



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

4th Technical Assistance Committee Meeting

June 18, 2021

1. Introduction

The 4th meeting of the Technical Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC) of the Provincial and Local Governance Support Programme (PLGSP) was held under the chair of Mr. Gopi Krishna Khanal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) on 18 June 2021. The main purpose of the meeting was to receive updates on the implementation status of PLGSP Technical Assistance (TA) and to discuss and approve the revised TA Annual Work Plan 2021. The meeting was participated by the representatives of the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) Development Partners (DPs), UNDP and PLGSP/Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) staff members (list of the participants is given in Annex 2). Considering the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, the meeting was organized virtually.

2. Opening Remarks

1. The National Programme Manager (NPM) of PLGSP, Chiranjivi Timsina, welcomed all participants, both those in-person and virtually, addressing them by their names.
2. The National Programme Director (NPD) of PLGSP, Gopi Krishna Khanal, welcomed all present in the meeting. He stressed how Covid-19 has created difficulties and impacted the work of PLGSP, and expressed hope for the normalization of the situation soon to allow for expediting of the work.
3. Ms. Cynthia Rowe, DP Chair and FCDO Team Leader, Governance, Political and Services Team, greeted everyone, by saying that she was delighted to participate in the 4th TASC meeting of PLGSP. She thanked the UNDP and PCU teams for organizing the meeting virtually at the time of the pandemic. She mentioned that the virtual meetings organized so far have been very effective. It is an important moment to review the progress on TA, to set up the priorities for the next fiscal year, to discuss the quality and governance issues of the Programme, and to approve the TA workplan. She




elaborated that DPs are happy with the close coordination and dialogue with MoFAGA and UNDP which is helping to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the PLGSP. She agreed that TA is critically important for the successful delivery of the Programme and shared that despite challenges, DPs look forward to full utilization of the TA capacity in the implementation. She suggested that a review of the performance and scope of the TA in the PLGSP mid-term review would be useful to generate lessons learned so far.

4. Mr. Bernardo Cocco, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP greeted everyone and thanked MoFAGA for organizing the meeting. He shared that UNDP always looks forward to discuss opportunities, challenges and needs in relation to the provision of TA. He welcomed the comments from Cynthia to assess the performance of the TA and expressed that such a review would help to support the Programme and TA implementation. He shared an update about the recruitment process, which about to be completed, staff retention and turnover and interim arrangements to bridge the gaps with transition of staff. He further shared that UNDP will provide necessary support to PCU to develop a PLGSP Staff Retention Strategy, and mentioned some of the capacity building initiatives already implemented and highlighted that UNDP will continue to support MoFAGA/PCU in implementing all relevant health and safety measures, as well as alternative modalities for trainings. Procurement of vehicles is also progressing, with expected completion between September – November 2021. Interim arrangements have been put in place in the meantime. PCGGs and PPIUs are now well established and most of the staff are in place. Additionally, the PLGSP baseline study, third-party monitoring, IPF Operational Guidelines and Vertical/Horizontal Accountability Frameworks are under development with TA support. He mentioned the delivery acceleration plan for the next fiscal year and highlighted some of the key activities to be implemented, including GESI LG index, HDI index, PLGSP mid-term review and the capacity development of the TA staff to support the Programme. The delivery has been impacted due to external circumstances including Covid-19, however, UNDP hopes that with the arrangements in place we can achieve the projected targets in close collaboration with MoFAGA and DPs.

3. Decisions

1. The TASC meeting recognized the efforts and decided to approve the TA progress made in January-May 2021
2. The TASC meeting decided to approve the revised 2021 TA Annual Work Plan, in line with ASIP 2021/22
3. The TASC requested PCU to plan a virtual field visit to provide a platform for sharing, dialogue and interaction among representatives from three tiers of governments and

