



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

9th National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting Minute

Meeting Date: 18th June 2024 (Kathmandu)

Meeting chaired by: Mr. Mukunda Prasad Niraula, Secretary, MoFAGA.

Meeting Convener: Dr. Narayan Prasad Regmi, Joint-Secretary, MoFAGA and National Program Director, PLGSP.

Participation: Representatives from MoFAGA, NPC, OPMCM, MoF, MoWCSC, PLGSP JFA DPs, UNDP, USAID and PCU team.

Decisions:

1. The National Executive Committee (NEC) duly acknowledged the progress status of the Province and Local Governance Support Programme-PLGSP for year 2023/24.
2. The NEC acknowledged the progress towards the reprogramming of PLGSP and endorsed the Reprogramming Document for the year 2024-2029, and agreed to put forward the Reprogramming Document to National Steering Committee (NSC) with subject to insertion of feedback and comments for approval.

National Program Director

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Annex-1 Discussion note:

1. Welcome & Introduction:

- Dr. Narayan Prasad Regmi, the National Programme Director of PLGSP, delivered the opening remarks and welcomed NEC Chair & members. Dr. Regmi noted and welcomed MuAN & NARMIN and outlined the process and key principles underlying the reprogramming and commended the revised ProDoc to NEC.
- Mr. Gokarna P. Upadhyay, the National Programme Manager, presented the status of the decisions and actions from the 8th NEC meeting, Dated 20 June 2023.
- NPM presented progress on PLGSP for the fiscal year 2080/081 (2023/24)
- NPM provided an overview of the reprogramming document, and the Consolidated Annual Strategic Implementation Plan and Budget (ASIPB) for the fiscal year 2024/025.

Discussion:

Mr. Kiran Rupakheti, Joint Secretary, OMPCM

- Congratulated the team on preparing the comprehensive document.
- Highlighted the low expenditure rate of only 22% as a significant challenge.
- Mentioned the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 affected economy and financial crisis, making it hard for the Government of Nepal to provide matching funds.
- Emphasized aligning the PLGSP with the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (MSNP) support project.
- Stressed the need for enhanced capacity and stronger coordination by federal and provincial governments.

Mr. Shiv Ram Pokhrel, PPD Sudurpachim Province

- Congratulated the team on preparing the reprogramming document.
- Reiterated the need to address low resource expenditure due to inefficient planning and delivery.
- Emphasized the need for a decision on the current Technical Assistance (TA) arrangements, specifically whether their contracts will be continued or terminated.

Ms. Humkala Pandey, PPD Bagmati Province

- Noted the new programme document looked good.
- Emphasized the need for collaboration for effective Programme implementation.
- Suggested having procedures/guidelines for the operation of the Programme from the outset to improve earlier processes and increase delivery.
- Recommended a further study under the leadership of NPD to examine the Programme's effectiveness.

Mr. Rajan Nepal, PPD Madhesh Province

- Noted that frequent transfers of employees hinder programme implementation; the Ministry should address this.
- Third Party Monitoring suggestions should be prioritized and implemented.
- Laws, guidelines, and procedures should be developed participatively and focus on quality and effectiveness.


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- The PCGG Bill of Madhesh Province is in its final stage in the provincial assembly, and its enactment will enhance programme effectiveness.

Mr. Bishnu Prasad Paudel, PPD Koshi Province

- Noted IPF programme projects are successful but lack market facilities and incentives, affecting their effectiveness.
- PLGSP should highlight these successful projects as best practices.

Mr. Ananda Saru, PPD Karnali Province

- The ProDoc has improved after incorporating feedback from the Godavari workshop.
- Low spending should not be blamed solely on COVID; other delivery aspects need improvement.
- A dedicated team is needed for effective delivery, such as a dedicated PPM.
- Coordination between federal and provincial governments is required due to complaints at the local level and the absence of the Civil Service Act.
- Joint monitoring by DPs and PCUs at the province level is recommended to save time and increase effectiveness.
- Reporting channels for Transformative TA should be simplified.
- Cost centers need effective management and financial risk mitigation from the beginning.

Mr. Nirajan Ghimire, PPD Lumbini Province

- The PCGG bill of Lumbini Province has been prepared and submitted to the assembly, with integrated training and research components.
- GESI and other audits should be conducted by a third party.
- The Chief Minister's Innovative Partnership Project includes social mobilization, income generation, and IGR.
- Despite significant lawmaking efforts, budget expenditure remains low, and ICT should be prioritized.
- PCGG and local governments need IT system connectivity, and incentives for dedicated teams must be arranged.

Hari Bahadur K.C., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

- The document is comprehensive but requires effective implementation.
- It lacks coverage of sectoral areas under federalism, crucial for service delivery.
- Some agricultural laws need to be enacted at the local level, and existing ones need better implementation and assessment.
- Reiterated the need for effective implementation of the ProDoc.
- Sectoral areas under federalism are not addressed adequately.
- Agricultural laws need better facilitation and implementation at local levels.

Yogesh Parajuli, FCGO

- FCGO supports PLGSP in budget management and capacity development at provincial and local levels.
- Training sessions cover prevailing laws, acts, rules, and guidelines.
- Integration of PFM and ICT aims to enhance transparency and accountability.

Mr Rajan Bhattarai, PPM Gandaki

- Reduced expenditure in Fund Flow Mechanism.
- Clarity needed on support for NARMIN and MuAN activities.



- PRDAs' role needs clarification to avoid duplication with PPC.
- Committee names and abbreviations in the ProDoc require correction.

Mr. Rajendra Pyakurel, ED NARMIN

- Acknowledged the inclusion of comments/inputs received in the ProDoc.
- Stressed the need for collaboration for effective programme implementation.
- Called for restructuring outdated structures such as LDTA and ensuring collaboration with PCGGs / PRDAs.
- Suggested a unique name for PCGG in the programme document to avoid confusion.
- Emphasized the need for an intergovernmental relationship mechanism at the local level and capacity development for various committees.

Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota, ED MuAN

- Welcomed MuAN's involvement in PLGSP.
- Raised concerns about capacity development, budget allocation and fiscal autonomy.
- Highlighted the need for clear resource allocation to local governments.

Mr. Ashok Ghimire, ADCCN

- Joint workshops with PLGSP and ADCCN have been conducted to institutionalize federalism.
- District Coordination Committees lack technical support from MoFAGA, hindering federalism institutionalization.

Mr. Bhim Prasad Kafle, Ministry of Finance

- PFM activities are being integrated for better results.
- Advocated for a "One Window Mechanism" for PFM activities.
- Suggested linking MOFAGA's LISA and FRA tools with SNGA.
- Emphasized reducing TA involvement and increasing government stake in implementation.

Mr. Yamlal Bhusal, National Planning Commission

- Programmes should align with the 16th plan and prioritize SDG Localization.
- Called for innovative and transformative reform programmes.
- Stressed the importance of project banks and GESI Focal Units at local levels.
- Highlighted the need for data integration and inclusion in the National Data Profile.

Comments of Development Partners.

Dr Andrew Long, DP Chair, FCDO

- PLGSP aids the institutionalization of federalism at provincial and local levels through capacity development.
- It is vital to shift the governance system and structure.
- Including OPMCM in the PLGSP structure enhances effectiveness.
- The demand-driven nature of TA, strong GESI commitment, and zero-tolerance for financial misuse are commendable.
- IPF guidelines and leveraging past experiences are positive initiatives at the provincial level, but there must be no increase in IPF funding allocation.

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Secretary



Mr Matthias Meier, SDC

- Whilst the reprogramming document is still lengthy and needs to be more concise and focused, it is fit for purpose.

Ms. Kristine H. Storhol, Royal Norwegian Embassy

- Appreciates prioritization of GESI issues in the reprogramming document.
- The ProDoc is now more concise and improved.
- PRDAs remain a top priority; it needs an Act for effective operationalization and sustainability.
- LGCDP has significant budget arrears that must be settled by October 2024 to ensure Norway's further disbursement.

Ms. Kaluwa Vergamota, EU Delegation

- The fiscal contribution of the Government of Nepal to PLGSP is crucial, requiring discussion between MoFAGA and the Ministry of Finance.
- Frequent transfers of PLGSP government staff disrupt target expenditure and service delivery; MoFAGA should prevent these.
- Transparency and accountability are essential for budget expenses and service delivery.

Mr Luis Azurduy, USAID

- USAID is committed to institutionalizing federalism in Nepal, working jointly with PLGSP.
- The results framework is the guiding document ensuring the achievement of intended results.

M. Julien Chevillard, UNDP

- Highlighted changed TA provision – whereas previously, TA support was provided by dedicated permanent staff, a variety of TA components have been designed at both federal and provincial levels for the next Programme period.
- UNDP is committed to co-financing 50% of the TA cost.

Ms. Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, UNDP

- Noted it is essential to regularize the meetings of the National Steering Committee.
- Commitment from formal stakeholders is required to implement the Programme.
- At the last NSC meeting, numerous commitments were made to ensure the effective operation of PLGSP. We need to assess whether these commitments have been realized.
- Climate finance, LDC rationalization, SDG localization, and GESI are key components that need focus within the PLGSP Programme.

Closing Remarks by Respected Secretary Mr. Mukunda Prasad Niraula

Congratulated all participants and noted programme faced challenges however the tangible output in the capacity development sector from this programme appears to be very effective. The Secretary noted that all comments would be incorporated into the final version of the reprogramming document. He emphasized the need for continued cooperation and coordination between MoFAGA and DPS, acknowledging the outstanding cooperation of provincial and local governments over the past years.


National Program Director


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Participant List

Annex-3: Presentation



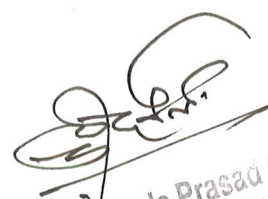
Government of Nepal
Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)
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Mukunda Prasad Mishra
Secretary