

(Final)

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

6th National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting
26 May 2022

Chaired by the Secretary, Suresh Adhikari, MoFAGA

1. Decisions:

- i. NEC noted progress against the actions since the last NEC meeting (26 November 2021).
- ii. NEC received the presentation and noted progress on Programme delivery.
- iii. The NEC took note of the guiding principles, strategies and approaches adopted to formulate the ASIP 2022/23. The Committee also appreciated the PCU's efforts to coordinate with and seek inputs from PLGs, as well as other key stakeholders in the formulation process of the ASIP 2022/23. Acknowledging the important feedback and suggestions received from the members in the NEC meeting, the Committee approved the ASIP 2022/2023, provided that comments from DPs and other members of the Committee will be further included in the final ASIP 2022/23 and present the final ASIP to the NSC to review and endorse.
- iv. NEC welcomed and received the independent MTR Report and its recommendations and recommended that a presentation be made to NSC at their next meeting.
- v. NEC instructed PCU to set up a Joint Task Group consisting representatives from UNTA, MoFAGA, DPs and PCU to develop an action plan and process for the full consultation and engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including DPs, OCMCMs and PLGs, to agree necessary changes to PLGSP to address the MTR Recommendations, and to present arrangements for acceptance by NSC at their next meeting scheduled in November 2022.

NB: Discussion and suggestion from the participants and list of attendees / representatives of the NEC meeting is given in the Annex 1&2 respectively

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Annexes

Annex-1 Discussion and suggestions from the participants

1. Reflection on 5th NEC Decisions & actions

NPM Chiranjivi Timsina updated NEC on progress against the last NEC decisions and actions, all of which were complete. PLGSP's MEL Framework has been updated following the required workshop. Third party monitoring for 2021 has been completed and procurement is underway for the remaining programme period. The MTR has been completed (and forms a separate agenda item). The Innovation Partnership Fund has been implemented and proposals are being assessed.

2. Progress Update July 2021- April 2022

NPM Chiranjivi Timsina updated NEC on progress against the Programme Outcomes / ASIP and financial expenditure since the last meeting. As many activities are ongoing this financial year, financial expenditure will increase above current levels. TA expenditure to April 2022 is NPR 258.96m (55.32%) of a total budget of 468.12m.

Total JFA budget is NPR 2956.7m, with expenditure at 370.625m (as at 31 March); Provincial expenditure varied from 12.54% to 18.12%. FCGO expenditure was at 8.66% whilst PCU expenditure was 26.73%.

Challenges remained, including delayed implementation of IPF. Issues of low expenditure are expected to be addressed through the delivery pipeline, including the development of CD infrastructure and accelerated training delivery by PCGGs. The creation of PLGs' websites has been instrumental in providing public access to budgetary information, programmes and priorities of LGs.

JFADPs congratulated PLGSP on progress thus far in PFM, GESI, and Capacity Development for PLGs, but emphasised the need for efficiency by adopting relevant products from similar programmes, and the need for quality assurance. DPs are concerned with the selection of the higher number of Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF) projects and budget and requested MoFAGA/PCU, together with Provinces, ensure compliance with the IPF Implementation Guideline and PLGSP Programme Document so that from a first round of projects lessons can be learned, and possible adaptation can be made for future rounds.

MoFAGA was requested to provide DPs the consolidated audit observations of all cost units of the PLGSP including a management response and an assurance of the utilization of the financial contributions of the government and UNDP in the programme.

DPs acknowledged the receipt of the Financial Monitoring Reports (FMRs) of this fiscal year but also expressed their concerns over slow delivery of the budget at 9.5% and the low Government of Nepal contribution at only 3% out of the total expenditure and requested MoFAGA/PCU to expediate the programme delivery. The EU pointed out that the disbursements were conditional against delivery. PLGSP expenditure is low and policy support



and other measures to increase expenditure and make PLGSP more sustainable should be identified.

3. PLGSP ASIP 2022-2023

NPM presented ASIP 2022/23 highlighting the priorities and principles, key activities, budget and deliverables and pointed out that the ASIP has been prepared based on a participatory & transparent approach fully responsive to meeting the needs of PLGs and with increased horizontal and vertical coordination.

UNTA has been requested to undertake assessments of IPF proposals and PCGGs' strategic plans.

JFADPs noted that the Draft ASIP documents had only been received 3 days previously. It was not possible for DPs to review thoroughly and endorse the ASIP at this NEC and a working group to incorporate comments from DPs and other stakeholders before sending the final ASIP to the NSC for their approval later in June. Further, the revised MEL Framework was not on the agenda for this meeting and this should be completed for endorsement by NSC at their next meeting. The Third Party Monitoring (TPM) Report has been received late and the procurement of TPM services for the remaining programme period is welcomed and should be completed in time and meet the required quality.

DCC Chair emphasised the need for ongoing, informal engagement with stakeholders & LGs in delivering outcomes, particularly the need to move beyond 'tools'. Ensuring consistency between local, provincial & federal laws, to reflect constitutional arrangements, requires intensified cooperation.

4. PLGSP Mid-Term Review

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of PLGSP has been completed by independent consultants. PLGSP remains highly relevant and the consultants made 6 (six) recommendations. A TASK group will be formed to prepare action plan for full stakeholder engagement and re-programming of PLGSP which will be presented at National Steering Committee (scheduled for November 20220 for their approval.

National Association of Rural municipalities in Nepal (NARMIN) noted that the local elections had successfully been undertaken from scratch, with many new Chairs & Vice-chairs being elected, and that PLGSP has helped local bodies make good progress. However, remoteness made participation and progress in GESI difficult.

DCC stated that the MTR team did not meet them while conducting the review and emphasised the need for improved consultation with stakeholders to take forward the MTR recommendations.



MUAN noted that PLGSP re-programming should provide the cement & momentum for federalisation, ensuring a demand-led approach, reflecting local priorities and capacity gaps in a constitutional spirit, with improved dialogues.

MoF expressed the concern that the MTR team did not held consultation with the MoF and requested MoFAGA to engage to take forward the MTR recommendations.

5. Suggestions and Remarks from NEC Participants

Secretary Suresh Adhikari and other participants emphasised the need and relevancy of a second phase of PLGSP considering the need to strengthen federalization in Nepal and to provide the quality services to citizens. The real needs of LGs including a focus on Local economic development (LED) and to have balance between software and hardware components in second phase of the program and emphasised the need to expedite progress and financial expenditure of the Programme.

NPD Dr Gopi Krishna Khanal acknowledged the support from DPs including valuable suggestions and advice provided by NEC participants to improve quality and delivery of the program and agreed to provide the required Programme documents i.e. ASIP 2022/2023, consolidated Audit report, on time from now onwards. Dr Khanal highlighted that the focus of PLGSP will be in building capacity of newly elected representatives and further emphasised the need for re-programming of PLGSP considering the findings of MTR and need of Provincial and Local governments.

Annex-2 List of the participants of the 6th NEC meeting

Date: 26 May 2022

S. N	Name	Designation	Organization	Contact #
1	Mr. Suresh Adhikari	Secretary	MoFAGA	
2	Dr. Gopi K. Khanal	Joint Secretary/National programme Director	MoFAGA/PLGSP	9851108064
3	Mr. Basanta Adhikari	Joint Secretary	MoFAGA	9851277204
4	Mr. Narayan Prasad Aryal	Joint Secretary	MoFAGA	9851155685
5	Mr. Raghuram Bista	Joint Secretary	MoFAGA	9851136365/ 9851277210
6	Mr. Chiranjivi Timsina	Under Secretary/National Programme Manager	MoFAGA/PLGSP	9851177955

7	Mr. Diwakar Luitel	Executive Director	NPC	9841227934
8	Ms. Yamuna Pradhan	Joint Secretary	NNRFC	9841540525
9	Mr. Dil Bdr. Chhetri	Under Secretary	MOF	9851128882
10	Mr. Tilak Pd. Chapagain	Section Officer	MOF	9846183277
11	Mr. Than Prasad Pangyani	Joint Financial Comptroller General	FCGO	9851157552 / 9851275618
12	Mr. Bharat Sharma	Under Secretary	MOWCSC	9841273827
13	Mr. Yubraj Subedi	Joint Secreatry	MOEST	9851154261
14	Ms. Kalpana Devi Shakya	Engineer	MOUD	9841418473
15	Mr. Bishnu Pd. Sharma	Joint Secretary	MOUD	9851097784
16	Mr. Hom Narayan shrestha	Chairman	NARMIN	9854033388
17	Mr. Shiva Sundar Rajbhandari	DDC Chief	DDC Ktm	9851273050
18	Mr. Krishna Chandara Neupane	Executive Secreatry General	ADCCN	9841513807
19	Mr. Ashok Bayanju	President	MUAN	
20	Ms. Cynthia Rowe	Head of Governance Political Service	FCDO/British Embassy	9823044438
21	Mr. Madhu Bishwakarma	Governance Advisor	FCDO/British Embassy	9801912201

22	Mr. Egbert Pos	Governance Advisor and Deputy Team Leader for GPST	FCDO/British Embassy	9801058648
23	Ms. Preeti Das	Programme Manager	British Embassy	9801055634
24	Mr. Dagny Mjøs	Minister Counsellor/ Head of Development Cooperation	Royal Norwegian Embassy	9802022414
25	Mr. Raj Kumar Dhungana	Governance Advisor	Royal Norwegian Embassy	9801157771
26	Genner	Head of Cooperation	European Union	
27	Mr. Odile Humbolt	Programme Manager - Governance	European Union	9801097702
28	Silvana Hogg	Head of Cooperation/ Deputy Head of Mission	Embassy of Switzerland, SDC	
29	Ms. Shradha Rayamajhi	National Programme Officer	Embassy of Switzerland, SDC	9851183920
30	Mr. Bernado Cocco	Deputy RR	UNDP	9801000774
31	Ms. Binda Magar	Policy Advisor(Governance) & ARR Programme	UNDP	9851137646
32	Mr. Tek Tamata	Portfolio Manager	UNDP	9851047095
33	Mr. Krishna Pd. Bhattarai	Lead Officer-PLGSP	UNDP	9851170710
34	Mr. Khum Raj Punjali	Advisor	UNDP	9851015011
35	Mr. Ian Macdougall	Federal Governance Specialist & Development Partner Co-Ordinator	UNDP	9851014445
36	Mr. Hari Pd. Guragain	Admin Officer	PLGSP	9852670134

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37	Mr. Nagesh Badu	IT & E-governance Specialist	PLGSP	9851176088
38	Mr. Chandrakanta Sharma Paudel	C&M Specialist	PLGSP	9841020264
39	Mr. Baburam Shrestha	PFM Specialist	PLGSP	9851192992
40	Ms. Kirti thapa	GESI Specialist	PLGSP	9841209951
41	Ms. Dixita Silwal	HR Specialist	PLGSP	9851070720
42	Mr. Surendra Bhandari	Finance Officer	PLGSP	9849285207
43	Ms. Ranju K.C.	Computer Operator	PLGSP	9841515731

