



**Ministry Of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)
Provincial And Local Governance Strengthening Programme (PLGSP)**

Minutes of the 3rd Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) Meeting (virtual)

Meeting Date: 27 November 2025 (BS: 11 Mangsir, 2082)

Mode of meeting: Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform)

Meeting Chaired by: Mr. Prakash Dahal, Joint Secretary, MoFAGA and National Program Director, PLGSP

Meeting Co-Chaired by: Mr. Julien Chevillard, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Nepal

Meeting Convener: Mr. Tirtha Prakash Poudel, Under Secretary, MoFAGA and National Program Manager, PLGSP

Meeting Facilitator: Mr. Niroj Ghimire, Administrative Officer, PLGSP

Participants: Provincial Programme Directors, Joint Secretary of OPMCM; Representatives from Local Government Associations, PLGSP Development Partners (EU, SDC and Norway), UNDP and Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) team (participants list in annex-2);

I . Decisions and Endorsements

The TAC unanimously endorsed the following agenda items:

1. Revised TA Budget 2025: Reduction from USD 2.7 million to USD 2.17 million.
2. Endorsement of Strategic Documents:
 - Combined Capacity Assessment and Partnerships Mapping Report.
 - English version of PLGSP Implementation Guideline.
3. Support to PRTAs: Enhancement of five curricula and development of three Strategy and Business Plans through outsourced NASC.
4. Provision of Equipment Support: Strengthening inter-governmental coordination through support to the OPMCM Secretariat
5. Introduction of New Activity: improvement of Own Source Revenue (OSR) in 25 local governments across five provinces.
6. In person TAC meeting and NSC meeting to be held on December 2025.

2. Opening Remarks

- Mr. Niroj Ghimire (Administrative Officer) welcomed all distinguished members and highlighted the provision of interpretation services.



- **The Chair, Mr. Prakash Dahal (NPD)** formally opened the meeting, acknowledging the presence of government officials, development partners, and provincial colleagues. He emphasized TAC's role in guiding technical assistance strategy, reviewing progress, and endorsing revised plans and appreciated development partners for continued support and processing additional resources. He emphasized the need to plan for the in-person TAC and NSC meetings to strengthen coordination among federal, provincial, and local stakeholders, including development partners, and to provide strategic direction for effective programme implementation.
- **The Co-Chair, Mr. Julien Chevillard (DRR, UNDP Nepal)** provided remarks on UNDP's continued support, highlighting milestones such as recruitment of TA team, finalization of PLGSP Implementation Guidelines, completion of capacity assessment and partnership mapping, and onboarding of experts. He stressed the importance of collaboration with provinces and partners to contextualize interventions.

3. Agenda Items

The 3rd TAC meeting focused on the following key agenda points:

- I. **Approval of the revised TA budget for 2025** – reduction from USD 2.7 million to USD 2.17 million until December 2025.
- II. **Endorsement of strategic documents and interventions:**
 - a) Combined Capacity Assessment and Partnerships Mapping Report.
 - b) English version of PLGSP Implementation Guidelines.
 - c) Support for PRTAs to enhance five curricula and develop three Strategy and Business Plans through NASC.
 - d) Provision of equipment support to the OPMCM secretariat to strengthen inter-governmental coordination.
 - e) Introduction of a new activity to improve Own Source Revenue (OSR) in 25 local governments across five provinces.

4. Presentations:

Mr. Tirtha Prakash Poudel (NPM) and Mr. Bikash Ranjan Dash (Federal Governance Specialist) presented updates on progress and decisions from previous TAC meetings:

- Approval of TA work plan (USD 2.7 million) revised to USD 2.17 million.
- UNDP's additional contribution of USD 100,000 utilized for PLGSP MIS design and workshops.
- Onboarding of Kathmandu University through Responsible Party Agreement for LG outreach activities.
- Endorsement of five provincial capacity assessment reports; Gandaki and Bagmati pending.
- Recruitment and induction of TA team completed;
- PLGSP M&E framework revised, Baseline is ongoing and ready to integrate into PLGSP MIS.
- Civic engagement activities initiated in 30 LGs across three provinces
- GESI assessment underway with UN Women support.

- Upcoming activities include OSR improvement, establishment of communities of practice, and third-party monitoring.

5. Key Discussions

- Members acknowledged progress in TA implementation despite political and financial constraints.
- Development partners reiterated commitment to supporting PLGSP's institutional strengthening and systemic reforms and also informed on the additional financing of 50 M NKR from Norwegians and 1.8 M CHF by SDC. Of the additional financing, 50% shall be applied to the JFA and 50% to the TA component of the programme.
- Provincial representatives enquired on the support to PRTA through NASC emphasized on contextualized approach as per provincial needs.
- The importance of third-party monitoring and independent validation was highlighted to ensure transparency and accountability.

Remarks from Development Partners:

European Union (EU) Representatives

The EU representative expressed appreciation for the progress achieved under PLGSP despite political and financial constraints. She highlighted the importance of aligning technical assistance with Nepal's federalism agenda and emphasized the EU's commitment to supporting systemic reforms. The EU welcomed the inclusion of the new activity on improving Own Source Revenue (OSR) in 25 local governments, noting that this aligns with their ongoing work in Karnali Province. She reiterated their readiness to collaborate closely with MoFAGA, provincial governments, and other partners to ensure that PLGSP delivers sustainable results.

Government of Norway Representatives

The Government of Norway representatives commended the PLGSP team for maintaining momentum during a period of transition. They acknowledged the program's role in strengthening federal governance and service delivery and reaffirmed Norway's continued financial and technical support. Norway particularly appreciated the focus on institutional strengthening, civic engagement, and accountability mechanisms, which they see as critical to deepening federalism. They also noted their contribution in mobilizing additional resources and expressed confidence that the revised budget and endorsed documents will guide effective implementation. They also inquired about the planned expenditure on equipment in the Secretariat to be established under OPMCM, to which the Federal Governance Specialist responded that the amount planned for equipment for the secretariat will be around 4000 to 5000 US\$.

Government of Switzerland Representative

The Swiss representative emphasized Switzerland's strong partnership with Nepal in advancing federal governance. He welcomed the endorsement of the Combined Capacity Assessment and Implementation Guidelines, noting that these tools will provide a solid foundation for evidence-based decision-making. He expressed particular interest in the OSR improvement activity, highlighting its alignment with similar initiatives they are already

Yes

supporting in two. He highlighted the importance of harmonizing approaches across provinces to maximize impact and pledged to continue sharing technical expertise and lessons learned from their ongoing programs.

7. Closing

- **The Co- Chair, Mr. Julien Chevillard (DRR, UNDP Nepal)** reiterated UNDP's full dedication to PLGSP and acknowledged the collaborative efforts of MoFAGA, provincial colleagues, and development partners. He highlighted milestones achieved with UNDP support, including recruitment and induction of the TA team, finalization of the PLGSP Implementation Guidelines, and completion of the capacity assessment and partnership mapping. UNDP emphasized the transformative potential of initiatives such as civic engagement, monitoring and evaluation, and the Federalism Fellows program. He encouraged close collaboration with provincial program directors to ensure contextualized implementation and confirmed UNDP's readiness to provide rapid support for any adjustments required.
- **The Chair, Mr. Prakash Dahal (NPD)** thanked all members, development partners, and provincial colleagues for their valuable contributions. He emphasized that the programme should focus on the program implementation, as the performance of the programme is not as expected due to the political and unsudden crisis caused by the GenZ movement. He noted that the programme is working to streamline the process for implementation with MoF, and that the currently circulated directive will not disturb the programme implementation. He also shared that the Ministry is engaged in strengthening administrative federalism, and the programme should along the side support this area. Similarly, he highlighted that capacitating the local government is important, and a collaborative approach is essential, as there is a need to empower and capacitate the federal level for functional effective delivery and IGR strengthening which is critical.
- It was agreed that the next TAC meeting will be held in-person in December 2025, alongside the National Steering Committee meeting, to review the Annual Work Plan for 2026.





Annex I :

Meeting Agenda:
TAC Meeting Agenda – 27 Nov 2025
Opening remarks & adoption of agenda
1. Approval of revised TA Budget 2025 (USD 2.7M → USD 2.17M)
2. Endorsement of key documents/interventions:
• Capacity Assessment & Partnerships Mapping Report
• PLGSP Implementation Guidelines (English version)
• Support for PRTAs: 5 curricula + 3 Strategy/Business Plans (NASC)
• Equipment supports to Secretariat (OPMCM)
• New OSR activity in 25 LGs across 5 provinces
3. Discussion & feedback from TAC members
4. Decisions, next steps & closing remarks



Annex 11:

List of Participants

S.No	Name	Designation
1.	Prakash Dahal	Joint Secretary , MoFAGA, NPD, PLGSP
2.	Ekdev Adhikari	PPD, Koshi Province
3.	Yemendra Upadhyay	PPD, Madesh Province
4.	Rishiraj Acharya	PPD, Gandaki Province
5.	Kabindra Nepal	PPD, Lumbini Province
6.	Laxmi Kumar B.K	PPD, Karnali Province
7.	Bimal Prasad Baral	PPD, Sudurpaschim Province
9.	Dr. Bhisma Kumar Bhusal	Joint Secretary, OPMCM
10.	Tirtha Prakash Poudel	Under Secretary, MoFAGA, NPM, PLGSP
11.	Anusha Koirala	Under Secretary, MoFAGA
12.	Lekhnath Gyawali	Under Secretary, OPMCM
13.	Ashim Ghising Lama	PPM, Bagmati Province
14.	Jullien Chevillard	DRR, UNDP
15.	Binda Magar	ARR, UNDP
16.	Kasmira Pandey	Finance Officer, PLGSP
17.	Niroj Ghimire	Admin Officer, PLGSP
18.	ToR Kristian Aanestad	Governance Programme Manager, Norway
19.	Shraddha Rayamajhi	Governance Advisor, Norway
20.	Namit Wagley	State Building Advisor, SDC
21.	Kaluwa Vergamota	Programme Officer, EU
22.	Kalanidhi Devkota	ED, MuAN
23.	Rajendra Pyakurel	ED,NARMIN
24.	Bharat Kumar Bhattarai	ED , ADCCN



27	Sewa Shrestha	Portfolio Analyst, Federalism
28	Bikash Dash	Federal Governance Specialist
29	Prakriti Nepal	Federal Programme Coordination Analyst
30	Nagesh Badu	ICT Analyst
31	Sristi Rana	KM analyst
32	Prabin Chaudhary	MEL analyst
33	Sumedha Shakya	GESI analyst
34	Indra Bhujel	IGR analyst
35	Surendra Bhandari	Admin and Logistic Analyst
36	Sakun Shrestha	Programme Associate
37	Ram Oli	Na.SU
38	Ranju KC	C.O
39	Provincial TA team	All province (PPSU)