In closing, Mr. Aryal thanked everyone again and encouraged open discussion in the later phases of the NEC meeting.

5. Cynthia Rowe, DP chair and FCDO Team Leader, Governance and Service Delivery Team, greeted everyone by saying that she was delighted to participate in the 4th NEC meeting of PLGSP. She shared that DPs are standing with Nepal during this devastating second wave of Covid-19 and expressed sympathy with those affected. She mentioned that the meeting is


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