

## Third Technical Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC) Meeting

December 14, 2020

### Meeting Minutes



#### 1. Introduction:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Technical Assistance Sub-Committee (TASC) was held under the chair of Dr. Gopi Khanal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)/National Programme Director (NPD), PLGSP on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The meeting was participated by the Senior Officials of Ministries, representatives of the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) partners, UNDP and PLGSP PCU. representative The National Programme Manager (NPM), Mr. Chiranjivi Timsina started the meeting by welcoming everyone in the room and those present virtually. The NPM mentioned that the TASC meeting will guide us in our days ahead and would also look at the progress of the project.

The NPD, Mr. Gopi Khanal, greeted everyone. He mentioned this was his first TASC meeting, adding he felt privileged to chair the Third TASC Meeting. He thanked all his predecessors who worked very hard to create a strong foundation and for recruiting the needed staff, mentioning that when he joined PLGSP, he felt lucky as most of the foundational work was completed and handed over to the PCGGs and to all provincial governments.

Further to this, he mentioned that the PLGSP started many initiatives such as drafting of the IPF guidelines, development of different ToRs, which were in the pipeline and were with the ministry for approval. He added that the programme has been fully owned by the government of Nepal and the local governments. He mentioned that the seven provincial governments and the 753 local governments were the implementing agencies of the PLGSP, and therefore, the PCU is planning to visit the provincial government and conduct some workshop and to frequently communicate with the Provincial Government (PG) as they are important factor for the implementation of the programme. He asked NPM to continue with the presentation.

Cynthia Rowe, Team Leader, Governance and Service Delivery Team, FCDO, greeted everyone in her opening remark and thanked for the opportunity. She mentioned that the development partners were particularly looking forward to reviewing the progress on the Technical Assistance (TA) including discussion on the role and scope of TA, priorities for the next period, discussing any policy issues or any governance issues and approving the TA workplan. She further appreciated very much the MoFAGA team, MoFAGA PCU team and UNDP for organizing the third TASC meeting and for sharing documents ahead of time.

The third TASC meeting decided the following action points. The note on the presentation and discussion is attached in the Annex-1. List of participants is given in Annex-2

#### 2. Action points:

1. The TASC acknowledged the TA progress and decided to approve the programme and financial report of the period of June-December 2020 after addressing the inputs from the DPs which were addressed at the meeting and previously shared.
2. The TASC decided to endorse the revised TA AWP 2020.
3. The TASC decided to endorse the TA AWP for 2021 after addressing the inputs from the DPs which were addressed at the meeting and previously shared.



4. The TASC advises PCU to establish a platform by inviting all DPs to continue with coordination meetings on a quarterly basis to brief each other on who is doing what and to discuss about the ongoing challenges and opportunities in the area of sub-national governance.
5. The TASC also requested PLGSP/UNDP to work together in order to align the TA Annual Work Plan with the PLSP ASIP and to revise the payment schedule in line with the Joint Financial Agreement.

### 3. Closing remarks

Cynthia Rowe mentioned that it was a productive and instructive meeting for all participants. The meeting covered a lot of ground and there was a lot that was discussed. She mentioned if a series of informal working meetings could be organized to follow up on those points, if MoFAGA and Dr. Gopi Khanal sir consider as good way to go forward.

Gopi Khanal, NPD, mentioned that the meeting was good, and he was happy to chair it, noting that the feedback received was good and well noted. He further highlighted that they were making sure that all the work done by the TA should stay within the government and used even after the programme is completed. He updated that LISA was approved, and they would request the government to use LISA for local government monitoring. He noted that it was put on hold for 2 years, but they made a lot of effort to convince ministries, so they consider LISA as a major achievement of the programme. They are planning to organize orientation on LISA for local governments in order to obtain feedback from the provinces and the mayors and will ask the Ministry of Finance to include LISA in the monitoring system to become an integral part of the governance system. So far, they have received very good feedback on LISA from local governments already and they are happy for using it.

He thanked UNDP on the excellent support for the management of the TA. He mentioned that the IPF experts are on board, most of the staff were in place and orientation was conducted. They are planning to visit all PPIUs and discuss on the PLGSP. He added that module trainings will be developed as well.

He acknowledged that GESI was very important, and therefore he sent a proposal to the cabinet and key documents on GESI and asked LGs to work on it. He noted that GESI benefits lives of people so every ministry should be involved.

Regarding COVID-19, he mentioned that the min-term review will help and asked how we could adapt the PLGSP in accordance with the demands from COVID-19 crisis. He proposed to have meetings and to plan PLGSP adaptation.

He mentioned that PLGSP was a flagship programme and therefore overlapping and duplication should be avoided. They will extend support to PPIU and PGs and engage in broader consultation with politicians and provincial level and not only with bureaucrats. The PLGSP communication plan will be developed and they will work side by side with the DPs. The communication plan will reach to a broader audience and will introduce a systematic way of communicating.

He thanked all the participants for their feedback. He mentioned that it was normal to have a low progress during the first Quarter and that the second Quarter would have more progress. He informed that he had requested the secretary to have a meeting on the fiduciary risk, noting that the ministry was commitment to this.