

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (LPAC) MEETING for
UNDP Projects in India
19 JUNE 2024**

The meeting of the Local Project Appraisal Committee was held on 19 June 2024 at 3:00 P.M, under the chairpersonship of Ms. Geetu Joshi, Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, through virtual mode. The Committee considered the approval for the following UNDP projects:

1. Establishment of Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Cell (SDGMC) in Andhra Pradesh
2. Strengthening Capacities of the Integrated Tribal Development in Andhra Pradesh
3. Improving Efficiency of the Vaccination System in India
4. Institutional Support to National and State Disaster Management Authorities for Disaster Risk Management

The agenda of the meeting along with the list of participants of the meeting is attached as **Annexure I** and **Annexure II** respectively.

The Chair welcomed all the participants and mentioned that the four projects are very important in lieu of priorities outlined in UNDP India's Country Programme Document for 2023- 2027.

Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Resident Representative a.i., UNDP India, also welcomed the participants and expressed her appreciation for the diverse partnerships with the government at national and state level, which are further accelerating India's progress towards the achievement of its national priorities and global commitments for sustainable development.

The Chair requested the implementing authorities to make the presentations for respective projects.

1. Establishment of Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Cell (SDGMC) in Andhra Pradesh

Project Information

Project name: Establishment of Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Cell (SDGMC) in Andhra Pradesh

Location: Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Duration: Two years (2024 -2026)

Project Budget: INR 4,73,58,000 / USD 571,611.35

Implementation Modality: DIM (Direct Implementation Modality)

Gender Marker: GEN 2

Discussion Points:

- Mr. D.V.V. Sitapathirao, Director, Planning Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh made a presentation on the project. He highlighted the project's key interventions and strategies, which involves the creation of a data-driven SDG action plan for Andhra Pradesh, enhancing capacities of the government officials at state, district, and local levels, and the institutionalization of the SDG

acceleration approach by establishing the SDGMC as a Centre of Excellence (CoE). Additionally, the project will focus on mapping responsibilities to departments, setting short, medium, and long-term priorities, and articulating measurable, specific, and granular actions to achieve targeted outcomes.

- The governance arrangements for the project were outlined. The project will also leverage knowledge and insights from SDG centres established by UNDP in other states. A critical component of the project is its sustainability plan, which includes transitioning the SDGMC from a project management unit to a CoE housed within the Planning Department to ensure long-term impact and continuity.
- The project also places a significant emphasis on gender mainstreaming and integration. Gender-disaggregated indicators will be included for gap assessment and measurable actions to bridge these gaps. The project will promote advancing gender equality across all sectors, not just limited to SDG outcomes on Goal 5. Capacity building efforts will emphasize women-led development, and partnerships with think tanks and academic institutions will be established to focus on gender equality.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and NITI Aayog concurred to the project.
- NITI Aayog added that once every quarter, an all-SDGCC meeting chaired by NITI Aayog may be organised to foster cross-learning among states. UNDP responded affirmatively and appreciated the initiative.
- The Chair appreciated the establishment of the SDGMC in Andhra Pradesh and noted the presence of similar SDG Coordination or Monitoring Centres in other states. She asked UNDP about cross-learning and experience sharing among these states. She also inquired about how the learnings and best practices from the existing centers are being integrated into the new SDG monitoring centers. Further, regarding the SDG Action Plan, she asked whether there was any methodology being followed for gap analysis, the sectors which will be focused upon, the source of baseline data, and whether there will be measurable targets.
- Ms. Meenakshi Kathel, Chief Advisor, Strategic Planning and State Outreach, UNDP responded to the Chair's queries. Ms. Kathel shared the three-pronged approach being utilized for knowledge sharing among the SDGs: a) Organisation of internal networking meetings among the SDGCCs on a monthly basis for sharing new activities as well as programmatic challenges; b) Facilitation of exchange visits among state governments based on specific demands from the states; and c) Establishment of the SDG Knowledge Platform, a democratic space created for knowledge sharing where all kinds of resources are available online, including a simple orientation module on SDGs. Ms. Kathel further shared that UNDP will continue the tradition of organizing the annual knowledge sharing meetings which bring together all the state governments.
- In terms of the gap analysis and the baseline data, Ms. Kathel shared that the analysis is driven by the National Indicator Framework of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The framework supports UNDP to benchmark the progress of all the states for each SDG and indicator. It is further supported by the district and block level data collected by the SDGCCs. She also clarified that the identification of the priority areas is done through a consultative process with the Planning Department and other stakeholders.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was approved by the LPAC.

2. Strengthening Capacities of the Integrated Tribal Development in Andhra Pradesh

Project Information

Project name: Strengthening Capacities of the Integrated Tribal Development in Andhra Pradesh

Location: Andhra Pradesh, India

Duration: Three years (2024 -2027)

Project Budget: INR 3,74,96,837/ USD 452,150

Implementation Modality: DIM (Direct Implementation Modality)

Gender Marker: GEN 2

Discussion Points:

- Mr. Mallikarjuna Reddy, Additional Director, Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh made a presentation highlighting the objectives of the project, project interventions and outputs, innovation under the project, gender mainstreaming and the governance arrangements.
- The overall aim of the project is to enhance the institutional capacities of the Tribal Welfare Department and implementing agencies to facilitate effective implementation of tribal development programmes. The outputs of the project include 1) Enhanced operational effectiveness of the Tribal development programmes of the Government of Andhra Pradesh 2) Strengthened capacities of the State Tribal Department and frontline functionaries 3) Data and evidence-driven decision-making and knowledge management, emphasizing convergence and partnerships.
- UNDP's role in the project was highlighted during the presentation which included knowledge exchange, introduction of technologically enabled systems for real-time tracking and monitoring, forging strategic partnerships with private sector CSR, and collaborating with local stakeholders and community leaders to tailor interventions to the specific needs and contexts of the regions, amongst others. UNDP will also provide technical support to integrate gender perspectives into the project through evidence-based strategic planning, identifying gender-related implementation gaps, and strengthening stakeholder capacities. Additionally, the project will emphasize knowledge management and communications by preparing gender-sensitive policy documents, documenting best practices, and producing publications and audio-visual materials to support learning and dissemination related to tribal development.
- NITI Aayog inquired on the linkage between the Sustainable Development Goal Coordination Centre (SDGCC) Andhra Pradesh and the Tribal Welfare Department State Level PMU. In response, UNDP indicated plans to establish linkages, particularly related to the disaggregated data on tribals in context of the SDGs. UNDP also clarified that the objectives of the SDGCC differ from those of the Tribal PMU. While the SDGCC focuses on all SDGs and engages with all departments through a whole-of-government approach, the Tribal PMU is dedicated to central government schemes managed by the Dept of Tribal welfare at the state level.
- It was suggested that the SDGCC in Andhra Pradesh should serve as a center to inform and influence other departments, including the tribal department. The Chair emphasized that the project's success depends on effective convergence and collaboration between implementing departments, as well as the coordination of activities between the SDG Monitoring Cell and the Tribal PMU.
- The Chair also shared that they have received concurrence from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the project. Additionally, the Chair recommended focusing on the PM-JANMAN, a priority for the Government of India involving convergence across nine Central Ministries and eleven interventions. In response, UNDP mentioned having dedicated staff for this mission.
- The Chair asked if funds were made available for setting up SPMU by the Ministry to the State Government. The State confirmed that annual allocations have been made specifically for the monitoring and evaluation of centrally sponsored schemes by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and they have confirmed the sufficient funds available to implement the project.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was approved by the LPAC.

3. Improving Efficiency of the Vaccination System in India

Project Information

Project name: Improving Efficiency of the Vaccination System in India

Location: All districts of 36 states & UTs, India

Duration: Three years and three months (2024- 2027)

Project Budget: INR 5,36,96,01,788 / USD 64,546,241

Implementation Modality: DIM (Direct Implementation Modality)

Gender Marker: GEN 2

Discussion Points:

- Mr. Abhimanyu Saxena, Head, Health Systems Strengthening Unit, UNDP India, along with Dr. Pawan Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Immunization Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, presented the project, highlighting the background, key objectives and strategy, expected results, innovation and value addition, learnings from previous projects including eVIN which has been institutionalised, sustainability plans, and governance arrangements.
- The goal of the project, aligned with the national priority, is to strengthen the immunization coverage in the country and ensure equitable access to immunization services (includes reduction of zero dose children burden in the country).
- The objectives of the project are:
 1. Development of electronic immunization registry U-WIN (Universal Immunization Program-WIN) to ensure digital registration of pregnant women and children, citizen portal for registration and appointment for vaccination, and issuance of digital vaccination certificate.
 2. Effective sustenance of eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) solution to ensure vaccines are available in right quantity, right quality and at the right time.
 3. Developing capacities of one million health workers including Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA).
 4. Streamlining of review mechanisms for Routine Immunization and strengthening of data management.
 5. Strengthening demand generation towards vaccination in the country and introduction and implementation of innovation and data driven approaches in demand generation.
- In terms of value addition, U-WIN is being linked with other government portals (including Poshan tracker and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) and is being developed as an open-source solution and to be utilized as digital public good. The user-friendly interface would help in bridging the geographical and linguistic barriers to ensure accessibility across the country.
- Dr. Pawan Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Immunization Division, MoHFW, provided an overview from the national context, highlighting U-WIN as the government's flagship programme. Serving as a single source data for the entire country, the U-WIN platform will be used to register 29 million Pregnant Women and 27 million children digitally, thereby improving their tracking and improving the beneficiary management system. Dr. Kumar confirmed the MoHFW's endorsement to the project, citing its critical role in reducing the burden of zero dose children in the country.
- Dr. Kumar strongly suggested UNDP to expedite i) the community of practice-demand (COP-D) intervention; ii) progress under the data analytics component, and iii) the recruitment of U-WIN coordinators to ensure that the project is successfully implemented within the stated timelines.

- The Chair appreciated the comprehensive project structure and well-defined outputs. She enquired about funding breakdown, and the role of different stakeholders. In response, UNDP conveyed that GAVI support is assured till 2026 and after that exit plan is already in place which will be supported through domestic funding as being done in case of eVIN. The funding for eVIN has been institutionalized by MoHFW wherein the resources under National Health Mission are being allocated to the states. UNDP will engage with the respective states for the providing the necessary support.
- Queries about the status of integration with other government programmes including Poshan Tracker and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission were also raised, along with the involvement of the private sector. UNDP shared that the linkage of U-WIN with the Poshan Tracker integration is finalized and the Anganwadi Workers will be able to identify the child through unique number. The work on Data analytics has also been initiated in three districts with well-defined roles and responsibilities. Further, the inclusion of private sector in U-WIN is also under process with MoHFW, post which the private sector will also report vaccination on U-WIN.
- The Chair enquired whether the administrative approval for the project was in place. In response, Dr. Kumar informed that a MOHFW letter dated 30 May 2023 regarding extension of GAVI partnership with India has been shared with DEA ..
- The Chair suggested UNDP to consider the MoHFW's three recommendations on priority. Ms. Tschan assured the involvement of UNDP at national as well as regional level towards expediting the implementation of the project. She further mentioned that the timeline and review mechanisms are established during the design phase of the project and are diligently followed to ensure effective implementation of the project.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was approved by the LPAC subject to condition that MoHFW to ensure all requisite administrative approvals at appropriate level are in place before the implementation of this project.

4. Institutional Support to National and State Disaster Management Authorities for Disaster Risk Management

Project Information

Project name: Institutional Support to National and State Disaster Management Authorities for Disaster Risk Management

Location: Pan India

Duration: Five years (2024-2029)

Project Budget: INR 8.3 crores / USD 10,000,000

Implementation Modality: DIM (Direct Implementation Modality)

Gender Marker: GEN 2

Discussion Points:

- Ms Mrinalini Srivastava, Joint Advisor, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India, reiterated shared that the programme is aligned with India's commitments under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the outcomes agreed upon by the DRR Working Group under the India's G20 Presidency. As states have substantial financial allocations under the XV Finance Commission, it is the need of the hour that agencies such as UNDP provide technical support to the state governments in implementing disaster risk management programmes.

- Mr, Manish Mohandas, Programme Manager, UNDP, gave a brief presentation on the programme. Emphasizing on the importance of disaster risk financing in the XV Finance Commission, he highlighted the key interventions at the national level which includes developing a methodology for Loss and Damage, mainstreaming risk insurance, support to the various national hazard mitigation programmes and post disaster recovery planning. The national component of the project will be fully funded by UNDP, towards which core resources of USD 550,000 have been mobilized.
- At the state level, UNDP will support the State Disaster Management Authorities based on the requirements put forward by the state governments. Key interventions include risk assessments, developing disaster management plans, detailed project reports (DPR), training and capacity building of the government functionaries, urban resilience and risk mitigation.
- UNDP will be signing partnership agreements with a range of states including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Nagaland in the coming months. Additional state governments are expected to join the partnership in the coming years. UNDP will also mobilize additional resources to achieve the intended outcomes from other donors.
- The MHA advised UNDP to ensure that the DPRs for accessing XV Finance Commission resources are developed before March 2026.
- UNDP confirmed that all the inputs received from NITI have been incorporated.
- The Chair appreciated that the project is well planned, timely and credible. She noted that the project is supported by the MHA, NDMA and NITI Aayog. Looking forward to the implementation of the project, the Chair noted that while UNDP will bring its technical support, there is a great scope of learning from the experience of NDMA.

Decision: Based on the discussions, the project was approved by the LPAC.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Annexure I: Agenda for the meeting of Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) chaired by Advisor (BC&SF), DEA for approval of UNDP Projects

Date: 19 June 2024

Time: 3:00-4:30 pm

Time	Agenda Item	Participating Min/Dept.
3-3:02 pm	Opening Remarks UNDP/DEA	
3:02-3:20 pm	Presentation on project ‘Establishment of Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Cell (SDGMC) in Andhra Pradesh’ Discussion	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, NITI Aayog, MoSPI
3:20-3:40pm	Presentation on project ‘Establishment of PMU" in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the scheme "Administrative Costs to States/UTs’ Discussion	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, NITI Aayog, MoTA
3:40-4 pm	Presentation on project ‘Improving Efficiency of the Vaccination System in India’ Discussion	M/o Health, NITI Aayog
4-4:20 pm	Presentation on ‘UNDP-NDMA five year programme 'Institutional Support to National and State Disaster Management Authorities for Disaster Risk Management’ Discussion	NDMA, MHA, NITI Aayog,
4:20-4:30 pm	Closing remarks by UNDP/DEA	

Annexure II: List of Participants

Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India

- Ms. Geetu Joshi, Advisor (BC&SF), D/o Economic Affairs, M/o Finance
- Mr. Navjot Singh, Deputy Secretary (UN&SF)
- Mr Amit Anurag, Section Officer (UN&SF)
- Mr. Vipin Kumar, ASO, (UN&SF)

NITI Aayog

- Lt. Col. (Retd) Updesh Kumar Sharma, Joint Advisor
- Mr. Ramrao N Mundhe, Sr. Research Officer, SJE, Niti Aayog

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

- Ms Mrinalini Shrivastava, Joint Advisor
- Mr. R.K. Ahluwalia, Deputy Secretary (DM-III)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

- Dr. Pawan Kumar, Additional Commissioner, Immunization Division

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India

- Mr. Ashwani Kanaujia, Joint Director, Social Statistics Division

Department of Planning, Government of Andhra Pradesh

- Mr. D.V.V. Sitapathirao, Director
- Mr. Srinivasarao, Joint Director

Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

- Mr. Mallikarjuna Reddy, Additional Director
- Ms. G Chandrika, Deputy Director

UNDP

- Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Resident Representative a.i.
- Ms. Meenakshi Kathel, Chief Advisor, Strategic Planning and State Outreach
- Mr. Abhimanyu Saxena, Head, Health Systems Strengthening Unit
- Ms. Amren Yasin, Programme Management Specialist, Programme Management Support Unit
- Ms. Anusha Sharma, Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst, Programme Management Support Unit
- Mr. Jaimon Uthup, Policy Specialist- SDGs
- Mr. Jeya Chandran, Regional Head, Southern India
- Mr. Manish Mohandas, Programme Officer, Resilience
- Mr. Shubham Tandon, Programme Analyst, Resilience
- Ms. Meenakshi Deol, Monitoring, Reporting & Evaluation Analyst
- Mr. Soumya Guha, SDG Analyst
- Ms. Siri Ahlzen, Gender Analyst
- Ms. Ruchika Tripathi, MEL Associate, PSU
- Nishant Chavan, Project Associate
- Divya Saini, Research Assistant