

## **Minutes of Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting**

### **on Partnership for Gender Equity (PGE) Phase 4 Project**

**16 December 2016, 14:00 – 16:00 hours**

**UNDP Office, LAD Conference Room**

#### **1. Opening Remark and Introduction**

Mr. Nick Beresford, UNDP Country Director and Chair of the LPAC meeting started by welcoming participants from the government side, the Development Partner and civil society representatives to the meeting. He emphasized that the PGE Phase 4 project represented continued commitment of UNDP to support gender equality following 12 years of support to Ministry of Women's Affairs. The project places gender equality as the primary objective which is quite unique as most development projects tends to address gender alongside with sectoral priorities. The project also takes the opportunity to engage with MOWA to support them to lead the monitoring & evaluating gender interventions. The project support will focus on three aspects: building enabling environment, supporting the Neary Rattanak 4 implementation and Cambodia Gender Assessment. Mr. Beresford then introduced the objectives of the meeting which were to review the projects based on UNDP corporate quality criterion, the most important ones being strategic engagement and relevance of the project in responding to Cambodia's development priorities.

Following Mr. Beresford's remark, Mr. Chhun Hak, Deputy Director General of Ministry of Women's Affairs was invited to provide an introductory remark. On behalf of the Ministry, Mr. Chhun Hak commented on UNDP's support to the minister and gender work in the past. He reiterated that PGE 4 project was developed by building on the achievements of past cooperation particularly the Programme Based Approach. Under the leadership of MOWA, a national framework for gender equality titled Leading the Way for Gender Equality (LWGE) was developed. Mr. Chhun Hak commented that the project had been developed in a close alignment with LWGE. He also appreciated the support and cooperation from UN-WOMEN and SIDA during the formulation of the project. He ended by opening the opportunity to hear from the participants on the soundness of the project strategies after the project presentation.

#### **2. Presentation of the Project**

*Highlights of Leading the way for Gender Equality – Mr. Napoleon Navarro, Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP*

LWGE was developed against the country development context where by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) has started to decline. Yet, the demand for support to gender mainstreaming still remains. There has been challenges in the implementation of Neary Rattanak 4 across line ministries as NR4 tend to be seen as MOWA's instrument rather than a policy protocol of the government.

The overall objectives of LWGE are to create an enabling environment to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Cambodia by strengthening the accountability of line ministries to deliver commitments under NR 4.

Five tasks included:

- Coordinate the formulation, implementation and monitoring of gender policies in the programme based approach: "Leading the Way for Gender Equality"
- Promote human and financial resources both from government and development partners
- Strengthen the gender mainstreaming action group (GMAC) mechanism
- Strategize the commitments under the international conventions, SDG, JMI, etc.
- Partnership with other partners from the government, development partners, civil society as well as private sector

These will be done through the strengthening of the high level monitoring mechanism in the TWG-Gender and Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW); consolidation of monitoring framework; increasing resources for gender (national budget & ODA); strengthening of gender mainstreaming mechanisms in the line ministries; bilateral agreements between MOWA and line ministries and strengthening MOWA's capacity as the lead coordinator and advisory agent on gender.

Embedded in the new approach is the permanent secretariat for the TWG-Gender to make the discussion at the TWG-G more strategic, big picture discussion, and strong coordination.

The success of the LWGE approach will be measured through:

- Output and activities of the gender policies are implemented
- Increased national budget and ODA on gender
- Monitoring systems for gender policies
- Strengthened capacity of TWG-G and CNCW

*Presentation of the project – Mr. Sovannarith Hang, Policy Analyst, UNDP*

Overall project information: The project covers a period of 3 years from January 2017 to December 2019 with a total committed funding of US\$879,784 from UNDP's core resources. It will be implemented directly by UNDP under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM).

Corporate alignment: The project is aligned to

**UNDP Strategic Plan output 2.1:** Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, including for peaceful transitions and

**UNDAF outcome 3:** By 2018, national and sub-national institutions are more transparent and accountable for key public sector reforms and rule of law, are more responsive to the inequalities in the enjoyment of human rights of all people living in Cambodia, and increase civic participation in democratic decision-making.

**Strategy:** The project aims at providing long-term advisory support to MoWA/RGC for achieving the national goals on gender equality and women's empowerment by strengthening the enabling environment and institutional architecture for implementing the National Five Year Strategy for Gender Equality (Neary Rattanak 4). This will be achieved through:

- promote mechanisms and best practices to increase and mobilise support in overcoming the ODA decline
- build long-term capacity of national institution, support the development of the First National Gender Policy and update the Cambodian Gender Assessment on an ongoing basis
- overseeing the support and mainstream the SDG 5

**Governance arrangement:** the project will be governed by the Project Board structure in which UNDP is the Chair of the Project board with membership from MoWA and line ministries, donor representatives, Women's Media Center and Cambodia National Council for Women.

### 3. Discussion of key issues

Following the presentation, questions and comments were invited from the LPAC committee. The below summarizes the comments raised and responses:

#### **Strategic approach and relevance to national priorities**

**Alignment with national priorities:** The LPAC meeting participants in general recognized the project fit well with in the development context of Cambodia and responded to the national priorities (Rectangular Strategy III, NSDP and NR4).

**Long-term vision:** At the strategic level it was advised that the project apply medium to long term approach to anticipate the constraints and opportunities that are forthcoming in the long term and proactively work backward to inform the project strategies today. Possibly the project could conduct diagnostics of gender related issues in education, productivity, employment and identify key policy changes that could impact society at large. At the current design of the project, the alignment to SDG 5 is expected to guide the project's long-term engagement. The suggestion was taken forward.

**Gender mainstreaming in the national budget:** On mainstreaming gender into national budget, it was advised that MOWA keep engaging with MEF during the budget planning process. The recommendation was agreed by the LPAC. UNDP is prepared to support ministries in mainstreaming gender in the budgeting process and this is within UNDP's comparative advantage given the on-going support to climate change. Additional resources, if available, can be allocated to creating challenge mechanism to support gender mainstreaming in national budget.

**Sustainable Development Goals:** There was a proposal for the project to extend support to data collection and monitoring of gender related indicators in other SDG areas beside SDG 5. It was clarified that, based on initial assessment, data is available on most SDG indicators, with the exception of only four indicators. There is an on-going effort to review existing data at the national level under the lead of UN-WOMEN. Seven out of nine targets under SDG 5 are already inside existing commitments of Cambodia under various national and international commitments. If there is any remaining gap as the results of the review, the

project may consider if support can be extended. The project may also look into support the SDG localization process.

Support to the preparation of Cambodia Gender Assessment: the project will support the process for preparation of the CGA following the leadership of MOWA. The process will very much consistent with the earlier process. The process will take the form of coordination support, division of labor, quality assurance of the report and consistency among the chapters. The new approach may be adjusted according to emerging needs to take into consideration the longer term vision.

#### **Management & Monitoring**

Project Board arrangement: The role of Women's Media Center in the project governance arrangement was clarified. The main roles of the Project Board of UNDP's project are to guide the strategic direction of the project and to approve project's budget and annual work plan. The role of the WMC as the representative of civil society and beneficiaries is very crucial to ensure that the project maintains its relevance in the context of Cambodia and responding to the challenges faced by women. The role of civil society is recognized as very crucial not only in the UNDP's project governance structure but is also recognized at the TWG-Gender.

Project M&E framework: It was clarified that the output indicator mentioned in the Prodoc is the UNDP's Country Programme level indicators. The particular work in response to this is the strengthening of TWG-Gender.

The M&E framework of the project will be reviewed to strengthen the sharpen the focus of the project and measurability of project's success.

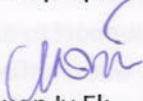
#### **National Ownership and Sustainability**

It was clarified that engagement with CNCW will be on strengthening the accountability mechanism of line ministries to national and international gender commitments but not on CEDAW reporting.

#### **4. Conclusion**

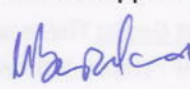
The appraisal committee approved the project in principle including the proposed management arrangement. Mr. Beresford concluded the meeting by recognizing the strong ownership of the project by the governance structure and the close collaboration between UNDP, partners in the government, UN-WOMEN, development partners and civil society. The project document will be revised taking into consideration the comments raised by LPAC members where possible.

Minutes prepared by:

  
Nimnuon Iv Ek  
Oversight Analyst, UNDP

Date: 26/01/2017

Minutes approved by:

  
Mr. Nick Beresford  
Country Director, UNDP

Date: 27.1.17

## Annex 1: Participants List

No.	Name	Title	Organizations
1.	Mr. The Chhunhak	Deputy Director General	Ministry of Women's Affairs
2.	H.E. Ros Seilava	Under Secretary of State	Ministry of Economy and Finance
3.	H.E. Poch Sovanndy	Deputy Director General	Ministry of Planning
4.	Ms. Anna Guittet	Counsellor, Governance/Environment	Embassy of Sweden
5.	Ms. Khun Sophea	Programme Officer	UN-WOMEN
6.	Ms. Pich Thida	Program Officer	JICA
7.	Mr. Va Ros	National Program Manager and Gender Focal Point	Swiss Development Cooperation/Embassy of Switzerland
8.	Mr. Tep Bunthan	Programmer and Fundraising Advisor	Women's Media Center (WMC)
9.	Mr. Nick Beresford	Country Director	UNDP
10.	Mr. Napoleon Navarro	Senior Policy Advisor	UNDP
11.	Mr. Sovannarith Hang	Policy Analyst	UNDP
12.	Mr. Velibor Popovic	Assistant Country Director (Programme), a.i.	UNDP
13.	Ms. Nimnuon Iv Ek	Oversight Analyst	UNDP

**Annex 2: LPAC Meeting Agenda**

**Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting  
for Partnership for Gender Equity Phase 4 (PGE IV) Project  
Friday, 16 December 2016, 14:00 – 16:00 hours  
UNDP LAD Conference Room**

**AGENDA**

**1. Opening Remarks and Introduction**

**Mr. Nick Beresford**  
Country Director, UNDP Cambodia  
Chair of the LPAC meeting

**Mr. The Chhun Hak**  
Deputy Director General, MoWA

**2. Presentation of the project**

*Highlights of Leading the way for Gender Equality*

**Mr. Napoleon Navarro**  
Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP

*Presentation of the project*

**Mr. Sovannarith Hang**  
Policy Analyst, UNDP

**3. Discussion of key issues**

**4. Consensus: Recommendation of PAC members to approve, reject or revise the proposed project**

**5. Conclusion and Closing Remarks**

**Mr. Nick Beresford**  
Country Director, UNDP Cambodia