



Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)  
Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP)

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**7<sup>th</sup> Technical Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC)  
Meeting Minute, 03 February 2023**

**Chaired by: Balaram Rijyal, National Programme Director, PLGSP, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA**

**1. Decisions:**

- (i) Progress reports comprising TA progress January-December 2022, UN financial contribution, were welcomed and endorsed
- (ii) The Revised TA AWP, January-July 2023 was approved, subject to revision on comments provided.



## Presentation, Discussion and Suggestions from the Participants

### 1. Reflection on the 6<sup>th</sup> TASC meeting's decisions and actions

Hemraj Aryal, NPM, updated progress against the last TASC decisions and actions, all of which were complete.

### 2. Progress update on TA

TASC noted presentations on the progress update of TA January-December 2022. Expenditure in 2022 was USD 2.75 million (subject to minor changes depending on final CDR).

### 3. Revised TA AWP, January-July 2023

Hemraj Aryal, NPM, presented revised TA annual work plan for the period of January - July 2023. TASC approved the revised TA annual work plan 2023 with a total budget of USD 1.41 million annual budget

### 4. AOB

### 5. Suggestions and Remarks from TASC Participants

The development partners appreciated the TA progress and sharing of the meeting documents on time. UK FCDO highlighted that the Third-Party Monitoring has identified several challenges and issues around PLGSP delivery where TA could play a crucial role and requested the TA provider to update on the actions taken thus far. Staff turnover (both at GoN and TA) was also highlighted as a concern and MoFAGA could address these as the ProDoc requires that key PLGSP position holders remain in the role for 3 years. A mitigation strategy and action for the placement of provincial positions on a 'right fit for right positions' basis was urged. Whilst welcoming UNDP's strategic narrative, prioritizing the re-programming and transitional arrangements, as TA support is critical in accessing the needs and demands of the PGs and PCGGs/PPIUs. More detail and clarity are needed showing how this will move forward. High-level agreement (letter of intent) and focus on re-programming must be prioritized. Clarification on the revision of LISA assessment guidelines as the only means of verification was requested. FCDO also suggested to share the comprehensive report on the decentralization in Nepal.

European Union stated that the TA annual work plan needs to be more strategic and detailed, laying out how the lessons from MTR are being adopted with a clear vision for the 6 months and how the recommendations are being taken forward. The organization of exposure visits needs to be more informative and should be focused on how to make it practical so that the learning could be reflected in program delivery. Participants must fully reflect gender, diversity, and inclusion perspectives for any future visits. The TA AWP, the risk matrix needs updating and should align with PASIPs. International expertise should be introduced for experience sharing & learning from other countries (on a short-term basis) and TA to facilitate to bring international experts on various issues related to governance for learning and sharing.



Royal Norwegian Embassy acknowledge the work on GESI which is one of the priorities for all. Also requested to share the GESI index report once it is finalized as that will help understand the GESI activity better, to avoid duplication and ensure coordination. Further, the report on last year's mapping of DPs was requested to be shared. While appreciating the work on GESI from PLGSP, also suggest organizing separate meetings on GESI where dedicated discussion could be organized and understood on specific issues and challenges on GESI related work.

Swiss Embassy requested a progress update on EUSIF project and linkages with PLGSP and how cross learning between provinces is being prioritized. Enquired the reason why the preparation of LG-wise HDI index was on hold to which NPM shared that it required a collaboration with the National Planning Commission and publication of latest census data hence it was on hold. Further, aligning the TA AWP with PASIPs was recommended and suggested to integrate the planned visit with the earlier one for better learning. It also sought to inform if there are any cross learnings across PGs and LGs.

UNDP stated that PLGSP-TA is committed to working with MoFAGA & DPs to address the structural issues in the programme as far as possible. Most of the work plan activities are commitments towards pending payments as are nearing completion. Also emphasized that since, it is a technical committee, we also see the value to discuss on substantive issues like pending bills and policies on strengthening federal structure in Nepal. In doing so, the projects like Parliament Support Project and other projects could also be instrumental in the process. We commit to fully support the transition and reprogramming phase and look forward to reaching a shared understanding with MoFAGA and DPs on areas where we need to prioritize TA in the days to come. We further look forward to seeing institutionalization of the gender and inclusion work in our day-to-day work and in larger federalism implementation process.

Further, UNDP shared that EUSIF project is progressing and in close coordination with PLGSP and provincial government and other concerned stakeholders. Few important studies including the inclusive basic service delivery mapping is ongoing. If needed, we can include as part of the sharing in the coming days.

## **6. Response from NPM on the queries raised**

NPM welcomed all the suggestions and remarks from the DPs. He explained that TA annual workplan is fully aligned with the ASIP. TA staff turnover is inevitable as career progression and growth of skilled staff for better opportunities where UNDP is well supporting to fulfill the vacant positions. The frequent transfer of government staff is an issue, however, there is slight improvement now a days. Further, he also emphasized that PLGSP do not have the direct scope to control on any government staffs transfer. Responding to the question on learning visit, NPM shared that they take note of the feedback on making the team more gender and inclusion for future visits. Further he shared that learning visit for Belgium and the Netherlands is planned from 26 Feb – 04 March 2023 and is a continuation of the last year activity and shall be undertaken as per decision of the Ministry with the feedback of knowledge utilization to the fullest. The learning visit will mostly focus on inter-governmental relation, fund transfer etc. The learning visit is timely as the learning will be instrumental for the re-programming of the PLGSP. Further, the senior





management of PLGSP - NPD will be in country during this one week visit and hence, the other priority work will be taken care off.

#### **7. Closure by NPD**

At the end, NPD thanked all the participants for lively discussion and contribution. He assured the PLGSP will remain focused on re-programming during the work plan period. He proposed for separate discussions on related program such as COHERENCE, EU-SIF, PSP/SDC, The Asia Foundation, sub-national governance program and others for better alignment with PLGSP. He assured the comments in the work-plan will be incorporated and declared the AWP approved. He thanked the DPs for their generous support in the governance area and urged all for better collaboration and coordination in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bijay", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



**Annex-1: List of attendees/representatives**

Date: 3 February 2023

Venue: DCC Meeting Hall

S.N.	Name	Designation	Organization	Signature
1	Mr. Balaram Rijyal	Joint Secretary/National programme Director	MoFAGA/PLGSP	
2	Mr. Hemraj Aryal	Under Secretary/National Programme Manager	MoFAGA/PLGSP	
3	Mr. Bernardo Cocco	Resident Representative	UNDP	
4	Mr. Tek Tamata	Portfolio Manager	UNDP	
5	Ms. Binda Magar	Governance Advisor ARR(Programme)	UNDP	
6	Mr. Ian Macdougall	Federal Governance Specialist & Development Partner Co-Ordinator	PLGSP	
7	Mr. Padam Bhusal	PCQA	PLGSP	
8	Ms. Kaluwa Vergamoto	Programme Manager	European Union	
9	Mr. Egbert Pos	Governance Advisor and Deputy Team Leader for GPST	FCDO/British Embassy	
10	Mr. Madhu Bishwakarma	Governance Advisor	FCDO/British Embassy	
11	Ms. Aneela Khan	Counselor	Norwegian Embassy	
12	Ms. Shradha Rayamajhi	Governance Advisor	Norwegian Embassy	
13	Mr. Namit Wagley	State Building Advisor	SDC	
14	Mr. Tiziano Lavizzari	Programme Manager	SDC	
15	Mr. Baburam Shrestha	PFM Specialist	PLGSP	
16	Mr. Rajan Thapa	Administrative Officer	PLGSP	
17	Ms. Dixita Silwal	Human Resources and Liaison Specialist	PLGSP	
18	Ms. Kirti Thapa	GESI Specialist	PLGSP	
19	Ms. Nagesh Badu	IT & E- Governance Specialist	PLGSP	
20	Mr. Surendra Bhandari	Finance Officer	PLGSP	