



**NOTE TO FILE**

**Support to the Chapter 12 Commissions Project**

**Project Initiation Plan Costed Extension (December 2022 – November 2023)**

**Purpose**

To extend the Life span of the Support to Chapter 12 Commissions Project Initiation Plan from December 2022 - November 2023 in line with the No cost Extension agreed between (i) UNDP and the Government of Switzerland and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) from November 2022 – May 2023 and (ii) A costed extension agreed with the Government of Ireland for funding covering 12 months (November 2022 – November 2023).

**Background**

The Chapter 12 Commissions execute various mandates to enable the realisation of the Constitution's objectives and aspirations. Collectively, the Chapter 12 Institutions serve the common purpose of contributing towards a democratic Zimbabwean society by steering the country towards constitutionalism as a shared value. The thrust of the overall programme to build support that strengthens common objectives towards entrenching a culture of democracy in the country to address governance deficits while at the same time addressing common specific needs of the Commissions.

The Initiation plan is coordinated primarily under the UNDP Governance Peace Building Unit. However, during this phase, activities are implemented jointly among UN Women, UNDP and UNESCO with each Agency responsible for specific and joint actions as will be agreed in the workplan and budget under roles and responsibilities.

The Support to the Chapter 12 Commissions Project Initiation Plan (PIP) commenced in November 2021 and is due to end in May 2023 covering a period of 18 months. As such, we are seeking permission to extend the PIP till December 2023.

UNDP entered into two third-party financing agreements with SDC (US\$ 200 000) and Government of Ireland (US\$281 000) amounting to \$481,000 in November and December 2021 respectively.

| <b>Funding Partner</b>     | <b>Amount</b>    |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Republic of Ireland</b> | <b>\$281 000</b> |
| <b>SDC</b>                 | <b>\$200 000</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$481 000</b> |

## Challenges Faced

### TimeLine

**August – December 2021 –** Introductory Dialogue around Support to CH.12 Commissions with Commissions, GoZ, Funding Partners, Other stakeholders

**January 2022 –** Commencement of Inception Phase Activities

**February 2022 –** Inception Meeting

**June 2022 –** Feedback meeting for the Ch.12 Commissions hosted by the RC and HOAs.

Joint Workplan Signed by ZGC, ZHRC, ZMC and ZEC.

NPRC officially communicated with UNDP that they would **not participate** in the project

**July 2022 -** **Sunday Mail ( National Weekly Newspaper)** published an article (on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July) expressing Government displeasure at presumed interference into the affairs of the independent commissions.

**Note Verbal** from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (MoFAIT) requiring the CH 12 project implementation to be put on hold until further notice.

**August 2022 -** RCO met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade who provided **modalities of implementation** to be followed by the UN in implementation of the project. These include:

- *Commissions should be engaged on an individual basis, in line with their respective mandates.*
- *MoFAIT should be the conduit for organising meetings/engagements with the Independent Commissions. An officer from MoFAIT will be delegated to each meeting.*

**Herald Newspaper ( National Daily Newspaper)** published an article the following day (2 August 2022) titled 'Zim, UN agree on annual plan'. The article noted that the meeting between the Minister and the RC was a brief on what the UN is doing in Zimbabwe and how the UN can better coordinate activities with the Government.

**Sept/Oct 2022 -** Preparatory work for activities take place but without contact with Ch.12 Commissions.

**November 2022 -** Technical Level meeting held with MOFAIT, MOFED, MOJLPA to discuss the support to independent commissions as a follow up to previous meetings held between the UNRC and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as well as the RC, UNDP RR and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Agreement that implementation should resume however, in consultation with MOFAIT.

Implementation of the inception phase activities commenced in January 2022 with dialogue focused around consensus building, clarity of purpose and establishment of project ownership to ensure project sustainability towards implementation of the Support to the Ch 12 Project.

The first six (6) months of the inception phase focused on building consensus amongst the Chapter 12 Commissions to strengthen their critical role in supporting democracy, promoting ownership, project governance and prioritisation of interventions so that the project is successful and expands in the long run given the interrelatedness of mandates of the Commissions. The workplan was signed in June 2022. In July 2022, communication from Ministry of Foreign Affairs directed that the CH.12 project be put on hold until further notice resulting in implementation delays.

Continued dialogue at senior management level particularly with the Commissions and the GoZ saw the embargo lifted in November 2022 and implementation being resuscitated. The GoZ has directed that we institute a change in the inception phase modus operandi so that we engage at an individual commission level. A secondary directive was given that all engagement should be through Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Trade.

Implementation has continued albeit at a reduced rate.

#### Justification

| Partner                               | Signed No Cost Extension (Y/N) | End of Extension Date | Total Budget | %age utilised as at 23/01/2023 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| SDC                                   | Y                              | 31 May 2023           | 250 000      | 90%                            |
| Republic Of Ireland                   | Y                              | 28 March 2023         | 281 000      | 90%                            |
| Republic of Ireland* (2023 Agreement) |                                | 30 November 2023      | 281 000      | 0%                             |

Regular periodic update meetings have taken place with funding partners with regard to delays in implementation. As a result, both the SDC and Republic of Ireland have agreed and signed No Cost Extensions. The SDC agreement was extended till 31 May 2023 and the Republic of Ireland agreement extended till 28 March 2023. A push within the last term in 2022, saw the project at 91% of allocated funds for the 2022 year.

The Republic of Ireland and UNDP have also signed another agreement in the amount of Euros 250 000 covering the period December 2022 – November 2023.

A draft project document along with associated workplans are in place after consultations with the Chapter 12 commissions and GoZ.

Noting that the PIP will expire, after consultation with the PFU and M&E colleagues, it was advised that through a NTF we seek permission of Senior management. In line with that recommendation, **as a remedial action, we are kindly seeking permission to extend the Life span of the Support to Chapter 12 Commissions Project Initiation Plan from December 2022 - November 2023 in line with the available funding support under the (i) UNDP and the Government of Switzerland and SDC from November 2022 – May 2023 and (ii) the UNDP and the Government of Ireland from November 2022 – November 2023.**

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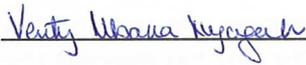
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